SEPA ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

UPDATED 2014

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: [help]

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: Land Exchange involving 60 acres of the Methow Wildlife Area and 60 acres of adjacent private land, Okanogan County, Washington.

2. Name of applicant: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

3. Address and phone number of applicant and contact person: Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife, Real Estate Services, 600 Capitol Way North, Olympia, WA 98501.
Attn: Elyse Kane, Property Management Supervisor (360) 902-8415

4. Date checklist prepared: June 24, 2014

5. Agency requesting checklist: Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife

6. Proposed timing or schedule (including phasing, if applicable): Exchange to occur in August of 2014.

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) A Limited Scope Phase I Environmental Site Assessment of the private property was prepared in June 2014. This assessment revealed no evidence of recognized environmental conditions in connection with the private property.
(b) A Phase I Environmental Site Assessment of the WDFW property was prepared at the time of its purchase in 2003. This assessment revealed no evidence of recognized environmental conditions in connection with the WDFW property at issue here.

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.

10. List any government approvals or permits that will be needed for your proposal, if known.
(a) Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission
(b) Washington Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO)
(c) U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)

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 Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) proposes to exchange sixty (60) acres purchased in 2003 with USFWS and RCO funds for 60 acres of immediately-adjacent private land in the rural foothills on the east side of the Methow Valley, Okanogan County, Washington. The purpose of the exchange is to improve access and management efficiency for both WDFW and the private landowner. In the current configuration, 20 acres of the private landowner's land is isolated behind WDFW's fenceline and 60 acres of WDFW's property bisects the private land. WDFW has evaluated the proposal and supports the exchange for: improved neighbor relations and access; more efficient weed control and fence maintenance; and, more effective management of WDFW land for habitat and wildlife values.

WDFW and USFWS have completed the notification of the Washington SHPO/DAHP, the tribal notification, the Cultural Resource Survey, and the Fish and Wildlife Commission review and approval. RCO Board review is scheduled for July and USFWS approval is awaiting public review and comment through this SEPA process. The June 2014 Cultural Resource Survey concluded that the proposed exchange will result in No Historic Properties Affected and no further archaeological investigations were recommended prior to, or during, the execution of this project.

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 60 acres of WDFW land in this proposal are located in the uplands overlooking the Methow Valley, just north of Bonner Lake. Included are: the southeast quarter of the northeast quarter (40 acres), and the south half of the northeast quarter of the northeast quarter (20 acres) of Section 32, Township 34 North, Range 22 East, W.M.
The 60 acres of private land in this proposal are adjacent to the WDFW land. Included are: the north half of the northwest quarter of the northeast quarter (20 acres) of said Section 32, and the southwest quarter of the southwest quarter (40 acres) of Section 28, Township 34 North, Range 22 East, W.M.

B. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS [help]

1. Earth

a. General description of the site [help]
(circle one): Flat, rolling, hilly, steep slopes, mountainous,
other _____ Very little of the project area is flat, with the majority of it ranging from steep to very steep.

b. What is the steepest slope on the site (approximate percent slope)? 65% slope.

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. According to the the CRS, there are three soil types within the project area: Lithic Haploxerepts-Newbon complex, Newbon gravelly loam, and Newbon very gravelly loam.

d. Are there surface indications or history of unstable soils in the immediate vicinity? If so, describe. According to the CRS, the peaks of the uplands in the general vicinity generally have

rounded borad summits and moderate slopes as a result of repeated cover by glacial ice during the Pleistocene. More recent instability is not noted.

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. No fill.

f. Could erosion occur as a result of clearing, construction, or use? If so, generally describe. No. This project does not involve clearing, construction, or use other than by wildlife.

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

h. Proposed measures to reduce or control erosion, or other impacts to the earth, if any: Not applicable.

2. Air

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. There is no construction associated with this project. This project is a land exchange with no foreseeable change in operation or management.

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: Not applicable.

3. **Water**

a. Surface Water: None.

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]

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]

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]

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

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

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]

b. Ground Water:

1) Will groundwater be withdrawn from a well for drinking water or other purposes? No.

2) Describe waste material that will be discharged into the ground from septic tanks or other sources, if any : None.

c. Water runoff (including stormwater): N/A. This project does not involve any attempt to alter stormwater patterns.

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]

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

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

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

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
X 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? None.

c. List threatened and endangered species known to be on or near the site. None known.

d. Proposed landscaping, use of native plants, or other measures to preserve or enhance vegetation on the site, if any:
N/A. This project contains no plans to alter the existing natural vegetation.

e. List all noxious weeds and invasive species known to be on or near the site.
Diffuse knapweed, Dalmation toadflax, Russian knapweed and whitetop.

5. **Animals**

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.
Mule deer are found on the WDFW property and the private property. Other species would include ravens, re-tailed hawk, and neo-tropical song birds.

b. List any threatened and endangered species known to be on or near the site. WDFW has had credible reports of wolves in the vicinity and anticipates that wolves will colonize this area.

c. Is the site part of a migration route? The project site and surrounding area are critical spring, winter, and migration habitat for mule deer, which are the primary prey of wolves in this part of the state.

d. Proposed measures to preserve or enhance wildlife, if any: As part of the Methow Wildlife Area.

e. List any invasive animal species known to be on or near the site. None known.

6. **Energy and natural resources**

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. N/A. This is an exchange of undeveloped land.

b. Would your project affect the potential use of solar energy by adjacent properties?
No.

c. What kinds of energy conservation features are included in the plans of this proposal?
N/A.

7. **Environmental health**

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? No.

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

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.

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.

4) Describe special emergency services that might be required.

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

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. None.

3) Proposed measures to reduce or control noise impacts, if any: None.

8. **Land and shoreline use**

a. What is the current use of the site and adjacent properties?
Seasonal livestock grazing and wildlife habitat.

Will the proposal affect current land uses on nearby or adjacent properties? No.

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?
The WDFW land is exempt from such designations. The private land is agricultural 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? No.

c. Describe any structures on the site.
The property to be exchanged has no structures.

d. Will any structures be demolished? N/A.

e. What is the current zoning classification of the site? Methow Review District (MRD) under jurisdiction of Okanogan County.

f. What is the current comprehensive plan designation of the site? None.

g. If applicable, what is the current shoreline master program designation of the site? None.

h. Has any part of the site been classified as a critical area by the city or county? No.

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 ensure the proposal is compatible with nearby agricultural and forest lands of long-term commercial significance, if any: None.

9. **Housing**

a. Approximately how many units would be provided, if any? None.

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: None.

10. **Aesthetics**

a. What is the tallest height of any proposed structure(s), not including antennas; what is the principal exterior building material(s) proposed? None.
b. What views in the immediate vicinity would be altered or obstructed? None.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control aesthetic impacts, if any: None.

11. **Light and glare**

a. What type of light or glare will the proposal produce? What time of day would it mainly occur? None.

b. Could light or glare from the finished project be a safety hazard or interfere with views? None.

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**

a. What designated and informal recreational opportunities are in the immediate vicinity? Public wildlife-oriented recreation (hiking, hunting, bird-watching).

b. Would the proposed project displace any existing recreational uses? No.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts on recreation, including recreation opportunities to be provided by the project or applicant, if any: None.

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? No.

b. Are there any landmarks, features, or other evidence of Indian or historic use or occupation? No. This may include human burials or old cemeteries. Are there any material evidence, artifacts, or areas of cultural importance on or near the site? No. Please list any professional studies conducted at the site to identify such resources. Cultural Resource Study prepared by Plateau Archaeological Investigations, LLC, June 2014.

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 Colville Confederated Tribes, letter from USFWS dated February 14, 2014
   - Consultation with Dept. of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, letter from USFWS dated February 14, 2014.
   - Cultural Resource Study prepared by Plateau Archaeological Investigations, LLC, June 2014.

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. None required.

14. **Transportation**

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. None.

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? None.

c. How many additional parking spaces would the completed project or non-project proposal have? How many would the project or proposal eliminate? 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). None.

e. Will the project or proposal use (or occur in the immediate vicinity of) water, rail, or air transportation? If so, generally describe. None.

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? 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. None.

h. Proposed measures to reduce or control transportation impacts, if any: None.

15. **Public services**

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. None.

b. Proposed measures to reduce or control direct impacts on public services, if any. None.

16. **Utilities**

a. Circle utilities currently available at the site: None.
electricity, natural gas, water, refuse service, telephone, sanitary sewer, septic system, other _____

b. Describe the utilities that are proposed for the project, the utility providing the service, and the general construction activities on the site or in the immediate vicinity which might be needed. 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: Elyse Kane

Name of signee Elyse Kane

Position and Agency/Organization WDFW Property Mgmt Supervisor

Date Submitted: 6/30/2014