

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:

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:

Establishment of a Green Dot Road Management System and Parkinglot at Green Gate in the Quilomene WLA.

2. Name of applicant:

Washington Dept of Fish & Wildlife

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

201 N Pearl St Ellensburg, WA 98926

Melissa Babik 509-925-6746 melissa.babik@dfw.wa.gov

Noel Winegeart 509-899-3428 noel.winegeart@dfw.wa.gov

4. Date checklist prepared:

May 15, 2018

5. Agency requesting checklist:

Washington Dept of Fish & Wildlife (owner of entire project site)

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

Installation of green dot markers and kiosks will occur during late spring or early summer of 2018. Enforcement of the Green Dot Road System will occur after posted notice. Timing of parking lot improvements, road decommissioning, and restoration are contingent upon securing funding and no timeline has been developed.

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

No

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

A cultural review will be conducted prior to ground disturbance.

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.

There are no pending applications.

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

Possibly a permit for building a kiosk.

An access permit from WSDOT will be required for the entrance road.

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.)

The project will accomplish objectives of the Naneum Ridge to Columbia River Recreation and Access Plan which was reviewed in DNS 2014 (File #14-092601). It will develop a green dot road system in the Green Gate area of the Quilomene Wildlife Area on both WDFW and DNR lands. The project will close roughly 12 miles of roads to motorized vehicles using devices such as signage, natural barriers, gates, etc. Approximately 15 miles of roads will be designated as open to motorized vehicles and will be incorporated into the Quilomene Green Dot Road Management

System. Open roads will have white carsonite posts with green dots installed at all intersections to alert visitors.

This project will construct a parking area roughly 0.75 acres in size to centralize parking for nonmotorized users. A two paneled kiosk will be installed in the parking area containing a map of the area, regulations, and educational materials.

Once funding is secured, restoration of closed roads will occur, which could include: ripping to a depth of 6-12" with machinery, seeding with grasses and shrubs, and installation of water bars and erosion control structures.

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.

The property is located in Kittitas County , approximately 12 miles east of Ellensburg within the Green Gate area of the Quilomene Wildlife Area.

**The project is located in: T17 R20 Sec 1
T17 R21 Sec 5,6
T18 R20 Sec 25, 36
T18 R21 Sec 30, 31, 32**

B. Environmental Elements [\[HELP\]](#)

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

a. General description of the site:

(circle one): **Flat**, rolling, hilly, steep slopes, mountainous, other _____

The parking lot is generally flat.

The roads to be decommissioned, carsonite post, and restoration will occur on ground ranging from flat to steep slopes.

b. What is the steepest slope on the site (approximate percent slope)?

25%

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.

The area has a variety of soil type and ranges from clay in the lower drainages to rocky on the ridgetops.

No soil will be removed from these project sites.

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

The parking area does not show indications of unstable soils. Some of the roads will require erosion control structures to divert water. Other roads have stretches of eroded roadway where seasonal flows have captured the road. These areas will be ripped, reseeded, and stabilized where needed to minimize runoff when funding is secured.

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.

The parking area will encompass approximately 0.75 acres. The area will be graded as near flat as possible. Fewer than 10 dump truck loads of gravel may be added to the surface to prevent rutting if funding is acquired.

The decommissioned roads are approximately 5-12' wide and cover a distance of approximately 12 miles. Decommissioning these roads will correct the current erosion taking place and prevent further degradation. No soil will be added.

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

Best Management Practices will be used to prevent erosion on roadways.

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

None

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

Water bars will be installed to divert water off roadways. Decommissioned roads will be ripped, seeded, and managed for weeds. A long term approach that includes multiple control methods and monitoring will keep any new weeds from entering the area and keep weeds currently in the area from using any newly disturbed sites to expand.

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.

Emissions from the combustable engines of the tractors and trucks used during parking lot construction, road demommissioning, and restoration.

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

No

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control emissions or other impacts to air, if any:

None

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

a. Surface Water: [\[help\]](#)

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

Multiple drainages have seasonal streams and wetland communities. These are unnamed streams that are classified as fish bearing. There are also several small catchment ponds and springs near roadways.

- 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.

Yes. Some of the decommissioned roads are in draw bottoms and run parallel or through the seasonal streams. No road decommissioning plans for these sites are available at this time.

- 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.

None

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

Yes. Erosion control structures will be installed on roadways and decommissioned roads.

- 5) Does the proposal lie within a 100-year floodplain? If so, note location on the site plan.

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.

No

b. Ground Water: [\[help\]](#)

- 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.

No groundwater will be withdrawn.

- 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.

No waste material will be discharged.

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.

Runoff will be mainly dispersed sheet flow from outloped roads or collected in ditchlines and divereted using waterbars, dips, culverts or other methods onto undisturbed soils to minimize the potential for flwo into adjacent watercourses.

2) Could waste materials enter ground or surface waters? If so, generally describe.

No waste material will enter ground or surface water.

3) Does the proposal alter or otherwise affect drainage patterns in the vicinity of the site? If so, describe.

Yes, the project will install erosion control structures where necessary.

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

This project will install water bars on roads where appropriate.

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

a. Check the types of vegetation found on the site:

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?

Small amounts of vegetation will be lost in the parking lot, along roadways, and at the terminous of erosion control structures.

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

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

Native grasses will be planted in all roads that are decommissioned. Shrubs will be planted strategically to assist naturalizing of portions of decommissioned roads.

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

Canada thistle (*cirsium arvense*)

Diffuse knapweed (*centaurea diffusa*)

Downy brome (*bromus tectorum*)

Field bindweed (*convolvulus arvensis*)

Musk thistle (*carduus nutans*)

Whitetop (*lepidium draba*)

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.

Mammals: elk, mule deer, cougar, bear, coyotes

Birds: eagles, songbirds, hawks, falcons, grouse, chukar, pheasants

Reptiles/ Amphibians: Lizards, snakes, toads, Columbia Spotted and tree frogs

Fish: None

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.

This area contains potential Greater Sage-grouse habitat. Sporadic Greater Sage-grouse sightings occur in adjacent areas but haven't been documented on site since 2004. This area drains into a summer stealhead distribution area but no records indicate ESA listed species occur in the project area. State Candidate species occurring on site include Merriam's shrew, Columbia Spotted Frog, Sage Thrasher, and Golden Eagle.

- c. Is the site part of a migration route? If so, explain.

The project site has regular concentrations of mule deer and elk. Both, increase in numbers during winter months as snow makes foraging difficult at higher elevations. The area is also located within the Colockum Elk Herd Area and is part of a migration route between summer and winter grounds.

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

Human disturbance to wildlife reduces fitness and reproductive success. Reducing road density will reduce disturbance to wildlife. The restoration of user built roads will increase forage and escapement for wildlife.

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

Starlings are know to be in the area.

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.

The project will not require energy. There will be no buildings, lights, or water on site.

- b. Would your project affect the potential use of solar energy by adjacent properties?
If so, generally describe.

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:

No energy conservation features included or needed.

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.

Minimal exposure is possible to fuels and lubricants typical to vehicles and machinery.

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

None

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

None

3) Describe any toxic or hazardous chemicals that might be stored, used, or produced during the project's development or construction, or at any time during the operating life of the project.

None

4) Describe special emergency services that might be required.

In the event of a spill, department of ecology will be notified.

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

A spill kit for hazardous substances will be available on site.

b. Noise

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

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.

One to two tractors/escavators will be operating at any given time during daylight hours. A dump truck may make several trips to the site to deliver gravel for parking lot, also during daylight hours.

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

Noise levels will be reduced in certain areas by the reduction of open road density.

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.

This project will occur on public land that contains a livestock grazing permit. The proposal will not affect adjacent private properties or the windfarm.

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?

No conversion, currently public land with active livestock grazing permit.

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:

No

c. Describe any structures on the site.

No structures on site.

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

No

e. What is the current zoning classification of the site?

Agriculture 20, Forest and Range

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

Rural Working

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

No shoreline designation

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

Yes, this is designated as a Fish and Wildlife Habitat Conservation Area in Kittitas County's Critical Areas Ordinance.

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

None

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

None

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

None

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

None

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

None

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

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

No units will be provided.

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

None

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

There will be no impact and so no measures

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?

The tallest height will be of a readerboard may peak at 10'

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

None

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

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?

No light or glare

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

No

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

None

d. Proposed measures to reduce or control light and glare impacts, if any:

None

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

a. What designated and informal recreational opportunities are in the immediate vicinity?

Hiking, horseback riding, mountain biking, shed hunting, birding, recreational driving, wildlife watching, hunting.

b. Would the proposed project displace any existing recreational uses? If so, describe.

No

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

This area will be open for both motorized and non motorized recreation. The project area will reduce open road density by 12 miles. There will continue to be approximately 15 miles of road open to maintain access for motorized vehicles. Closed roads are in drainages and low wet spots where erosion and rutting from motorized vehicles occur. A parking area will centralize and consolidate non motorized use.

13. Historic and cultural preservation

a. Are there any buildings, structures, or sites, located on or near the site that are over 45 years old listed in or eligible for listing in national, state, or local preservation registers located on or near the site? If so, specifically describe.

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.

Unknown at this time but the area will be evaluated for cultural resorouces prior to any ground disturbing activites.

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.

Consultation with DFW Archeologist, DAHP and tribes.

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.

Any identified sites will be avoided and DFW will follow an inadvertent discovery plan.

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.

Project area is accessed from Vantage Hwy, via an existing dirt road. There are approximately 30 miles of roads on the project area. Approximately 15 miles of those roads will remain open to motorized vehicle use for 4x4 or high clearance vehicles.

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?

No

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

The area used for parking will not change. The quality of the area will be improved.

- 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).

Yes this project will develop erosion control structures on existing roads.

- e. Will the project or proposal use (or occur in the immediate vicinity of) water, rail, or air transportation? If so, generally describe.

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?

N/A

- g. Will the proposal interfere with, affect or be affected by the movement of agricultural and forest products on roads or streets in the area? If so, generally describe.

No

- h. Proposed measures to reduce or control transportation impacts, if any:

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.

No

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

None

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

- a. Circle utilities currently available at the site:
electricity, natural gas, water, refuse service, telephone, sanitary sewer, septic system,
other _____

None

- 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.

No utilities are being proposed and none will be needed

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: _____ *Melissa M Babik*

Name of signee _____Melissa M. Babik_____

Position and Agency/Organization _L.T. Murray Wildlife Area Manager_____

Date Submitted: _5/21/2018_____