

SEPA ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

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: [\[help\]](#)

Wooten Wildlife Area Floodplain Management Plan Implementation

2. Name of applicant: [\[help\]](#)

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

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

600 Capitol Way, Olympia, WA 98501, attn.: Douglas Mackey, (360) 902-8380

4. Date checklist prepared: [\[help\]](#)
8/20/2016

5. Agency requesting checklist: [\[help\]](#)
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

6. Proposed timing or schedule (including phasing, if applicable): [\[help\]](#)
Fall 2016 – Fall 2020

7. Do you have any plans for future additions, expansion, or further activity related to or connected with this proposal? If yes, explain. [\[help\]](#)
Yes, maintaining the proposed ecological benefits to the floodplain and the recreational planning associated with this project may require additional efforts unforeseen at this time. The planning effort to date provides adequate knowledge about the likely range of environmental impacts related to the clearing, dredging, excavating, grading, and modifications planned for the hydraulic regime.

8. List any environmental information you know about that has been prepared, or will be prepared, directly related to this proposal. [\[help\]](#)
**Wooten Wildlife Area Management Plan, 2011
Wooten Wildlife Area Concept Plans
Geotechnical Engineering Study Proposed Rainbow Lake Dam Rehabilitation, Columbia County, Washington; June 6, 2005, Thomas, Dean & Hoskins, Inc.
Rainbow Lake Wetland Report**

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. [\[help\]](#)
The other permits applications required to accomplish the goals of the WWAFMP are being prepared for Columbia County and the US Army Corps of Engineers.

10. List any government approvals or permits that will be needed for your proposal, if known. [\[help\]](#)
**A Shoreline Substantial Development Permit, or corresponding exemption, is required by Columbia County. Work within critical areas may require county permits.
A US Army Corps of Engineers Clean Water Act Section 404 permit is required for all work in the wetlands and open waters below ordinary high water (OHW).
WDFW HPA permit(s) are required for work in the water below ordinary high water (OHW).**

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.) [\[help\]](#)
The Wooten Wildlife Area Floodplain Management Plan (FMP) was developed by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) as an integrated, cross-program effort to improve conditions within the Tucannon floodplain. Over the years the Tucannon River floodplain function has been compromised by certain factors including infrastructure encroachment and deterioration, large wood removal, degradation of riparian habitats, channel straightening, dike building and devastating floods and fires. The goals of this FMP were developed to address these factors: 1)

protection and restoration of ecosystem functions of the Tucannon River, floodplain, and riparian habitats, 2) enhancement of fishing, hunting, camping, wildlife viewing and other recreational activities, 3) improvement of habitat conditions for Endangered Species Act (ESA) listed salmonids (as well as other aquatic species), 4) improvement of wildlife habitats, and 5) protection and enhancement of critical infrastructure.

Two components of the overarching Floodplain Management Plan have been started under the initial SEPA analyses for floodplain habitat restoration and a second analysis for campground improvements. These SEPA Determinations of Non-significance are respectively: DNS 12-012 (finalized April 2, 2012), and DNS 14-020 (finalized April 30, 2014).

On-going floodplain habitat restoration will continue as outlined in the Floodplain Management Plan and original Determination of Non-significance 12-012. Work on most of these LDW and river channel projects are completed with several areas yet to be addressed. PA-11 was completed last summer (2015), and we WDFW will complete 6-9 and 18 next summer (2017).

Certain post-project responses to the outcomes of FMP habitat restoration or campground redevelopment may require small additional work in the Tucannon River floodplain. These follow-up projects include LWD and channel modifications as well as a rehabilitation of Campground 3 adjacent to Rainbow Lake. The overarching plan for capital improvements within the Wildlife Area, also included in the Floodplain Management Plan, calls for a powerline to be buried in the road prism from the Hatchery to Camp Wooten. All of these follow-up projects are also considered in this SEPA checklist, and may be undertaken as described herein.

The project details covered in this SEPA analysis are all portions of the Floodplain Management Plan for which additional investigations are necessary given the limitations of the earlier SEPA analyses. This environmental impact investigation focuses on the Tucannon Lakes and the modifications planned for these man-made lakes: Rainbow Lake, Deer Lake, Beaver-Watson Lake, Big Four Lake, and Spring Lake. Curl Lake and Blue Lake do not have actions planned for the existing or expected budgets, but are also considered in this analysis in the context of managing the floodplain and channel migration zones to the betterment of natural hydraulic function and improved habitat. The first lake project to be undertaken is planned for Rainbow Lake.

Rainbow Lake is an existing 10-acre lake located just south of the Tucannon Fish Hatchery. The existing lake is primarily supplied through a diversion on the right bank of the Tucannon River at the Tucannon Hatchery diversion dam, located just south of the lake. The diversion also supplies water to the Tucannon hatchery. Over the years, sedimentation within the lake has reduced the capacity of the lake. Hatchery trout stocking levels have also been diminished. The shallow water column has resulted in higher water temperatures, and the increase in the temperature of the outflow from the lake to the Tucannon River is a concern for ESA-listed fish in the river. The lake currently consists of a dam that impounds the lake along the north and west sides of the lake.

The concept to make these improvements to Rainbow Lake calls for dredging, removal of sediment, and reconfiguration of the lake to increase the depth and volume, reduce water temperatures, eliminate dam safety concerns, increase trout stocking capacity, and increase angler access and opportunity. The improvement will also relocate the dam outside of the 100 year floodplain.

Two of the other proposed lake modifications include moving the edge of the lakes farther away from the Tucannon River floodplain and include the deepening of the lakes to address six decades of sedimentation and to provide the lakes with colder water. Regrading of the lakes areas will also be engineered to increase the presence of wetlands.

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. [\[help\]](#)

The project sites are located within seven sections within Townships 8, 9, and 10 North, Range 41 East. (See Appendix A SEPA Drawings, Sheet 1)

Most of the Tucannon Lakes will be sites where work takes place including: Rainbow Lake, Deer Lake, Beaver-Watson Lake, Big Four Lake, and Spring Lake. Curl and Blue Lakes will be evaluated for minor work to enhance floodplain continuity and function.

All of the work is being done in Columbia County. The address of the Wooten Wildlife Area Headquarters is 2134 Tucannon Road, Pomeroy, WA 99347.

The legal description for the approximately 16,480 acres is lengthy and is available online through the Columbia County Assessor Treasurer website under the owner name "[Dept of Fish & Wildlife.](#)"

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

1. Earth [\[help\]](#)

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

Generally flat with some low rolling slopes that are generally below 15%

b. What is the steepest slope on the site (approximate percent slope)? [\[help\]](#)
Some small natural berms create slopes of 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 soils are alluvial and gravelly. The PFLG data exists for the area surrounding Spring Lake where "cobbly silt loam" and "gravelly silt loam" are identified in and adjacent to the channel migration zone. This soil composition is between 5 – 30% solid rock fragments with depths of greater than 60 inches. Percolation rates are moderately rapid, with lower suitability to become hydric soils.

The combined Private Forest Land Grading system (PFLG) Soils data include only a small portion of this 16,480 acre area. The PFLG data are inclusive of the NRCS soils survey, and other surveys, and have not been completed in this part of Washington State.

- d. Are there surface indications or history of unstable soils in the immediate vicinity? If so, describe. [\[help\]](#)
WDFW is not aware of any unstable soils in the area. The drainages that feed the Tucannon River show signs of periodic washes and small landslides, though these are generally above the elevation of the Tucannon River floodplain.

- 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 proposed soil movement at these five lake areas is yet under investigation. It should be noted that Watson and Beaver Lakes are treated as a single lake, named Watson-Beaver Lake, for this proposal. Watson-Beaver Lake, Deer Lake and Rainbow Lake are the three lakes where large quantities of dredge material and at least modest quantities of fill are likely to occur. Modifications proposed for Spring Lake are minimal, and the proposal for Big Four Lake will require research prior to final planning.

The planning effort at Rainbow Lake is nearing completion with fill of approximately 2.9 acres and corresponding excavation planned for between 2.9 acres to essentially move the lake eastward from the Tucannon River. An estimated 152,000 cubic yards of cut and 17,000 cubic yards of fill are anticipated. The source of fill material includes soils from the excavation and some specific types of fill for use adjacent to the inlets and outlets to the lake.

Similar approaches are being investigated for Deer and Beaver-Watson Lakes where the lakes will be moved away from the main channels of the Tucannon River creating deeper and longer lakes. Excavation and or fill areas will be in the range of 3 – 7 acres for these lakes, with excavation quantities on the order of low 100's of thousands of cubic yards of soils per site in the case of the larger Tucannon Lakes projects. Again, some specialized fill material may be required at water intakes and outfalls.

With the anticipated need to relocate these relatively large quantities of soil WDFW has identified four Soil Deposition Sites suitable to receive these soils. (See Appendix A, sheet 7)

- f. Could erosion occur as a result of clearing, construction, or use? If so, generally describe. [\[help\]](#)
Yes; some relatively minor erosion will occur during upland clearing and grading activities. The potential will be addressed by using temporary and permanent erosion control BMP's.

- g. About what percent of the site will be covered with impervious surfaces after project construction (for example, asphalt or buildings)? [\[help\]](#)
Less than 1%. The relocation of gravel roadways, walking trails, and the earthen dams, or berms, will be the only impervious surfaces in the project work.

- h. Proposed measures to reduce or control erosion, or other impacts to the earth, if any: [\[help\]](#)
Construction will occur primarily during the summer months when precipitation is lower. Construction BMPs will be in-place to minimize the erosion potential and to protect downhill areas from the effects of erosion. Sediment control measures, such as silt fencing, straw bales, and covering fill materials will be in place. Stockpiled materials will be stored away from the Tucannon River and stormwater drainage conveyances. Materials will be covered, as appropriate, to minimize erosion.

Land clearing will be kept to the minimum necessary to complete the project. Exposed soils will be revegetated post-construction.

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. [\[help\]](#)

Emissions from construction vehicles and emissions from vehicles/campers using the campgrounds are associated with this project. Smoke from campfires in the campgrounds will be associated with this project. No significant increases of emissions or campfire smoke are anticipated due to the new campgrounds replacing existing campgrounds.

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

Standard emission control converters and mufflers would be in use by construction vehicles.

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 Tucannon River flows through the entire length of the W.T. Wooten Wildlife Area. The Tucannon Lake system is fed by the waters of the Tucannon River system, except Spring Lake and Blue Lake which are spring fed. Spring Lake, Blue Lake, Rainbow Lake, Deer Lake, Watson and Beaver Lakes, Big Four Lake and Curl Lake comprise the eight-lake system. Several wetlands are associated with the hydraulic regimes of the lakes, notably Rainbow Lake where wetland impacts and mitigation are part of the proposed project.

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

Most of the work associated with the Tucannon Lakes will occur within 200 feet of the Tucannon River or one, or more, of the lakes. See the attached plans showing the floodplains and shoreline zones.

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

Much of the fill and excavation (or dredging) work outlined will occur below the existing water levels or in wetlands.

The planning effort at Rainbow Lake is nearing completion with about 0.5 acres of wetland proposed for dredging, and 2.4 acres of wetland buffer that will be impacted. Two of the

other other lakes (Watson-Beaver and Deer) are being planned for dredging and fill, though exact quantities have not yet been determined. The source of fill material includes soils from the excavation and some specific types of fill for use adjacent to the inlets and outlets to the lake.

Similar approaches are being investigated for Deer and Beaver-Watson Lakes where the lakes will be moved away from the main channels of the Tucannon River creating deeper and longer lakes.

4) Will the proposal require surface water withdrawals or diversions? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known. [\[help\]](#)
The existing water regime includes water at a diversion dam and fish ladder, as well as a surface water intake at the downstream end of Rainbow Lake for the Tucannon Fish Hatchery. Water withdrawals or diversions will be required, but are consistent with existing water rights.

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

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. [\[help\]](#)
The only waste materials that will be generated are associated with the use of the campground with two vault toilets included for the plans Campground 3 renovations.

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. [\[help\]](#)
The lake systems and related wetland contours are being engineered to address the water flows through the river basin, with a focus on lake and wetland hydraulics. Several geotechnical documents are being generated for each lake project. The WETLAND DELINEATION REPORT RAINBOW LAKE DESIGN was generated to serve this planning effort and is available upon request.

As is the case with all campgrounds in eastern Washington State storm water quantities are small enough that no treatment is required. Storm water will flow along the existing natural pathways or along the edge of roadways. In steeper sections of new access road where higher potential for sediment transport exists, roadside ditches will be added to adequately convey runoff to treatment areas, avoiding direct discharge to natural drainages.

2) Could waste materials enter ground or surface waters? If so, generally describe. [\[help\]](#)
The likelihood of waste materials entering ground or surface waters is extremely low. It is conceivable that petroleum products (oil or gas) associated with construction equipment or vehicles/campers could accidentally be released. Construction vehicle operators are trained to prevent such waste discharges and prepared to contain releases and call for appropriate clean-up.

3) Does the proposal alter or otherwise affect drainage patterns in the vicinity of the site? If so, describe. [\[help\]](#)
Yes. All of the dredging, excavation and filling activities will alter drainage patterns. The desired outcomes from this resaping of the landscape are, for the most part, to restore a more natural functioning floodplain allowing for the creation and natural maintenance of fish and wildlife habitat. The increased storage capacity, or greater depth, within Rainbow Lake is likely deeper than could be achieved naturally; though, the resulting cooler temperatures will benefit all of the cold water species using the lake.

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

Again, construction will occur primarily during the low precipitation months. Temporary erosion BMP's will be incorporated to ensure sediment transport is limited to within the work area.

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

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

deciduous tree: alder, maple, aspen, other: cottonwood, willow sp.

evergreen tree: fir, cedar, pine, other

shrubs

grass

pasture

crop or grain

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 of the existing vegetation will be cleared around the edge of Rainbow Lake including small trees shrubs and some portions of wetland communities. Corresponding mitigation is planned.

Some Ponderosa Pine trees may be removed during the revision of Campground 3. The grass and shrubs will also be cleared from the area where the access roads and campsites will be constructed, as well as where the vault toilets will be placed.

- c. List threatened and endangered species known to be on or near the site. [\[help\]](#)
None are known to be present in any of the work areas; although clustered lady's slipper (*Cypripedium fasciculatum*) has been documented within two miles of some work areas. WDFW staff will reexamine the sites from early May through mid-June when the plant blooms to assure that any plants would be protected.
- d. Proposed landscaping, use of native plants, or other measures to preserve or enhance vegetation on the site, if any: [\[help\]](#)
Ponderosa Pine trees will be planted, at a 2:1 ratio, in the general vicinity of locations where they had to be removed.
- e. List all noxious weeds and invasive species known to be on or near the site. [\[help\]](#)
Yellow Starthistle, Japanese/Bohemian knotweed, Mediterranean sage, and Leafy spurge are identified by the Columbia County Weed Board as species requiring attention somewhere in the County. Noxious weed control will occur in all disturbed areas, including excavation and fill sites as well as the campsites receiving work in Campground 3.

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 (bald & golden), songbirds**, other: **pileated woodpeckers, woodpecker sp., osprey**

mammals: **deer, bear, elk, beaver**, other: **river otter, racoon, bighorn sheep**

fish: **bass, salmon, trout**, herring, shellfish, other **__steelhead, spring chinook, and bull trout _____**

WDFW Priority Habitat and Species data sets indicate that mule and white-tailed deer range throughout the campground areas; elk can be found wintering in heavy concentrations. Bighorn sheep and Rocky Mountain elk have lambing and calving areas, respectively, just to the east of the campground areas.

The full list of PHS species that may be in the area includes: Columbia spotted frog (*Rana luteiventris*), Chinook (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*), Steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) Bull trout/Dolly varden (*Salvelinus malma*), Mule deer (*Odocoileus hemionus hemionus*), Rocky Mountain elk (*Cervus elaphus nelsoni*), Northwest white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus ochrourus*), Golden eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*), Bighorn sheep (*Ovis canadensis*), and a Freshwater Forested/Shrub wetland.

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

Summer Steelhead, Spring Chinook and bull trout are found in the Tucannon River.

The full list of ESA occurring tin the vicinity includes: Yellow-billed cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus*), Bull trout (*Salvelinus confluentus*), Gray wolf (*Canis lupus*), Canada lynx (*Lynx canadensis*), Washington ground squirrel (*Urocyon washingtoni*), Whitebark pine (*Pinus albicaulis*), Spalding's catchfly (*Silene spaldingii*) , Spring Chinook (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*), Summer Steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*)

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

Yes, the Tucannon River hosts several species of anadromous fish. The migratory bird flyways are located east and west of the Tucannon River basin.

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

The lakes are being enhanced for fish with greater habitat diversity by creating deeper cooler water. The surface water condition adjacent to Rainbow Lake wetland community

The remodel of Campground 3 will remain in the footprint of the existing Campground 3 to the greatest extent possible. The surrounding area will be left in its natural state.

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

None are known at this time.

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. [\[help\]](#)

N/A

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

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

N/A

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: [\[help\]](#)

N/A

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. [\[help\]](#)

There is always a risk of a wildfire on the W.T. Wooten Wildlife Area in the summer months due to campers leaving campfires unattended or people having campfires during the DNR Burn Ban. A greater than normal risk of wildfires is not anticipated.

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

[\[help\]](#)

None are known at this time.

- 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. [\[help\]](#)
The Dept of Fish & Wildlife, the Dept of Natural Resources, and the US Forest Service all patrol the Tucannon Road for unattended campfires during the dry summer months.

- 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. [\[help\]](#)
None

- 4) Describe special emergency services that might be required. [\[help\]](#)
None are known to be needed at this time.

- 5) Proposed measures to reduce or control environmental health hazards, if any: [\[help\]](#)
None are known to be needed at this time.

b. Noise [\[help\]](#)

- 1) What types of noise exist in the area which may affect your project (for example: traffic, equipment, operation, other)? [\[help\]](#)
There are no noises that adversely affect the project or the surrounding environment any differently than the current campgrounds.

- 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. [\[help\]](#)
The amount of noise created by campers is not anticipated to change as a result of the Campground 3 adjustments.

- 3) Proposed measures to reduce or control noise impacts, if any: [\[help\]](#)
No special noise reduction efforts are planned.

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. [\[help\]](#)
The current use of the site is the W.T. Wooten Wildlife Area. The adjacent landowners are several private land owners and most of the adjacent property is the US Forest Service. The proposal could raise the number of recreational visits for fishing back to historic levels, or somewhat above historic levels. Site managers report that a significant increase in fishing visits is unlikely. The adjacent landowners, many miles away from Tucannon Lakes, include a campground that supports this proposal.
- 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? [\[help\]](#)

While some early settler farms were present along the Tucannon River, there has never been any agricultural or forest land use of long-term commercial significance in the areas where these projects will take place.

- 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 Tucannon Fish Hatchery structures include a main hatchery building, maintenance building, a large pond, rectangular pond, six round rearing ponds, pollution abatement pond, mechanical building, residence, and associated small outbuildings. The north end of Rainbow Lake contains an intake structure for the hatchery. Pipelines, above and below ground, connect the hatchery water system to water from the primary intake and fish ladder in the Tucannon River.

Campground 3 has 2 outdated fiberglass outhouses (with fences around them), 2 concrete picnic tables, and several metal fire rings.

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

All of the structures in the Old Campground 6 will be removed. The 2 fiberglass outhouses (and fences) will be removed and discarded. The concrete picnic table will be moved to the New Campground 6. The metal fire rings will be removed and the ones that are in good shape will be reused in the New Campground 6.

All of the structures in the Old Campground 9 will be removed. The 2 concrete outhouses will be removed and discarded. One concrete picnic table will be moved to the New Campground 9 and one will be moved to the New Campground 10. The metal fire rings will be removed and the ones in good shape will be reused in the New Campground 9 or 10.

The 2 fiberglass outhouses (and fences) in Campground 3 will be removed and discarded. The concrete picnic tables will be relocated within the new campground, and the metal fire rings in good shape will be reused.

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

Recreational, "Recreation 1"

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

Recreational, "Recreation 1"

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

The soon-to-be finalized Shoreline Master Program identifies a 200-foot buffer, from OHW, as the shoreline zone on the Tucannon River. Portions of all of the lake projects fall within this zone while less than 50% of the Campground 3 falls within this zone.

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

[\[help\]](#)

Yes, the wetlands associated with lakes are given protection under local state and federal laws.

- i. Approximately how many people would reside or work in the completed project? [\[help\]](#)
There will be no full time residents. Campers will, of course, use the campgrounds for limited stays; and WDFW staff will maintain the campgrounds.
- 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: [\[help\]](#)
The proposed use is fully in line with land use planning objectives for the property.
- m. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts to agricultural and forest lands of long-term commercial significance, if any: [\[help\]](#)
This is not an issue given the long-time land use objectives for this area.

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 proposed structure is a concrete vault toilet, at approximately 12 feet tall.
- b. What views in the immediate vicinity would be altered or obstructed? [\[help\]](#)
No views would be altered or obstructed.
- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control aesthetic impacts, if any: [\[help\]](#)
None, other than the engineering and planning to produce an more natural functioning floodplain that will have the corresponding natural appearance.

11. **Light and Glare** [\[help\]](#)

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

None

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

None

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

None

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

None

12. **Recreation** [\[help\]](#)

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

There are 8 man-made lakes on the Wooten Wildlife Area that are stocked with hatchery-raised rainbow trout. The wildlife area is 16,480 acres which is open to the public for hiking, hunting, bird watching, and general recreation. The Tucannon River is open for fishing for part of the year, in addition to the lakes. There are currently 11 WDFW campgrounds with Campground 3 scheduled for renovation as part of this project action.

There are an additional 5 USFS campgrounds in the Tucannon valley. There are hiking trails from the USFS lands into the Wenaha-Tucannon Wilderness Area. There is a designated ATV trail on the USFS lands south of the Wooten Wildlife Area.

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

No. The project will rejuvenate the aquatic conditions with each of the lakes in the direction of better habitat that will support a larger number of game fish.

- 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

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

There is no record of any recent cultural surveys, 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.

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

Although the landscape has been identified as potentially culturally sensitive location; there are no recorded landmarks, features, or other evidence of Indian or historic use or occupation. A review of historic maps and the DAHP database did not result in the identification of any recorded cultural features within the project area.

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

The project was reviewed by the WDFW archaeologist. Context for project evaluation was derived from a review of survey and site documents available on DAHP's WISAARD database, a review of DAHP's predictive model. Portions of the project may have a moderate probability to impact archaeological resources. Those locations will be surveyed to clarify the expectations for intact archaeological resources. Tribal consultation will be carried out to identify the potential for impacts to cultural resources. The results of these investigations will be used to inform final project design. The project will operate under WDFW's Inadvertent Discovery Plan, which provides the project proponent with a detail series of steps to follow upon the unanticipated discovery of archaeological or cultural materials.

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

The project has been reviewed by a professional archaeologist, who has determined that portions of the project may have a moderate probability to impact archaeological resources. Those locations will be surveyed to clarify the expectations for intact archaeological resources. Tribal consultation will be carried out to identify the potential for impacts to cultural resources. The results of these investigations will be used to inform final project design. The project will operate under WDFW's Inadvertent Discovery Plan, which provides the project proponent with a detail series of steps to follow upon the unanticipated discovery of archaeological or cultural materials.

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. [\[help\]](#)

Highway 12 runs through SE WA and the Tucannon Road leaves Hwy 12 and runs south through the Wooten Wildlife Area. The Tucannon Road becomes a USFS Road at approximately milepost 21.

- 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 public transit is available in the vicinity.

c. How many additional parking spaces would the completed project or non-project proposal have? How many would the project or proposal eliminate? [\[help\]](#)
Only minor changes to Campground 3 are anticipated with allocated parking remaining the same or increasing slightly (1-5 parking spaces).

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 new trips per day would be generated. The site is on a wildlife area that traditionally has heavy use from March 1- November 30 from fisherman and hunters. The Campground 3 rehabilitation, again, not create additional campgrounds. There will be an increase in fishing activity once the improvements in fish habitat and carrying capacity are improved; though these increases will essentially restore fishing to previous levels seen years ago.

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. [\[help\]](#)
None

h. Proposed measures to reduce or control transportation impacts, if any: [\[help\]](#)
There are none at this time.

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. [\[help\]](#)
The site already has fire protection from WDFW, DNR, and USFS. Police protection is already provided through WDFW Enforcement, USFS Enforcement, and Columbia County Sheriff Dept.

b. Proposed measures to reduce or control direct impacts on public services, if any. [\[help\]](#)
No increase on public services anticipated.

16. Utilities [\[help\]](#)

a. Circle utilities currently available at the site: [\[help\]](#)
electricity, natural gas, water, refuse service, telephone, sanitary sewer, septic system, other ...
None, other than the vault toilets at the campgrounds. The Wildlife Area headquarters from which these projects will be managed does have electricity, water, telephone and a septic system.

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

One of the projects in this proposal is for a powerline to be buried in the road prism from the Hatchery to Camp Wooten. Other than powerline and the vault toilets for Campground 3, no other utilities are part of this proposal.

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 Douglas Mackey

Position and Agency/Organization Fish and Wildlife Biologist, WDFW

Date Submitted: September 12, 2016