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 <u>all parts of your proposal</u>, 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 <u>SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET FOR NONPROJECT ACTIONS (part D)</u>. 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]

Soda Springs Forest Restoration Phase 1

2. Name of applicant: [help]

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

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

Contact: Sara Ashiglar Phone: 509-552-0142

Address: WDFW, 1049 Port Way, Clarkston, WA 99403

4. Date checklist prepared: [help]

6/27/2017

5. Agency requesting checklist: [help]

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

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

September 1st- December 31st 2017

There may be down time for weather and/or wildlife habitat considerations.

- 7. Do you have any plans for future additions, expansion, or further activity related to or connected with this proposal? If yes, explain. [help]
- A. Slash Disposal: Debris from timber harvest operations (limbs, tops, etc.) will be piled and trailed at landings in preparation for burning. Slash burning will be carried out after the timber harvest work has been completed. All slash burning will be completed as per Department of Natural Resources and Department of Ecology regulations.
- B. Close and/or abandon selected roads, at the discretion of the local Wildlife Area Manager, after project completion.
- 8. List any environmental information you know about that has been prepared, or will be prepared, directly related to this proposal. [help]
- WDFW Priority Habitat and Species Management Recommendations
- Maps showing: soil type, erosion potential, soil stability, and hydrologic maturity from NRCS
- County Soil Survey data
- Sec 7 Biological Assessment
- 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]
 None
- 10. List any government approvals or permits that will be needed for your proposal, if known. [help]
- A. DNR Forest Practice Application (FPA)
- B. State and tribal cultural/ archaeological survey and protection plan approval
- 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 purpose of the Soda Springs Phase 1 Project is to improve ecological integrity and overall forest health on the Soda Springs Unit of the Klickitat Wildlife Area. The project will include approximately 166 acres of commercial thinning units along the eastern portion of the Soda Springs Unit. A key component of the silvicultural prescription will be to maintain and eventually improve habitat for the western gray squirrel. Other factors incorporated into the

prescription include improved forest health, reducing the risk of stand replacement fires, urban interface concerns, and conifer encroachment on Oregon white oak stands. Trees will be removed through commercial thinning with ground-based equipment (rubber tired or tracked skidder) leaving approximately 20-40 overstory trees >10"dbh on site after harvest. Follow up treatments in this project will include slash pile burning and potentially prescribed fire.

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 is located approximately 15 miles northwest of Goldendale on the Klickitat Wildlife Area. The units are located in Township 5 North, Range 14 E in Sections 21 and 27.

Klickitat County

B. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS [help]

1.	Earth	[holp]	
		Helpi	

a. (General	descrip	tion o	f the	site:	[help]
------	---------	---------	--------	-------	-------	--------

(circle one):	Flat,	r <u>olling</u> ,	hilly,	steep	slopes,	mountainous,	other	

- b. What is the steepest slope on the site (approximate percent slope)? [help] **25 percent**
- 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]
- All 3 units are primarily composed of Quiden and Gunn stony loams. Both are deep, well-drained and considered 'farmland soils of statewide importance'. The risk for erosion, rutting and compaction is relatively low because these potential issues (if they occur) will be mitigated through measures described below in item h.
- d. Are there surface indications or history of unstable soils in the immediate vicinity? If so, describe. [help]

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. [help]

Exisitng roads would be graded for general maintenance.

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

Minor erosion could occur from harvesting equipment and skidders operating in the

project area. If erosion does occur, mitigation measures including water bars, drain dips and grass seeding will be used as necessary. Additionally, logging operations and/or log hauling will be curtailed until mitigation measures are in place and the erosion threat has subsided.

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

None

- h. Proposed measures to reduce or control erosion, or other impacts to the earth, if any: [help]
 - Ground based equipment will not be allowed on continuous slopes in excess of 40% (none exist on this site)
 - Skid trails on steeper slopes will be water barred appropriately following skidding operations as per written instruction and approval of completed work from the WDFW Contract Administrator
 - At the discretion of the WDFW Contract Administrator, exposed skid trails on steeper slopes will be grass seeded with certified weed free seed as per Wildlife Area Manager recommendations and approval of completed work from the WDFW Contract Administrator
 - Exposed cut banks resulting from road maintenance activities will be grass seeded with certified weed free seed as per Wildlife Area Manager recommendations and approval of completed work from the WDFW Contract Administrator
 - Drain dips and/or water bars will be installed on steeper skid roads post-harvest as per written instruction and approval of completed work from the WDFW Contract Administrator
 - Temporary roads necessary for log hauling operations will be abandoned at the discretion of the Wildlife Area Manager. Road abandonment must be approved in writing by WDFW Contract Administrator
 - Haul operations will be suspended immediately, until mitigation is approved in writing by the WDFW Contract Administrator, if any delivery to typed waters is observed

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 proposal will result in a temporary increase in vehicle emissions from logging equipment and log trucks. There should be no significant impact to air quality. Slash burning will be conducted in accordance with provisions contained in the DNR slash burning permit as well as any smoke management, Department of Ecology and local fire district regulations.

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

None

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

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

Canyon Creek runs near the proposed thinning area and runs into the Klickitat River. This creek is buffered out of the thinning unit and will not be affected by this 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]

The upper reaches of Canyon Creek runs east of the project boundary of Unit 1, a tributary to Bowman Creek runs east of Unit 3. All Forest Practices Rules will be followed for typed streams.

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

None

- 4) Will the proposal require surface water withdrawals or diversions? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known. [help] **No**
- 5) Does the proposal lie within a 100-year floodplain? If so, note location on the site plan. [help]

No

6) Does the proposal involve any discharges of waste materials to surface waters? If so, describe the type of waste and anticipated volume of discharge. [help]
No

b. Ground Water:

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

No

2) Describe waste material that will be discharged into the ground from septic tanks or other sources, if any (for example: Domestic sewage; industrial, containing the following chemicals. . . ; agricultural; etc.). Describe the general size of the system, the

number of such systems, the number of houses to be served (if applicable), or the number of animals or humans the system(s) are expected to serve. [help]

- 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]
 Spring runoff from snow melt and rainfall runoff could occur on the forest floor, skid roads and landings. Water will be dispersed back into undisturbed forest areas for natural filtration through vegetation and soil. Runoff intercepted by roads and ditches will be diverted through existing culverts, water bars, drain dips and ditches to the forest floor. If the event of an extreme weather event, runoff could reach nearby streams.
 - 2) Could waste materials enter ground or surface waters? If so, generally describe. [help]

There is the remote chance that fuel or oil associated with equipment operations could be spilled and potentially enter ground or surface waters. The contractor will be required to have an approved spill kit in each piece of equipment to contain and clean up spills if they should occur. Fuel storage is only allowed in approved areas. The contractor will be required to contact the WDFW Contract Administrator and the appropriate Department of Ecology Office immediately after a spill occurs.

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]
 - Limit based equipment operations to slopes less than 40% (none on site)
 - Install water bars and drain dips at appropriate skid road locations
 - Install water bars on skid trails where appropriate after skidding operations
 - Minimize rutting of skid trails and remove those ruts at the completion of skidding operations
 - Apply certified weed free grass seed on exposed road cut banks and steeper skid trails as necessary

	trails as necessary
4. a.	Plants [help] Check the types of vegetation found on the site: [help]
	xdeciduous tree: alder, maple, aspen, otherxevergreen tree: fir, cedar, pine, otherxshrubsxgrasspasture

 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] A portion of the overstory conifer trees greater than or equal to 6" diameter at breast height (dbh) will be removed. The target will be 15-25 overstory conifer trees per acre, and no removal of oaks. Approximately 2-5MBF would be removed per acre. 	
c. List threatened and endangered species known to be on or near the site. [help] None on site. Northern Spotted Owl nearby. The western gray squirrel is onsite and is a Washington State threatened species.	
 d. Proposed landscaping, use of native plants, or other measures to preserve or enhance vegetation on the site, if any: [help] None 	
e. List all noxious weeds and invasive species known to be on or near the site. [help]	
Knapweed, thistle, ventenata	
5. Animals [help]	
 a. <u>List</u> any birds and <u>other</u> animals which have been observed on or near the site or are known to be on or near the site. <u>[help]</u> 	
Examples include:	
birds: heave, songbirds , other: mammals: deer , beaver, other: fish: bass, salmon, trout, herring, shellfish, other	
b. List any threatened and endangered species known to be on or near the site. [help] None on site. Northern Spotted Owl nearby.	
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] Protect snags and wildlife reserve trees (WRT's) where feasible from a safety standpoint (both to the operator and to the public) Reserve all trees within 25 feet of western gray squirrel nests and lightly thin from below 25-50 feet from nests. 	

Mark trees with defect characteristics suitable for Wildlife Reserve Trees (wolf

tops, fire scars, unique features, etc.) as leave trees with orange paint

- Create a mosaic of treatment and non-treatment areas to create hiding cover, thermal cover and travel corridors for big game species
- Strategically leave individual or groups of trees with dwarf mistletoe
- e. List any invasive animal species known to be on or near the site. [help]

None

- 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]

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 [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 could be fuel spills when refueling equipment or oil spills while performing equipment maintenance. There is always the risk of fire from equipment operation in the woods. However, equipment will be required to have spark arrestors to reduce the fire risk. In addition, the contractor will be required to monitor and adhere to Industrial Fire Precaution Level (IFPL) regulations as required by the Washington State Department of Natural Resources. Burning of slash piles, resulting in temporary smoke emissions, could occur after harvest operations are completed. Additional temporary smoke emissions could be possible If prescribed fire is used as a management tool post treatment.

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

None

 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

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**

- 3) Describe special emergency services that might be required. [help]
 In the event of a fuel or oil spill, the contractor will be required to immediately contact the nearest office of the Washington State Department of Ecology and the WDFW Contract Administrator. In the event of a wildfire, the contractor will be required to immediately contact the Washington State Department of Natural Resources and the WDFW Contract Administrator.
- 4) Proposed measures to reduce or control environmental health hazards, if any: [help]
 The contractor will be required to have an emergency plan approved by the WDFW Contract Administrator prior to commencement of timber harvest activities. This will include:
 - Contact information for the nearest office of the Washington State Department of Ecology, Washington State Department of Natural Resources and the WDFW Contract Administrator
 - Inspection of equipment for spill kits
 - Having a fire trailer and necessary fire tools on site during the closed season as required by the Washington State Department of Natural Resources
 - Requiring the contractor to keep up to date and in compliance with the latest Industrial Forest Precaution Level (IFPL) regulations during the closed fire season

b. Noise [help]

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

Minimal noise from recreational vehicle traffic will not affect project

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

During harvest activities there will be some noise associated with chainsaws, skidder, loader, and trucks. Typically this would occur during daylight hours only and when weather conditions allow. Heavy equipment noise may exceed 100 decibels.

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

Requiring equipment operators to maintain mufflers on equipment and wear appropriate ear protection.

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 site is currently being used for wildlife habitat and recreational activities. Adjacent properties

are managed as working forests and rural home sites.

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 project site may have been used for grazing and as working forest lands. This project will not result in any loss of agricultural or forest land.

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]

Klickitat Wildlife Area Headquarters building is adjacent to Unit 1.

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

No

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

Forest Land

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

Maintaining forest land with an emphasis on wildlife habitat and providing for recreational opportunities.

g. If applicable, what is the current shoreline master program designation of the site? [help] **Not applicable**

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

No

- i. Approximately how many people would reside or work in the completed project? [help] None
- j. Approximately how many people would the completed project displace? [help] None
- k. Proposed measures to avoid or reduce displacement impacts, if any: [help]

Not applicable

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

None

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

The proposal is consistent with the Klickitat Wildlife Area Plan and WDFW
Forest Management Plan. This proposal will reduce the threat of disease and insect
outbreaks that will in turn reduce the fire risk to the property and adjacent
landowners. The long term goal is to restore the property to historic tree stocking
levels and species composition.

9. Housing [help]

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

None

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

None

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

None

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]

Not applicable

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

None

b. Proposed measures to reduce or control aesthetic impacts, if any: [help]
None

11. Light and Glare [help]

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

None

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? <a>[help] <a>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] Hunting, fishing, hiking, camping, ATV riding, snowmobiling
- b. Would the proposed project displace any existing recreational uses? If so, describe. [help]

The project could temporarily displace hunters and campers.

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

No

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]

A professional archaeological crew from Central Washington Archeological services, Washington State Department of Transportation and Washington Dept of Fish and Wildlife completed an archaeological survey and report for the project area. This included a review of historic maps and GIS analysis. Effected tribes with an expressed interest were also made aware of the proposal and given the opportunity to comment.

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]

None

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]

Log trucks and pickups will be using numerous county roads, I-90 and I-84 for the duration of the project. There will be a temporary increase in traffic from these vehicles in Central Washington.

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]

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

 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] None
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 Sara Ashiglar
Position and Agency/Organization Forester, WDFW
Date Submitted: 7/31/17