

SEPA ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

UPDATED 2014

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: [\[help\]](#)

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: [\[help\]](#)
Carter Mountain Unit – Trail & Hand Line Project

2. Name of applicant: [\[help\]](#)
WDFW – Sinlahekin Wildlife Area
Justin Haug, Wildlife Area Manager

3. Address and phone number of applicant and contact person: [\[help\]](#)

1680 Sinlahekin Road
P.O. Box C
Loomis, WA 98827
(509) 223-3358

4. Date checklist prepared: [\[help\]](#)

14 March 2016

5. Agency requesting checklist: [\[help\]](#)

WDFW

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

This is a 2-month project to improve a primitive trail and develop hand lines for prescribed burning on the Carter Mountain Unit of the Sinlahekin Wildlife Area.

- **May - August 2016 – Begin coordination with volunteers & agency staff and implement project**

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. [\[help\]](#)

None.

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.

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

None.

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 will include -

- **Clearing and improving ~ 5 miles of existing roads and cattle trails to be used as hiking/horse riding paths and hand line for prescribed burning**
- **Placing erosion control measures (water bars, deflections, etc.) where needed along the trail.**
- **Cutting brush where needed to improve usability (less than 5 yds³)**
- **Placing informative or safety signs where needed**

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. [\[help\]](#)

Street address (adjacent landowner to North):
30791 Highway 97
Tonasket, WA 98855

The Carter Mountain Unit of the Sinlahekin Wildlife Area is located in North-Central Washington, about 5 miles South of the City of Tonasket, Okanogan County. The worksite is approximately 100 meter of the road on the agency access road of of Highway 97.

All lands pertinent to this project on Carter Mountain Wildlife Area are located in T36N R26E Section 13.

See Attachment A & B.

B. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS [\[help\]](#)

1. Earth

a. General description of the site [\[help\]](#)
(circle one): Flat, rolling, hilly, steep slopes, mountainous,
other _____

The wildlife area is characterized by moderately steep, rolling hills rising from Wagonroad Coulee to the east and Pine Creek to the west with an elevation ranging from 1,040 feet to over 2,000 feet. The access improvement site is relatively flat with a slight north aspect (see attachment C).

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

Approximately 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. [\[help\]](#)

Soils of the Carter Mountain Wildlife Area have been mapped. The soil map is available on the NRCS Soil Data Website (see links below). Soils present on the site are as follows:

- *Skaha gravelly loam sand, 0 to 8 percent slopes*
- *Skaha gravelly loamy sand, 25 to 65 percent slopes*
- *Conconully gravelly ashy loam, 0 to 25 percent slopes, extremely stony*
- *Lithic Haploxerepts-Cashmont complex, 15 to 45 percent slopes*
- *Lithic Haploxerepts-Conconully complex, 15 to 45 percent slopes*

For more information visit these links:

<http://websoilsurvey.sc.egov.usda.gov/App/WebSoilSurvey.aspx>

http://websoilsurvey.sc.egov.usda.gov/DSD/Download/AOI/3qly3d13i5kar113nu0q2dql/wss_aoi_2014-01-22_11-30-47.zip

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

No. However, much of the soil is very sandy and/or gravelly making erosion possible during intense, infrequent rainfall events.

- 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. [\[help\]](#)

There will be some grading along the stretch of trail (< 1 mile @ 4' in width), however most of the improvement will be clearing existing cattle trails and adding erosion mitigation where needed. No filling or excavation is required. The total affected area of this project is approximately 1 acre.

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

Erosion as a result of these existing cattle trails may already be possible. This project will install erosion mitigation measures on these trails where erosion is most likely to occur.

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

None.

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

- adding water bars per USFS/WADNR standards as needed along the trail segment http://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5343897.pdf
- allow existing native vegetation to take hold and flourish following construction
- close trail during sensitive times during the year to reduce erosion potential

2. Air

- 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. [\[help\]](#)

Short-term emissions from volunteer vehicles and bobcat-type skid steerer will occur during the two-month period of the project. Use of small gas engines for trail clearing will be minimal.

- 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: [\[help\]](#)

Run equipment only when necessary. Work in a manner that will reduce the potential of dust.

3. Water

- a. Surface Water: [\[help\]](#)

- 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. [\[help\]](#)

Yes. There is an unnamed seasonal stream in the vicinity of the project. It is classified as non-fish and in the 'U' category. (WC-ID: 1108289 & WC-LLID-NR: 1195038486193) The stream goes subterranean before entering a dry basin.

- 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. [\[help\]](#)

Water only exists in the stream for roughly 2-3 months and is not a shoreline of the state.

- 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. [\[help\]](#)

None.

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

No.

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

No.

- 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.

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.

- 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 MATERIALS ARE ASSOCIATED WITH THIS PROJECT.

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 be channeled into stable outlets.

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

No.

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

No.

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

Comply with all federal, state and county laws regarding the impacts of runoff waters.

4. **Plants** [\[help\]](#)

- a. Check the types of vegetation found on the site: [\[help\]](#)

deciduous tree: alder, maple, aspen, other

evergreen tree: fir, cedar, pine, other

shrubs

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? [\[help\]](#)

Some removal of sagebrush, bitterbrush and various native and non-native bunchgrasses will occur within the proposed footprint of the access area. Re-generation from adjacent, healthy populations will occur over time. A native seed mix (bunchgrasses and forbs) will be planted where disturbance has occurred as part of the trail project and is a project component in the restoration efforts involving prescribed burning.

- c. List threatened and endangered species known to be on or near the site. [\[help\]](#)

No T&E species are known to occur at these sites.

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

Seeding with native plant species will occur on areas impacted by equipment.

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

Diffuse Knapweed, Russain Thistle, Mustard ssp., and Cheatgrass

5. Animals

- 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. Examples include: [\[help\]](#)

birds: red-tailed hawk, w. meadowlarks, warblers, hun. partridges, etc.

mammals: mule deer, coyotes, cougars, etc.

Other: rattlesnakes, numerous butterflies, ant ssp, etc.

- b. List any threatened and endangered species known to be on or near the site. [\[help\]](#)

No T&E species are known to occur at these sites, however:

Gray Wolf – This area is not included in ‘core zone’ habitat for this species, as defined by WGA, recent wolf sightings or evidence of wolf activity has been reported in the area - (http://wdfw.wa.gov/conservation/gray_wolf/reporting/sightings.html). As wolf populations are recovered, the Carter Mountain Unit will likely be suitable dispersal and seasonal foraging habitat for this species.

- c. Is the site part of a migration route? If so, explain. [\[help\]](#)

The general area is used as a mule deer winter migration route.

- d. Proposed measures to preserve or enhance wildlife, if any: [\[help\]](#)

By concentrating users to one trail this project will minimize the effects of disturbance on this area of the unit.

- e. List any invasive animal species known to be on or near the site.

None known.

6. Energy and natural resources

- 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. [\[help\]](#)

Does not apply

- b. Would your project affect the potential use of solar energy by adjacent properties?

If so, generally describe. [\[help\]](#)

Does not apply

- 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: [\[help\]](#)

Does not apply

7. Environmental health

- 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.

None.

- 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.

None.

- 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.

None.

- 4) Describe special emergency services that might be required.

None.

- 5) Proposed measures to reduce or control environmental health hazards, if any: **None.**

b. Noise

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

The site is near Highway 97 but will not affect the project.

- 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. [\[help\]](#)

Work crews are expected to travel to and from the proposed site on existing roads over a couple weeks in the morning (between 7:00-9:00 AM) and evening (4:00-6:00 PM) creating low levels of noise. Ground-based equipment will generate low amounts of noise throughout the work periods in fall and/or late spring.

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

Properly maintained equipment with mufflers will reduce noise impacts.

8. Land and shoreline use

- 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. [\[help\]](#)

The site is managed for wildlife, their associated habitats, and public recreation. Adjacent properties are managed as open rangeland and agricultural production.

- 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? [\[help\]](#)

The property has historically been used for open range/livestock grazing. This project will not change or convert use.

- 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:

No.

- c. Describe any structures on the site. [\[help\]](#)

No structures exist on this site.

- d. Will any structures be demolished? If so, what? [\[help\]](#)

Not applicable.

- e. What is the current zoning classification of the site? [\[help\]](#)

Minimum requirement district

- f. What is the current comprehensive plan designation of the site? [\[help\]](#)

Listed as Rural in the Okanogan County Land Use Designation Map from the Okanogan County Planning Department. Drafted May 14th 2013 -

http://okanogancounty.org/planning/COMP%20PLAN/MAPS/CP_Final%20Draft%2005142013_24x20.jpg

- g. If applicable, what is the current shoreline master program designation of the site? [\[help\]](#)

Not Applicable

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

The Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife considers the entire Wildlife Area as environmentally sensitive. It was acquired in 2008 to preserve mule deer habitat.

- i. Approximately how many people would reside or work in the completed project? [\[help\]](#)

Does not apply

- j. Approximately how many people would the completed project displace? [\[help\]](#)

Does not apply

- k. Proposed measures to avoid or reduce displacement impacts, if any: [\[help\]](#)

DOES NOT APPLY

- l. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with existing and projected land uses and plans, if any: [\[help\]](#)

Proposed measures are congruent with the WDFW Wildlife Management plan and are supported by Wildlife Manager and WDFW staff.

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

WDFW will work closely with the permitted cattle producers to ensure that management practices are mutually beneficial for long-term management of the area.

9. Housing

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

Does not apply

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

Does not apply

- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control housing impacts, if any: [\[help\]](#)

Does not apply

10. Aesthetics

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

Does not apply

- 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

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

Does not apply

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

Does not apply

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

Does not apply

- d. Proposed measures to reduce or control light and glare impacts, if any: [\[help\]](#)

Does not apply

12. Recreation

- a. What designated and informal recreational opportunities are in the immediate vicinity? [\[help\]](#)

Many forms of recreation including, but not limited to: hunting, hiking, wildlife viewing, and horseback riding.

- b. Would the proposed project displace any existing recreational uses? If so, describe. [\[help\]](#)

No. This project will enhance all users who want to access the wildlife area (hunters, horseback riders, wildlife photographers, etc.)

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

A well-constructed, easily accessible trail into the wildlife area will increase the enjoyment of this site significantly. This project will gather those who access the wildlife area from multiple locations and focus them to this user-friendly site.

13. Historic and cultural preservation

- 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 structures or buildings located on or near the site. There are no recorded cultural resources for the project areas for at least 2 miles in any direction as ascertained by checking with the Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation cultural resources database (WISAARD – Washington Information System for Architectural and Archaeological Records Data). Nearest site is the McLoughlin Battle Site approx. 2 miles to the NE.

- 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 recorded cultural resources for the project areas for at least 2 miles in any direction as ascertained by checking with the Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation cultural resources database (WISAARD – Washington Information System for Architectural and Archaeological Records Data). A cultural resource survey has been performed (Sinlahekin Small Projects – Log # 051914-01-WDFW) near this site by a WDFW archaeologist and has been reviewed by DAHP who has issued a letter of concurrence stating that there will be no impacts to cultural resources. An additional pedestrian survey and report have submitted for review as of March 22nd 2016 as part of 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.

A cultural resource survey will be performed by a WDFW-contracted archeologist followed by a letter of concurrence from DAHP following the survey. The local tribes will then have 30 days to respond with their own letter.

- 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.

The results of WDFW's cultural resources survey for the project will be used to inform final project design. Any necessary mitigation and/or avoidance measures will be designed in consultation with the affected Tribe(s) and DAHP. When project goes to construction, WDFW will operate under an Inadvertent Discovery Plan; if cultural resources are identified within or near the project, a Cultural Resources Management Plan would also be implemented.

14. Transportation

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. [\[help\]](#)
The road system within the Carter Mountain Unit is primitive and all roads within the unit are for administrative purposes only. Highway 97 exists approx. 100m from the end of the trail and a primitive road provides access to the site from Hwy 97. One can access the westside of the wildlife area unit from the North Pine Creek Rd.

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? [\[help\]](#)

No. Rural.

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

Not Applicable.

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? [\[help\]](#)

The number of trips per day may increase (not known how much) with a better developed trail becoming available. Peak volumes will most likely occur during the spring and fall during various hunting seasons (Sept. – mid Nov.). Horse traffic on the trail will go down after rattlesnakes emerge from their dens.

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.

No.

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

Crews will carpool and limit trips to the work site when feasible.

15. Public services

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.

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

Not Applicable.

16. Utilities

- a. Circle utilities currently available at the site: [\[help\]](#)
electricity, natural gas, water, refuse service, telephone, sanitary sewer, septic system,
other - **Does not apply.**

- 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. [\[help\]](#)

Does not apply.

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: 

Name of signee Justin Haug

Position and Agency/Organization - Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

Date Submitted: 16 March 2016