

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:
 - Scotch Creek Culvert Removal

2. Name of applicant:
 - [Jim Olson](#)

3. Address and phone number of applicant and contact person:

- Jim Olson, Manager
Scotch Creek Wildlife Area, WDFW
1514 Conconully Road
Okanogan, WA 98840

4. Date checklist prepared:

- 5/9/16

5. Agency requesting checklist:

- WDFW

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

- May/June 2016

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

- No

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

- Cultural Resources survey, BPA 2015.

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.

- No

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

- HPA, SEPA, Cultural Resources (approved).

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.)

- An old culvert has failed causing soil washout at an earthen filled crossing of Scotch Creek. We would like to remove the earth fill, and old culvert and replace with a wooden foot bridge. The culvert and creek crossing is a small area of 13 feet long by 10 feet wide at the headquarters of the Scotch Creek Wildlife Area.
- We propose to excavate the earthen fill and old culvert with a standard backhoe. Slope the banks 2:1 and seed the disturbed soil with native grass. We estimate removing a total of 5 cubic yards of soil.

- Two 6' ecology blocks will be placed as bridge abutments on either side of the creek and a 15' x 6' wooden bridge deck placed over the creek.
- We have the ability to divert the creek through a previous pipeline put in by WDFW to bypass the project area. The construction site will be completely dewatered before any soil disturbance occurs, thus protecting fish life and preventing any sedimentation.

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.

- T35, R35, S21
- At the Headquarters of the Scotch Creek WLA in Okanogan County. 1514 Conconully Road, Okanogan, WA 98840.
- The culvert removal is between the residence and large white barn over Scotch Creek. Map attached.

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

1. Earth

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)?

- 0%

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.

- Sandy loam soils.

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

- No

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.

- We will need to excavate approximately 2 yards of fill that is around the culvert.

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

- No

- About what percent of the site will be covered with impervious surfaces after project construction (for example, asphalt or buildings)?
None

- Proposed measures to reduce or control erosion, or other impacts to the earth, if any:
 - We will slope the banks and revegetate with native grass.

2. Air

- 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.
 - None

 - Are there any off-site sources of emissions or odor that may affect your proposal? If so, generally describe.
No
- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control emissions or other impacts to air, if any: None

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. [\[help\]](#)

Scotch Creek is a perennial spring creek with no inlets or outlets. It flows sub-terrainian about 2 miles downstream.

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

Yes. We will remove the culvert and approximately 2 cubic yards of fill and slope the banks. We will then place ecology blocks on solid ground at least 5 feet back from the head of the slope. A wood timbered frame and deck will be built across the creek. The finished deck will be approximately 20 feet long and 5 feet wide. All disturbed soils will be seeded with native grass.

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

Approximately 2 cubic yards of earth fill will be removed from above the mean high water line.

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

This spring creek doesn't fluctuate seasonally. However we will be working right up to waters edge.

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

NONE

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. [\[help\]](#)

None

- 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:

None

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 non-native reed canary grass will be removed and replaced with native grass seeding.

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

None

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

Native grass will be seeded on all disturbed sites to prevent erosion.

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

Kocia

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: hawk, heron, eagle, songbirds, other: Waterfowl, Kingfisher

mammals: deer, bear, elk, beaver, other: Skunk

fish: bass, salmon, trout, herring, shellfish, other _____

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

Sharp-tailed grouse

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

No

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

Shrub and tree plantings downstream

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

None

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. [\[help\]](#)

None

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

None

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

None

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. [\[help\]](#)

Tractor operation from 8-5.

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

None needed

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. [\[help\]](#)
Headquarters to the wildlife area. Both sides of the creek are used for equipment and materials storage, office and managers residence.

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? [\[help\]](#)

Yes, as a working cattle ranch. No change in use will result.

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

No

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

Residence, office, barn, garage, shop, and other storage buildings.

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

No

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

Rural

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

Farming, wildlife habitat

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

Not known

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

[\[help\]](#)

No

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

N/A

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

N/A

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

N/A

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

The project is identified in the land management plan, and surveyed by BPA for cultural resources. Project approved.

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

N/A

9. Housing

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

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

N/A

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

N/A

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

N/A

11. Light and glare

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

N/A

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

N/A

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

N/A

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

N/A

12. Recreation

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

Hiking, hunting, horseback riding and camping

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

No

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

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. [\[help\]](#)

Yes, The French house is approximately 100 yards to the west of the site and has been determined to be eligible for the national historic register. This project will not have any effect on this structure.

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. [\[help\]](#)

None. BPA archeological services surveyed the project. No adverse impacts were discovered.

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.

[\[help\]](#)

Yes, all of the above. Bonneville Power Administration cultural resource staff surveyed the site and provided consultation with DAHP and the Colville Confederated Tribes. The following letter concurs with the report of "No Historic Properties Affected" from DAHP.



Alyson Brooks Ph.D., Director
State Historic Preservation Officer

August 3, 2015

Ms. Sunshine Schmidt
Environment, Fish & Wildlife
Bonneville Power Administration
PO Box 3621
Portland, Oregon 97208

RE: WDFW Scotch Creek Wildlife Area Restoration Project
Log No.: 072015-05-BPA

Dear Ms. Schmidt:

Thank you for contacting our department. We have reviewed the professional archaeological survey report you provided for the proposed WDFW Scotch Creek Wildlife Area Restoration & Maintenance Project, Okanogan County, Washington.

We concur with your determination of No Historic Properties Affected.

We request you provided any correspondence or comments from concerned tribes or other parties that you receive as you consult under the requirements of 36CFR800.4(a)(4).

In the event that archaeological or historic materials are discovered during project activities, work in the immediate vicinity must stop, the area secured, and the concerned tribe's cultural staff and cultural committee and this department notified.

These comments are based on the information available at the time of this review and on the behalf of the State Historic Preservation Officer in conformance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and its implementing regulations 36CFR800. Should additional information become available, our assessment may be revised.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment and a copy of these comments should be included in subsequent environmental documents.

Sincerely,

Robert G. Whitlam, Ph.D.
State Archaeologist
(360) 890-2615
email: rob.whitlam@dahp.wa.gov

State of Washington • Department of Archaeology & Historic Preservation
P.O. Box 48343 • Olympia, Washington 98504-8343 • (360) 586-3065
www.dahp.wa.gov



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.

None required by the archeological survey.

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. [\[help\]](#)

Access is off of the Conconully Road by dirt driveway.

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. 15 miles to Omak WA.

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

N/A

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? [\[help\]](#)

None.

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: [\[help\]](#)

N/A

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. [\[help\]](#)

N/A

16. Utilities

a. Circle utilities currently available at the site: [\[help\]](#)
electricity, natural gas, water, refuse service, telephone, sanitary sewer, septic system,
other Propane tank

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. [\[help\]](#)

N/A

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: Jim Olson

Name of signee Jim OLSON

Position and Agency/Organization Wildlife Area Manager / WDFW

Date Submitted: 5/16/16