SEPA ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

JUNE 2015

Purpose of checklist:

Governmental agencies use this checklist to help determine whether the environmental impacts of your proposal are significant. This information is also helpful to determine if available avoidance, minimization or compensatory mitigation measures will address the probable significant impacts or if an environmental impact statement will be prepared to further analyze the proposal.

Instructions for applicants:

This environmental checklist asks you to describe some basic information about your proposal. Please answer each question accurately and carefully, to the best of your knowledge. You may need to consult with an agency specialist or private consultant for some questions. You may use "not applicable" or "does not apply" only when you can explain why it does not apply and not when the answer is unknown. You may also attach or incorporate by reference additional studies reports. Complete and accurate answers to these questions often avoid delays with the SEPA process as well as later in the decision-making process.

The checklist questions apply to all parts of your proposal, even if you plan to do them over a period of time or on different parcels of land. Attach any additional information that will help describe your proposal or its environmental effects. The agency to which you submit this checklist may ask you to explain your answers or provide additional information reasonably related to determining if there may be significant adverse impact.

Instructions for Lead Agencies:

Please adjust the format of this template as needed. Additional information may be necessary to evaluate the existing environment, all interrelated aspects of the proposal and an analysis of adverse impacts. The checklist is considered the first but not necessarily the only source of information needed to make an adequate threshold determination. Once a threshold determination is made, the lead agency is responsible for the completeness and accuracy of the checklist and other supporting documents.

Use of checklist for nonproject proposals: [help]

For nonproject proposals (such as ordinances, regulations, plans and programs), complete the applicable parts of sections A and B plus the SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET FOR NONPROJECT ACTIONS (part D). Please completely answer all questions that apply and note that the words "project," "applicant," and "property or site" should be read as "proposal," "proponent," and "affected geographic area," respectively. The lead agency may exclude (for non-projects) questions in Part B - Environmental Elements –that do not contribute meaningfully to the analysis of the proposal.

A. Background [help]

1. Name of proposed project, if applicable: [help]

   Heller Bar Boat Ramp Repair

2. Name of applicant: [help]

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

3. Address and phone number of applicant and contact person: [help]

WDFW
600 Capital Way North
Olympia, WA 98501

Contact: Marty Peoples, WDFW
Email: Marty.Peoples@dfw.wa.gov
Phone: (360) 902-8426

4. Date checklist prepared: [help]

March 22, 2016

5. Agency requesting checklist: [help]

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

6. Proposed timing or schedule (including phasing, if applicable): [help]

Summer/Fall of 2016 or 2017.

7. Do you have any plans for future additions, expansion, or further activity related to or connected with this proposal? If yes, explain. [help]

No.

8. List any environmental information you know about that has been prepared, or will be prepared, directly related to this proposal. [help]

A JARPA will be prepared for this work as well as a Biological Evaluation.

9. Do you know whether applications are pending for governmental approvals of other proposals directly affecting the property covered by your proposal? If yes, explain. [help]

No other applications are pending.

10. List any government approvals or permits that will be needed for your proposal, if known. [help]

Permits and approvals will include an Asotin County Shoreline Permit, a WDFW Hydraulics Permit (HPA) and a USACE permit. Other permits may be required and will be obtained as required.

11. Give brief, complete description of your proposal, including the proposed uses and the size of the project and site. There are several questions later in this checklist that ask you to describe certain aspects of your proposal. You do not need to repeat those answers on this page. (Lead agencies may modify this form to include additional specific information on project description.) [help]

This project includes the repair and expansion of an existing WDFW boat launch ramp and access site on the Snake River. The site contains one 24 foot wide ramp which receives intense public use during summer and fall boating seasons. WDFW proposes to provide a second 12 foot wide ramp next to the existing ramp to accommodate public demand at this site. The specific components of this project are:

1. *Grade footprint of new ramp to achieve correct slope for ramp.*

2. *Install a 4 inch layer of crushed rock in the new ramp footprint to serve as a pad for the new ramp.*

3. *Install one new concrete ramp by connecting 4 foot by 12 foot precast concrete plank sections. The new ramp will measure 12 feet wide and 128 feet long.*

4. *Install Armor flex concrete blocking (mat) at the bottom and outside edge of the new ramp to protect it from erosion and undermining. The Armor flex mat to be installed on the outside edge will be 128 feet long and 4 feet wide. The Armor flex mat to be installed on the bottom edge of the new ramp will be 10 feet wide and 20 feet long. In between the two ramps and near the ramp bottom, a 4 foot wide and 12 foot long section of Armor flex will be installed.*

5. *Install Armor flex concrete blocking (mat) at the outside edge of the existing ramp to protect against erosion and undermining. The section of Armor flex will be 8 feet wide and 138 feet long.*

6. *Construct a concrete isle between the two ramps. This isle will be 116 feet long and 4 feet wide. The slab will be poured in-place, but above existing water levels. No freshly poured concrete will contact surface waters until it is cured.*

7. *Install a concrete apron at the top of the new ramp. This apron will be poured in-place and measure 4 feet wide and 20 feet long.*

8. *Perform mitigation measures. This will entail providing interpretive signage describing local species, habitats, and conservation. In addition to the educational component, 640 sq. ft. of plantings will be done in the riparian area next to the launch. Willow stakes*

installed in this planting will be consistent with local willow species found in this area.

Other types of mitigation were considered including more expansive riparian plantings and large woody debris. Additional plantings were not pursued due to the high level of foot traffic and public use on the entire river bank, making plantings difficult to establish. Large woody debris was ruled out due to high water velocities and widely fluctuating river flows making it difficult to anchor LWD as well as reducing habitat effectiveness. There were also liability and safety issues associated with LWD being placed in the same location as areas experiencing high boat use, shore based-fishing and swimming.

12. Location of the proposal. Give sufficient information for a person to understand the precise location of your proposed project, including a street address, if any, and section, township, and range, if known. If a proposal would occur over a range of area, provide the range or boundaries of the site(s). Provide a legal description, site plan, vicinity map, and topographic map, if reasonably available. While you should submit any plans required by the agency, you are not required to duplicate maps or detailed plans submitted with any permit applications related to this checklist. [help]

From Asotin take the Snake River Road south for approximately 24 miles. Heller Bar Access will be on the right. The site is located in Asotin County, Section 13, Township 7N, Range 46E. The coordinates are 48.0855 latitude / -116.9830W longitude.

B. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS [help]

1. Earth [help]

a. General description of the site: [help]

(circle one): Flat, rolling, hilly, steep slopes, mountainous, other _____

b. What is the steepest slope on the site (approximate percent slope)? [help]

The steepest slope is 30%.

c. What general types of soils are found on the site (for example, clay, sand, gravel, peat, muck)? If you know the classification of agricultural soils, specify them and note any agricultural land of long-term commercial significance and whether the proposal results in removing any of these soils. [help]

The soil is classified as Bridgewater extremely stony sandy loam (25%) and Joseph extremely cobbly loamy sand (75%).

d. Are there surface indications or history of unstable soils in the immediate vicinity? If so, describe. [help]

There are no indications of unstable soils.

e. Describe the purpose, type, total area, and approximate quantities and total affected area of any filling, excavation, and grading proposed. Indicate source of fill. [help]

The total affected area will be 1593 square feet below OHW and 1935 square feet above OHW. Net fill below OHW will total 32.1 CY. Net fill above OHW will total 113.1 CY. Fill will consist of ramp planks, cabled concrete block, poured concrete, and crushed rock for bedding of ramp planks.

f. Could erosion occur as a result of clearing, construction, or use? If so, generally describe. [help]

No erosion is anticipated. BMP's will be in place to prevent sediment from reaching surface waters during possible rainfall events. In water work will be performed in a manner as to keep turbidity to minimal levels. Specifically, ramp planks will connected and pushed down the ramp footprint on rails and into place . This method allows equipment to operate out of the water and avoid generating excess turbidity and disturbance. Cabled concrete mats will be lowered into place by an excavator operating on the newly installed ramp surface. This method will minimize substrate disturbance and significantly reduce turbidity.

g. About what percent of the site will be covered with impervious surfaces after project construction (for example, asphalt or buildings)? [help]

There will be a 5% increase in impervious surfaces.

h. Proposed measures to reduce or control erosion, or other impacts to the earth, if any: [help]

There will be no gound disturbance outside of the ramp footprint. Equipment will only be operated on hardened surfaces and inside the ramp footprint. Staging and fueling will be done in an upland area that is isolated from surface waters. Standards BMP's will be used to prevent sediment from reaching surface waters including a silt fence and straw bales around the perimeter of the work area.

2. Air [help]

a. What types of emissions to the air would result from the proposal during construction, operation, and maintenance when the project is completed? If any, generally describe and give approximate quantities if known. [help]

Vehicle exhaust and dust from construction is expected. No long-term change in emissions is expected from the completed project.

b. Are there any off-site sources of emissions or odor that may affect your proposal? If so, generally describe. [help]

No.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control emissions or other impacts to air, if any: [help]

None.

3. **Water** [help]

a. Surface Water:

1) Is there any surface water body on or in the immediate vicinity of the site (including year-round and seasonal streams, saltwater, lakes, ponds, wetlands)? If yes, describe type and provide names. If appropriate, state what stream or river it flows into. [help]

The Snake River is within the project site.

2) Will the project require any work over, in, or adjacent to (within 200 feet) the described waters? If yes, please describe and attach available plans. [help]

Work will be done next to and within state waters. This work is described in question A. 11.

3) Estimate the amount of fill and dredge material that would be placed in or removed from surface water or wetlands and indicate the area of the site that would be affected. Indicate the source of fill material. [help]

46.3 CY of fill will be placed below OHW. Fill will consist of precast concrete ramp planks, precast cabled concrete blocks and crushed rock. Rock will be acquired from a local quarry. Cut from below OHW will be 14.3 CY. Net fill below OHW will be 32.1 CY.

4) Will the proposal require surface water withdrawals or diversions? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known. [help]

No surface water diversions will be required.

5) Does the proposal lie within a 100-year floodplain? If so, note location on the site plan. [help]

Yes.

6) Does the proposal involve any discharges of waste materials to surface waters? If so, describe the type of waste and anticipated volume of discharge. [help]

No waste materials will be discharged.

b. Ground Water:

1) Will groundwater be withdrawn from a well for drinking water or other purposes? If so, give a general description of the well, proposed uses and approximate quantities withdrawn from the well. Will water be discharged to groundwater? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known. [help]

No groundwater will be withdrawn.

2) Describe waste material that will be discharged into the ground from septic tanks or other sources, if any (for example: Domestic sewage; industrial, containing the following chemicals. . . ; agricultural; etc.). Describe the general size of the system, the number of such systems, the number of houses to be served (if applicable), or the number of animals or humans the system(s) are expected to serve. [help]
No waste material will be discharged.

No waste material will be discharged.

c. Water runoff (including stormwater):

1) Describe the source of runoff (including storm water) and method of collection and disposal, if any (include quantities, if known). Where will this water flow? Will this water flow into other waters? If so, describe. [help]

Runoff will not be altered at this site. Typical stormwater runoff sheetflows down the ramp and enters the river.

2) Could waste materials enter ground or surface waters? If so, generally describe. [help]

Surface and ground waters will be protected by BMP's. Waste materials will not be used and not enter surface waters.

3) Does the proposal alter or otherwise affect drainage patterns in the vicinity of the site? If so, describe. [help]

Drainage patterns will not be altered.

d. Proposed measures to reduce or control surface, ground, and runoff water, and drainage pattern impacts, if any: [help]

None.

4. **Plants** [help]

a. Check the types of vegetation found on the site: [help]

__x__deciduous tree: alder, maple, aspen, other

__x__evergreen tree: fir, cedar, pine, other
__x__shrubs
__x__grass
____pasture
____crop or grain
____ Orchards, vineyards or other permanent crops.
____ wet soil plants: cattail, buttercup, bullrush, skunk cabbage, other
____water plants: water lily, eelgrass, milfoil, other
____other types of vegetation

b. What kind and amount of vegetation will be removed or altered? [help]

No vegetation will be removed or affected as a result of this work.

c. List threatened and endangered species known to be on or near the site. [help]

No threatened or endangered plant species are listed as occurring near this site.

d. Proposed landscaping, use of native plants, or other measures to preserve or enhance vegetation on the site, if any: [help]

No vegetation will be removed as part of this project and no enhancement is planned. This area has established vegetation onsite.

e. List all noxious weeds and invasive species known to be on or near the site. [help]

Knapweed may be present near this site.

5. **Animals** [help]

a. List any birds and other animals which have been observed on or near the site or are known to be on or near the site. [help]

Examples include:

birds: hawk, heron, eagle, songbirds, other:
mammals: deer, bear, elk, beaver, other:
fish: bass, salmon, trout, herring, shellfish, other _____

b. List any threatened and endangered species known to be on or near the site. [help]

Bull trout, Columbia River
Chinook, Snake River spring-summer
Chinook, Snake River fall
Sockeye, Snake River
Steelhead, Snake River
Canada lynx
Yellow-billed cuckoo

c. Is the site part of a migration route? If so, explain. [help]

Yes. Waterfowl, deer, and salmon migrate through this area.

d. Proposed measures to preserve or enhance wildlife, if any: [help]

Work will only be performed on previously impacted and established footprints to avoid additionals impacts to aquatic habitat. This project will result in a reduction of vehicle traffic into riparian areas next to the ramp.

e. List any invasive animal species known to be on or near the site. [help]

No known invasive animal species occur at this site.

6. **Energy and Natural Resources** [help]

a. What kinds of energy (electric, natural gas, oil, wood stove, solar) will be used to meet the completed project's energy needs? Describe whether it will be used for heating, manufacturing, etc. [help]

No energy will be used.

b. Would your project affect the potential use of solar energy by adjacent properties? If so, generally describe. [help]

No.

c. What kinds of energy conservation features are included in the plans of this proposal? List other proposed measures to reduce or control energy impacts, if any: [help]

This project will not require the use of energy after completion therefore no energy conservation features were considered.

7. **Environmental Health** [help]

a. Are there any environmental health hazards, including exposure to toxic chemicals, risk of fire and explosion, spill, or hazardous waste, that could occur as a result of this proposal? If so, describe. [help]

No.

1) Describe any known or possible contamination at the site from present or past uses. [help]

None known or anticipated.

2) Describe existing hazardous chemicals/conditions that might affect project development and design. This includes underground hazardous liquid and gas transmission pipelines located within the project area and in the vicinity. [help]

None known or anticipated.

3) Describe any toxic or hazardous chemicals that might be stored, used, or produced during the project's development or construction, or at any time during the operating life of the project. [help]

No hazardous chemicals will be used, stored or produced.

4) Describe special emergency services that might be required. [help]

Emergency medical help may be needed if an injury occurs during construction.

5) Proposed measures to reduce or control environmental health hazards, if any: [help]

Fueling of equipment will be done in upland staging areas isolated from surface waters.

b. Noise [help]

1) What types of noise exist in the area which may affect your project (for example: traffic, equipment, operation, other)? [help]

This project will not be affected by noise.

2) What types and levels of noise would be created by or associated with the project on a short-term or a long-term basis (for example: traffic, construction, operation, other)? Indicate what hours noise would come from the site. [help]

Increased short term noise levels are expected during construction hours from 7 am to 5 pm. No long term changes in noise levels are anticipated.

3) Proposed measures to reduce or control noise impacts, if any: [help]

Equipment used during construction will be in good operating condition and properly equipped with mufflers to minimize noise impacts.

8. **Land and Shoreline Use** [help]

a. What is the current use of the site and adjacent properties? Will the proposal affect current land uses on nearby or adjacent properties? If so, describe. [help]

This site is used as an access area for recreation and boating. Adjacent properties are used in agriculture with some private and comercial properties.

b. Has the project site been used as working farmlands or working forest lands? If so, describe. How much agricultural or forest land of long-term commercial significance will be converted to other uses as a result of the proposal, if any? If resource lands have not been designated, how many acres in farmland or forest land tax status will be converted to nonfarm or nonforest use? [help]

No.

1) Will the proposal affect or be affected by surrounding working farm or forest land normal business operations, such as oversize equipment access, the application of pesticides, tilling, and harvesting? If so, how: [help]

No.

c. Describe any structures on the site. [help]

The site contains a concrete boat ramp, one self-contained vault toilet and signage.

d. Will any structures be demolished? If so, what? [help]

No.

e. What is the current zoning classification of the site? [help]

Rural residential.

f. What is the current comprehensive plan designation of the site? [help]

Rural.

g. If applicable, what is the current shoreline master program designation of the site? [help]

Rural.

h. Has any part of the site been classified as a critical area by the city or county? If so, specify. [help]

No.

i. Approximately how many people would reside or work in the completed project? [help]

None.

j. Approximately how many people would the completed project displace? [help]

None.

k. Proposed measures to avoid or reduce displacement impacts, if any: [help]

None.

L. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with existing and projected land uses and plans, if any: [help]

Consult with Asotin County.

m. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with nearby agricultural and forest lands of long-term commercial significance, if any: [help]

Consult with Asotin County.

9. **Housing** [help]

a. Approximately how many units would be provided, if any? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing. [help]

N/A

b. Approximately how many units, if any, would be eliminated? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing. [help]

N/A

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control housing impacts, if any: [help]

N/A

10. **Aesthetics** [help]

a. What is the tallest height of any proposed structure(s), not including antennas; what is the principal exterior building material(s) proposed? [help]

The tallest structure onsite is an eight foot high vault toilet. This toilet will not be altered as part of this project.

b. What views in the immediate vicinity would be altered or obstructed? [help]

None.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control aesthetic impacts, if any: [help]

None.

11. **Light and Glare** [help]

a. What type of light or glare will the proposal produce? What time of day would it mainly occur? [help]

No glare is anticipated.

b. Could light or glare from the finished project be a safety hazard or interfere with views? [help]

No.

c. What existing off-site sources of light or glare may affect your proposal? [help]

None known.

d. Proposed measures to reduce or control light and glare impacts, if any: [help]

None planned.

12. **Recreation** [help]

a. What designated and informal recreational opportunities are in the immediate vicinity? [help]

Fishing and boating.

b. Would the proposed project displace any existing recreational uses? If so, describe. [help]

No. A temporary closure of the ramp would be in effect during construction.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts on recreation, including recreation opportunities to be provided by the project or applicant, if any: [help]

None needed.

13. **Historic and cultural preservation** [help]

a. Are there any buildings, structures, or sites, located on or near the site that are over 45 years old listed in or eligible for listing in national, state, or local preservation registers located on or near the site? If so, specifically describe. [help]

There are no buildings, structures, or sites, located on or near the site that are over 45 years old.

b. Are there any landmarks, features, or other evidence of Indian or historic use or occupation? This may include human burials or old cemeteries. Are there any material evidence, artifacts,

or areas of cultural importance on or near the site? Please list any professional studies conducted at the site to identify such resources. [help]

There are no features or landmarks that are apparent at this site. A WDFW archaeologist and USACE archaelogist will review this project which may result in a professional cultural review. Local tibes will also be consulted with on this project.

c. Describe the methods used to assess the potential impacts to cultural and historic resources on or near the project site. Examples include consultation with tribes and the department of archeology and historic preservation, archaeological surveys, historic maps, GIS data, etc. [help]

Methods of assessment included checking the Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation website. . A WDFW archaeologist and USACE archaelogist will review this project which may result in a professional cultural resources review. Local tibes will also be consulted on this project.

d. Proposed measures to avoid, minimize, or compensate for loss, changes to, and disturbance to resources. Please include plans for the above and any permits that may be required. [help]

All work will be done on established launching surfaces and within the ramp footprint. Any conditions imposed as a result of consultation or a cultural resources survey will be observed. Any potential sensitive areas will not be disturbed. The project will operate under a WDFW Inadvertent Discovery Plan.

14. **Transportation** [help]

a. Identify public streets and highways serving the site or affected geographic area and describe proposed access to the existing street system. Show on site plans, if any. [help]

This site is served by the Snake River Road.

b. Is the site or affected geographic area currently served by public transit? If so, generally describe. If not, what is the approximate distance to the nearest transit stop? [help]

Public transit does not reach this site. The nearest stop is unknown.

c. How many additional parking spaces would the completed project or non-project proposal have? How many would the project or proposal eliminate? [help]

No parking spaces will be added.

d. Will the proposal require any new or improvements to existing roads, streets, pedestrian, bicycle or state transportation facilities, not including driveways? If so, generally describe (indicate whether public or private). [help]

No.

e. Will the project or proposal use (or occur in the immediate vicinity of) water, rail, or air transportation? If so, generally describe. [help]

No.

f. How many vehicular trips per day would be generated by the completed project or proposal? If known, indicate when peak volumes would occur and what percentage of the volume would be trucks (such as commercial and nonpassenger vehicles). What data or transportation models were used to make these estimates? [help]

No increase in vehicle trips are anticipated.

g. Will the proposal interfere with, affect or be affected by the movement of agricultural and forest products on roads or streets in the area? If so, generally describe. [help]

No.

h. Proposed measures to reduce or control transportation impacts, if any: [help]

None taken or needed.

15. **Public Services** [help]

a. Would the project result in an increased need for public services (for example: fire protection, police protection, public transit, health care, schools, other)? If so, generally describe. [help]

No. Useage of this site will not be changed and not result in a need for additional services.

b. Proposed measures to reduce or control direct impacts on public services, if any. [help]

WDFW will conduct repairs quickly to avoids impacts to public. Work will be done during the fall to avoid useage periods.

16. **Utilities** [help]

a. Circle utilities currently available at the site: [help]
electricity, natural gas, water, refuse service, telephone, sanitary sewer, septic system, other vault toilet

b. Describe the utilities that are proposed for the project, the utility providing the service, and the general construction activities on the site or in the immediate vicinity which might be needed. [help]

C. Signature [help]

The above answers are true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that the lead agency is relying on them to make its decision.

Signature: Marty Peoples

Name of signee Marty Peoples

Position and Agency/Organization Biologist / WDFW

Date Submitted: 3/22/16

D. supplemental sheet for nonproject actions [help]

(**IT IS NOT NECESSARY** to use this sheet for project actions)

Because these questions are very general, it may be helpful to read them in conjunction with the list of the elements of the environment.

When answering these questions, be aware of the extent the proposal, or the types of activities likely to result from the proposal, would affect the item at a greater intensity or at a faster rate than if the proposal were not implemented. Respond briefly and in general terms.

1. How would the proposal be likely to increase discharge to water; emissions to air; production, storage, or release of toxic or hazardous substances; or production of noise?

Proposed measures to avoid or reduce such increases are:

2. How would the proposal be likely to affect plants, animals, fish, or marine life?

Proposed measures to protect or conserve plants, animals, fish, or marine life are:

3. How would the proposal be likely to deplete energy or natural resources?

Proposed measures to protect or conserve energy and natural resources are:

4. How would the proposal be likely to use or affect environmentally sensitive areas or areas designated (or eligible or under study) for governmental protection; such as parks, wilderness, wild and scenic rivers, threatened or endangered species habitat, historic or cultural sites, wetlands, floodplains, or prime farmlands?

Proposed measures to protect such resources or to avoid or reduce impacts are:

5. How would the proposal be likely to affect land and shoreline use, including whether it would allow or encourage land or shoreline uses incompatible with existing plans?

Proposed measures to avoid or reduce shoreline and land use impacts are:

6. How would the proposal be likely to increase demands on transportation or public services and utilities?

Proposed measures to reduce or respond to such demand(s) are:

7. Identify, if possible, whether the proposal may conflict with local, state, or federal laws or requirements for the protection of the environment.