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: Oak Release and Protection, Scatter Creek Wildlife Area [help]

2. Name of applicant: David Hays, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife [help]

3. Address and phone number of applicant and contact person: 1111 Washington St SE, 5th Floor Wildlife Program, Olympia, WA 98501

[help]

4. Date checklist prepared: May 23,2017[help]

5. Agency requesting checklist: : Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife [help]

6. Proposed timing or schedule (including phasing, if applicable): July 2017- September 2018[help]

7. Do you have any plans for future additions, expansion, or further activity related to or connected with this proposal? If yes, explain. No [help]

8. List any environmental information you know about that has been prepared, or will be prepared, directly related to this proposal. Forest Practices Application including an Alternate Plan

[help]

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 [help]

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

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]

Scatter Creek is home to rare plants, animals, and plant communities of remnant South Puget Sound grasslands and oak woodlands. The site is of conservation concern due to degradation pressure from a number of threats, including invasive species and altered disturbance regimes. The project goal is to restore these rare habitats, emphasizing needs for federal- and state-listed threatened and endangered species and WDFW's Species of Greatest Conservation Need.

The plan goal is to release Oregon white oak at the North Unit of Scatter Creek while maintaining a healthy riparian buffer. Release will be conducted through timber harvest and snag creation of conifers following guidelines by Harrington and Devine (A Practical Guide to Oak Release, 2006. GTR #666, U.S. Forest Service, PNW Region). In the sections of the harvest area that occur within an RMZ, the core zone will remain untouched. Trees will be removed from the inner and outer zones. The result of these actions will be the release of oaks from overtopping conifers to improve tree survival and growth. The desired outcome is to perpetuate a legacy of oak savannah and woodland at Scatter Creek Wildlife Area, which will enhance habitat for WDFW Species of Greatest Conservation Need.

At the North Unit of Scatter Creek Wildlife Area, a glacial outwash prairie abuts a mixed, coniferous/oak forest. The Oregon white oak occurs in a linear fashion at the edge of a conifer forest (see map), approximately 1500 ft long. Oregon white oak are being suppressed and shaded by encroaching Douglas fir, Grand fir, Western red cedar, and Oregon ash. There is a small, 1-acre area

of excessive blowdown, and apparent root rot. Otherwise the forest health seems good, excluding the oak suppression. Topography within the area is generally flat and gentle. Streams are low gradient. Conifer average age is 60-70 years, and measured heights were 40 to 150 ft. Average measured tree heights were 104ft. for Doug fir, 94ft. for Grand fir, and 93 ft. for Red Alder. The area where oaks will be released is approximately 21 acres. Harvest will be conducted between 15 July and 21 September, 2017. If harvest is not completed in 2017, it will be finished in 2018 during the same months.

Because oak release will occur within a riparian zone, the project is classified as a class 4 special under the forest practices act. WDFW completed an alternate plan, and DNR coordinated a field ID team to review the project in May 2017. No harvest will occur in the core area, but some harvest will occur in the inner and outer zone in a portion of the project area.

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]

Scatter Creek Wildlife Area Thurston County, is in T 16N R 02W (Donated Land Claim (DLC) 51). The North Unit is on the west side of Case Road, adjacent to interstate 5, between 180th and 165th Avenues SW. There are two parking areas along Case Rd. The oak woodland is on the far western edge of the property, across the grassland, at the grassland/forest edge.

B. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS [help]

1. Earth [help]

a. General description of the site: [help] The site includes extensive upland prairie; oak woodland is linear at the western edge of the site. Just behind the oak woodland is a coniferous forest. The oak woodland is being encroached by trees and invasive shrubs.

(circle one): Flat, rolling, hilly, steep slopes, mountainous, other _____ Mostly level with a small portion of 20% slope.

b. What is the steepest slope on the site (approximate percent slope)? **20%** [help]

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 are primarily Spanaway gravelly sandy loam, with some Spanaway-Nisqually complex. McKenna gravelly silt loam is in a small area, Cathcart gravelly loam is in a small area.

d. Are there surface indications or history of unstable soils in the immediate vicinity? If so, describe. No [help]

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. An existing road will be used for the harvest. Additional rock will be added to the roadway. A skid trail of approximately 1,760 feet length will be established on flat ground. Width will be approximately 14 feet (21 feet for turnouts). WDFW will inspect rock source prior to use by contractors for the presence of invasive weeds. [help]

f. Could erosion occur as a result of clearing, construction, or use? If so, generally describe. [help] Unlikely, but WDFW will seed the skid trail immediately for weed and erosion potential.

g. About what percent of the site will be covered with impervious surfaces after project construction (for example, asphalt or buildings)? 0% [help]

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

i. A restoration plan will be developed for the skid trail and that will be included in the forest practices application. This will include initial seeding with sterile annual grasses and overseeding with native grasses and forbs.

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] The tree removal will likely be conducted over 2-3 months. We will be using a small contractor with limited equipment, but diesel smoke will be put into the air.

b. Are there any off-site sources of emissions or odor that may affect your proposal? If so, generally describe. No [help]

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control emissions or other impacts to air, if any: None [help]

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]

There is a season stream and wetland in the project vicinity. It flows into Scatter Creek. Scatter Creek runs between the North and South units, but is typically dry for much of the year along the North Unit. Scatter Creek flows into the Chehalis in Rochester.

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, an alternate plan for the Forest Practice Application (attached)

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]

Yes, the project area is within a 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]

No

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]

As the soils are glacial outwash in origin, little runoff will occur in the project area.

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. [help]

No

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

Sterile annual grass will be seeded in disturbed areas, followed by overseeding of natives. The annuals should germinate immediately after the first rains.

4. **Plants** [help]

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

__X__deciduous tree: alder, maple, aspen, other
__X__evergreen tree: fir, cedar, pine, other
__X__shrubs
__X__grass
____pasture
____crop or grain
____ Orchards, vineyards or other permanent crops.
____ wet soil plants: cattail, buttercup, bullrush, skunk cabbage, other
__X__water plants: water lily, eelgrass, milfoil, other
____other types of vegetation

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

Douglas-fir, a few grand fir, alder, and a few ash will be removed.

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

NONE in the vicinity of the project (tree removal area). Several plants of state significance are ¼ mile from the project site, including *Wyethia angustifolia*. These are in the prairie habitat.

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

The project is intended to protect the Oregon white oaks and restore the understory to a native oak savannah and woodland. Conifer removal is the first step in this process.

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

Scot's broom, various exotic grasses including tall oatgrass, reed canarygrass, sweet vernalgrass, bromes, orchardgrass, tall fescue, Timothy, Kentucky bluegrass, various species of bentgrass; ox-eye daisy, eat's ear, St. John's wort, Canada thistle, bull thistle, tansy ragwort, cudweed, creeping buttercup,

Himalayan blackberry, sheep sorrel, cattail, dandelion and Vinca. There is a patch of yellow archangel in the project area that will be treated with herbicide prior to any tree removal.

5. **Animals** [help]

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

Examples include:

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

birds: various songbirds, including savannah sparrow, Oregon vesper sparrow purple martin. Various warblers, thrushes, including Swainson's Thrush.
mammals: pocket gopher, black-tailed deer, bear,
fish: Our surveys for the project found Olympic mudminnow.

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

A major focus at Seatter Creek is recovery of two endangered butterflies, the Mardon Skipper (state endangered), and Taylor's checkerspot (federal endangered), and habitat restoration for the Mazama Pocket gopher (federal threatened), and approximately 15 other species of greatest conservation need. Mazama pocket gopher are near the work area, as well as mardon skipper.

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

No

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

The project is intended to restore native habitat for wildlife, including Mazama pocket gopher, Taylor's checkerspot, mardon skipper and other WDFW species of greatest conservation need in the prairie ecosystem. Removal of the conifers, will project the oaks, provide additional important habitat for mardon skipper and Mazama pocket gopher, as well as a number of other species of greatest conservation need in the project area. With removal of the conifers, WDFW will be able to strategicically conduct integrated restoration with prescribed fire and enhance the understory.

[help]

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

None known.

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

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

No

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]

No

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]

Hazards common to small forestry operations will be present. Diesel vehicles, chainsaws, etc.. will be present. Herbicides will be used pre-logging (on noxious weeds) and post logging for weed control.

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

None known

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

None known

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- Beyond herbicide, discussed above.

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

Seargent Road Fire Department is 1 mile away

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

Minimization of herbicide use and no applications unless needed to control exotics. Avoidance of drift during application. Selection of aquatic compatible herbicides and surfactants where applicable (weather conditions and water table concerns, etc).

b. Noise [help]

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]

Short term noise from vehicles, including tractors.

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

None

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]

It is a Wildlife area, with walking, horse back riding and bird watching, pheasant bunting in season. Surrounding properties are rural residential and one commercial hatchery. The project will affect horse back riding for 1-2 months during week days. On week ends, the trails will be open. The project will be completed prior to the pheasant hunting season.

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 site has been logged in the past. Future logging is possible for the site, including the oak woodland to reduce crowding.

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]

None

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

No

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

Open space

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

Open space

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

N/A

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

Oregon white oak and prairie are classified under the Critical Area Ordinance by Thurston County

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

None

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

None

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

NONE

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

The property was purchased in part for recovery of threatened and endangered prairie, oak woodland, and wetland species and for recreation. The proposed measures are planned enhancement activities to help recover these species. The implementation of the restoration will ultimately lead to increased recreational use if species abundance can be significantly increased.

m. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts to agricultural and forest lands of long-term commercial significance, if any: [help]

None needed

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]

N/A

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

The view of the forest edge will be altered. Oak trees will become more visible along the forest edge.

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

N/A

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]

N/A

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

No

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

None

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]
Walking, bird watching, hunting, horseback riding.

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]

Temporary closure of a horseback riding trail will occur weekdays during the project. The project will be completed prior to the start of the pheasant hunting season.

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]

No

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 archaeological 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.

The project was reviewed by a professional 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 low probability to impact archaeological resources. Those locations will be reviewed to clarify the expectations for intact archaeological resources. The hatchery buildings are historic; a basic inventory record exists, but will require additional documentation to meet modern standards

The results of these investigations will be used to inform final project design.

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]

If cultural significant features are discovered during research, consultation will be carried out with affected Tribes measures to avoid, minimize, or compensate for loss, changes to, and disturbance to resources.

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]

Logging trucks will exit the site onto Case Rd at the northern boundary of the wildlife area

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

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

None

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. [help]

No

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

None

15. **Public Services** [help]

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

No

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

None

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

d. 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. None [help]

C. Signature [help]

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

Signature: _____

Name of signee David W. Hays

Position and Agency/Organization Wildlife Biologist, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

Date Submitted: _____