

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: [\[help\]](#)

Beginner's Hole Erosion Correction

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

Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)

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

*Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife
Doug Wiedemeier
600 Capitol Way North
Olympia, WA. 98801
360 902 8422
Douglas.Wiedemeier@dfw.wa.gov*

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

February 26, 2018

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

Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife

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

Hope to conduct work in 2018, but may not be fully permitted until 2019 work window.

7. Do you have any plans for future additions, expansion, or further activity related to or connected with this proposal? If yes, explain. [\[help\]](#)

No.

8. List any environmental information you know about that has been prepared, or will be prepared, directly related to this proposal. [\[help\]](#)

In 2010 WDFW installed ADA accessible concrete pads adjacent to Kalama River. These did not fair well during winter high flows, and were removed in 2017 by Region 5 staff. In 2018 WDFW will prepare all documents related to obtaining permits at the federal, state, and county level related to correcting an erosion issue threatening a portion of the parking lot.

9. Do you know whether applications are pending for governmental approvals of other proposals directly affecting the property covered by your proposal? If yes, explain. [\[help\]](#)

No other permits known.

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

WDFW will seek a permit from the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers, an HPA, and any county permits needed. An Aquatic Lease from DNR is not required.

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

Currently there is bank erosion that is encroaching upon the gravel parking lot at this access site. The length of riverbank to be worked on is 25-30 feet long. The erosion extends back towards the parking lot for about 20 feet. Uncorrected, this will continue to erode the parking lot and unchecked could eventually threaten the county road, which is the only public access for many homes and two state run fish hatcheries. WDFW proposes to install four large conifer logs with root wads attached to both protect the parking lot and provide some better fish habitat where hiding cover is minimal on river edges. Another two to eight logs will be used to add strength to the structure and provide wood interaction with the river rather than rock. Some rip rap will also be added to weigh down the wood and give the whole structure the strength and rigidity to withstand high flows. Gravel will be placed over the top of the finished project. The parking lot will not expand upon completion.

2 logs with root wads at least 24 inches in diameter and 30 feet long.

2 logs with root wads at least 18 inches in diameter and 30 feet long.

2-8 logs at least 12 inches in diameter, 2 of which are at least 30 feet long.

Up to 30 cubic yards of rip rap.

Up to 10 yards of crushed gravel for parking lot surfacing.

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. [\[help\]](#)

1313 Kalama River Road

Kalama, WA 98625

Cowlitz County

Locally known as Beginner's Hole, it is a WDFW managed Access site

N 46.04554355

W 122.8056701

Parcel # WD3307002

T7N R1W s33

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

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

a. General description of the site: [\[help\]](#)

(circle one): Flat, rolling, hilly, steep slopes, mountainous, **other** relatively flat area in confined river basin

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

20 (although most of the parcel is less than 10%).

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 soil map from USGS indicates soil is Pilchuk loamy fine sand (#160). No removal of soils or change in land use proposed, unless there is excess after adding wood and riprap.

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

The entire valley has areas of unstable ground. Landslides are common in this basin. No landslides are known in the specific location of this project. DNR's online mapping regarding landslides was checked and the nearest mapped landslide is over 500 feet downstream.

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. [\[help\]](#)

Six to 12 logs will be placed, along with up to 20 cubic yards of riprap and up to 10 cubic yards of gravel for surfacing. Logs and rock to be obtained locally. The eroded area is roughly 25 feet by 20 feet (back in October). This does not include area in parking to be disturbed to anchor logs.

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

Unlikely, as BMPs will be used. Wood and rip rap will be most common along riverbank. Gravel will be used more upland.

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

No change. Once completed, the parking lot will still be surfaced with gravel.

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

BMPs will be used as needed. Work to be done in summer months.

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. [\[help\]](#)

Some diesel exhaust.

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

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. [\[help\]](#)

Project involves erosion along the Kalama River, which is a 303(d) listed waterbody due to temperature.

- 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, the project goal is to correct bank erosion and save parking lot, while adding a habitat element by using large wood. Plan are 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. [\[help\]](#)

The project will correcting the current erosion and reclaim part of the bank that recently washed away. Logs with root wads will extend out into the river so that fish can utilize.

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

The project will not require any withdrawals or diversions.

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

Yes, the entire project is within 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. [\[help\]](#)

No discharge.

c. Water runoff (including stormwater):

- 1) Describe the source of runoff (including storm water) and method of collection and disposal, if any (include quantities, if known). Where will this water flow? Will this water flow into other waters? If so, describe. [\[help\]](#)

Runoff patterns will not be altered.

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

Waste material will not be discharged by the project.

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

Any bare ground will be seeded with native vegetation.

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

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

- deciduous tree: alder, maple, aspen, other
- evergreen tree: fir, cedar, pine, other
- shrubs
- grass
- pasture
- crop or grain
- Orchards, vineyards or other permanent crops.
- wet soil plants: cattail, buttercup, bullrush, skunk cabbage, other
- water plants: water lily, eelgrass, milfoil, other
- other types of vegetation

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

None.

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

Listed species potentially found near the site include Nelson's checkermallow, golden paintbrush, and Kincaid's lupine.

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

Will use seed from native plants to cover any bare soil exposed upon completion.

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

Likely Himalayan blackberry found on site, and will be removed if found project footprint.

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 _____

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

Possible listed species include spotted owls, marbled murrelets, Oregon spotted frog, streaked horned lark, Columbia River Chum, Lower Columbia coho, Lower Columbia chinook, Lower Columbia River DPS Steelhead, bull trout, and Columbia white tailed deer.

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

Project is within the Pacific Flyway.

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

By using logs with rootwads attached, it is hoped that the logs will provide some measure of hiding cover for juvenile salmonids.

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. [\[help\]](#)

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. [\[help\]](#)

None known.

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, any existing underground utilities will not be affected.

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

Any fueling of machinery will be done away from water, and spill kits will be on-site.

- 4) Describe special emergency services that might be required. [\[help\]](#)

None.

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

Silt fence will be used as needed, along with other BMPs.

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 is currently noise from county road. This will not affect the project.

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

There will be some machinery noise for the few days the project is constructed.

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

Work will be done between 7 AM and 5 PM only.

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. [\[help\]](#)

There are homes across the river and nearby, as well as a state run fish hatchery just upstream. Much of the uplands is managed as commercial forestland.

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

No

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 only structure on this parcel is a concrete vault toilet.

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

No

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

Rural

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

Shoreline of statewide significance

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

Conservancy

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

Unknown, County has been asked.

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

No change to current situation. This is a recreation site.

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

None

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

Hope to construct project when fishing pressure is low, therefore not greatly impact recreationalists.

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

This project will result in no change over current management.

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

No impacts.

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? [\[help\]](#)

The completed project will have no portion greater than 6 feet above the current gravel parking lot elevation. Most of the area will be of an elevation relative to present situation.

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

No change

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

None, the project should look like a natural log jam feature.

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

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

No changes to current situation. Site is used primarily in the day.

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? [\[help\]](#)

Fishing, boating, bird watching, picnicking.

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: [\[help\]](#)

During construction the site may be closed for safety considerations. Construction should only last a couple days at most. There will be heavy equipment and staging of logs and rock which will require the parking lot to be empty.

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. [\[help\]](#)

None present

b. Are there any landmarks, features, or other evidence of Indian or historic use or occupation? This may include human burials or old cemeteries. Are there any material evidence, artifacts, or areas of cultural importance on or near the site? Please list any professional studies conducted at the site to identify such resources. [\[help\]](#)

None known

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 area is within a zone of potential cultural resource conflict. WDFW will further research the potential conflicts and devise a plan as appropriate to avoid damaging any potential artifacts.

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

This project does involve significant earthmoving to anchor logs and add rip rap to strengthen the bank. Plans are attached. A discovery plan will be adhered to during construction.

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. [\[help\]](#)

The site is accessed from Kalama River Road, a county road.

- 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. The nearest public transit is in Kelso to the north.

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

The goal is to avoid a decrease in parking area by preserving the parking area. No additional spaces to be added.

- 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 increase anticipated once project is completed.

- 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 planned and none needed. All work will be done from the Access Area parking lot.

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. [\[help\]](#)

No impacts 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 _____

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

No utilities, this is a primitive access site.

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 _____

Position and Agency/Organization _____

Date Submitted: _____

Doug Wiedemeier
Doug Wiedemeier
WDFW Permitting Biologist
3/7/18