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

1. Name of proposed project, if applicable:

WT Wooten WLA Campground #9

2. Name of applicant:

P. Frank Stevick, WDFW

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

P. Frank Stevick
Environmental Planner
Capital Management and Asset Program
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
600 Capitol Way N, Olympia WA 98501
360-742-7550

4. Date checklist prepared:

November 21, 2022

5. Agency requesting checklist:

WDFW

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

Construction is scheduled for December 2022 pending receipt of all applicable permits.

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

No other work is currently planned related to or connected with this proposal.

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

A cultural survey was completed.

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.

WDFW is not aware of any other pending applications for government approval directly affecting the property covered under this proposal.

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

No government approvals or permits have been requested by Federal, County, or local agencies for this proposal.

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.

Campground #9 is under a significant amount of flood debris (rock, mud, trees, etc.) up to 13 inches in places. Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) is proposing to turn this campground into a day use area with a vault toilet. WDFW will remove the flood debris down to the original grade elevation, repair the existing vault toilet as needed, and establish a new parking area within the existing site boundaries. The new parking area will be constructed of gravel and will included an estimated 10 parking spots.

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.

This project is located within the Wooten Wildlife Area, approximately 20 miles east of Waitsburg, WA. Access from Tucannon Road. Township 9N, Range 41E, section 30. Columbia County. N 46.231259, W -117.718380. Parcel # 2009410301700. See site plan for additional location information.

B. Environmental Elements

1. *Earth*

a. General description of the site:

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

Parking area is gently sloped and surrounded by ridges to the north and south of Tucannon Rd.

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

10-15%

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 USDA Web Soil Survey, soils present are primarily Gwin-Rockly-Rock outcrop complex, 20-50% south slopes (Map Unit Symbol 4007BO) and Larabee-Klickson-Anatone complex, 30 to 60% slopes (Map Unit Symbol 4941CD). Neither of these soils are of agricultural or commercial significance. The proposal does involve removing soils from the site, but only to return the area to its pre-flood condition.

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

The area is within FEMA Zone X (area of minimal flood risk); however it was subject to a flood event that deposited a large amount of debris on the site. The soils onsite are not unstable or more susceptible to erosion though.

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.

Purpose: to remove flood debris, grade the site to its original elevation, and establish the area as a day use parking site which will include the placement of gravel.
Type: WDFW Wildlife Access Area
Total Area: Total disturbed area of approximately 15,850 square feet (SF).
The resulting project will result in approximately 3,500 cubic yards (CY) of removal associated with the grading of the site and approximately 200 CY of fill associated with the placement of gravel.
See permitting plans for additional details.

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

Construction is not likely to result in erosion due to the limited scope and location of the project. Erosion and sediment control Best Management Practices (BMPs) such as straw wattles and silt fencing will be utilized as appropriate to limit the travel of sediments from the site. After construction, the parking lot will be covered in gravel, which will reduce the risk of erosion. Once construction has been completed and soils are stabilized, there should be minimal risk of future erosion.

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

WDFW estimates impervious will increase by approximately 15,850 SF due to the placement of gravel within this area. While this represents an increase in impervious surface, it will not occur within any critical areas (shorelines, wetlands, etc.) or their buffers and this increase represents a very small change within the Wooten Wildlife Area, which is approximately 16,755 acres of primarily undisturbed area.

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

i. BMPs will be in place during and after construction to control erosion. This will likely include the use of straw wattles and silt fencing to limit the travel of sediment away from the project site.

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 will be an increase in diesel emissions while construction is occurring. Upon construction completion, emissions will return to current levels.

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

None known.

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

None proposed, as emissions will return to normal levels once construction is complete.

3. Water

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.

No, there are no surface body waters within the project footprint. The Tucannon River is located approximately 0.10 mile south of the project area but is well outside of the project footprint.

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.

No, the project will not take place within or adjacent to any waters.

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.

No work will occur within surface waters or wetlands.

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

No, this project will not result in surface water withdrawals or diversions.

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

No, this project is located in Zone X (area of minimal flood risk) per the FEMA firm 53013C0200B, effective date 5/4/1988. There is no modernized flood data available for this project site and the proposed project will address flood damage.

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:

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.

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.

None.

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.

Presently, stormwater is shed off the site flowing southwest. The resulting proposal will not change how stormwater disperses from the project site.

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

It is very unlikely that waste materials resulting from this project will enter ground or surface waters given the limited extent of the project and the lack of surrounding water bodies.

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

No, this project will grade the parking area to return it to its pre-flood elevation.

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

BMPs will be used as needed, including the placement of straw wattles surrounding construction activities.

4. Plants

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

____deciduous tree: alder, maple, aspen, other:
____evergreen tree: fir, cedar, pine, other
__x__shrubs
__x__grass
____pasture
____crop or grain
____ Orchards, vineyards or other permanent crops.
____ wet soil plants: cattail, buttercup, bullrush, skunk cabbage, other
____water plants: water lily, eelgrass, **milfoil**, other
____other types of vegetation

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

The project will not result in any vegetation removal.

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

No federally or state protected plant species are 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:

No landscaping is proposed as a part of this project.

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

None known.

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.

Examples include:

birds: **hawk, heron, eagle, songbirds**, other:
mammals**: deer,** bear**, elk**, beaver, **other**: wolverine (per WDFW PHS Mapper)
fish: bass, salmon, trout, herring, shellfish, other:

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

A search on the USFWS IPaC site (November 17,2022) registered the following federally protected species:
Yellow-billed cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus*): The project area is not located within Critical Habitat, and there is none within Washington State. There are no known populations in Washington State.
Bull Trout (*Salvelinus confluentus*), a Threatened species with defined Critical Habitat. There are no waters on site and therefore this project will have no effect on the bull trout or its critical habitat.
Monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*), a Candidate species. No critical habitat has been defined. This project will not result in any vegetation removal and therefore will not effect the monarch's host plant (milkweed); therefore, this project will not effect this species.

The WDFW PHS Mapper (accessed November 17, 2022) also documented the potential occurrence of the federally protected American wolverine (*Gulo gulo*): This species is federally threatened and yet is not identified as occurring within the project area on IPaC. The polygon on the PHS mapper is quite large (22,000 acres) and as this species is mobile and tends to avoid human activity, it is unlikely that it would utilize the project area during construction. Therefore, this project would have no effect on the wolverine.

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

No, this site is not part of any known migration routes.

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

None.

f. 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.

The existing site, and after proposed work, does not have any utilities.

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:

None.

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? If so, describe.

No increase from present hazard potential, other than heavy equipment. Spill response measures will be present on site at all times during construction.

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

No known contaminates at site.

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 known.

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

None.

4) Describe special emergency services that might be required.

None anticipated.

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

Ensure spill response measures are present when work is being done.

b. Noise

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

There will be a temporary increase in noise as the construction occurs. Once construction is done, noise levels will return to normal.

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.

Short-term there will be an increase in traffic and construction noise.
Long-term noise levels will return to normal.

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

Construction will be limited to daylight hours, unless local ordinances restrict noise further, in which case the more restrictive hours will be adhered to.

8. Land and Shoreline Use

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.

Prior to flood conditions, the site was a parking area with a vault toilet that was primarily used by the public visiting the Wildlife Area for the day. The proposal will allow for this area to be used for day parking again once complete.

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, this site has not been used as working farmland or forest land and the project will not result in any land conversion.

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.

There is an existing vault toilet on site.

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

No structures will be demolished.

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

R1

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

R1

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

No designation.

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

No.

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

No one lives or works at this site.

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

No people will be permanently displaced by this project.

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

No people will be permanently displaced by this project.

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

This proposal will not change use; therefore, compatibility is not an issue. Project purpose is to return site use to pre-flood conditions.

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

None proposed or needed, since there will be no impact.

9. Housing

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

None.

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

No impact to housing.

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?

The tallest structure onsite is the vault toilet (~12ft. tall). This structure may be repaired but the height and building materials will not be altered. No new structures are proposed.

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

No changes to views as a result of this proposal.

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

None proposed or needed.

11. Light and Glare

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

There will be no changes in light or glare.

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

No, there should be no change.

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 anticipated.

12. Recreation

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

This is a state Wildlife Area. People likely come to hike, bird watch, hunt, and enjoy the outdoors. Public use will resume once construction is complete.

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

No. The site will have to be closed to facilitate construction, however it is not currently in use due to the flood conditions. Once construction is complete, all recreational uses can resume as usual.

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

WDFW will endeavor to construct this project quickly to allow for recreational use of this site to resume. Construction timeline will depend on availability of WDFW Staff and construction materials (e.g., gravel).

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 ? If so, specifically describe.

No previously identified historic properties or sites within project area. Within 1-mile of project area:

723115 – Spring Lake Levee, .9 miles south (determined not eligible)

45CO00090 – Pre-contact lithic isolate, 1.2 miles northwest

45CO00091 – Historic refuse scatter, 1940s, 1.1 miles northwest (potentially eligible)

45CO00216 – Highland Cemetery, Lewis Gulch Rd., 1.8 miles northwest

45CO00355 – Metal John Deere harrow spike tooth isolate ca. 1910-1972, 600 feet northwest

45CO00356 – Historic Rectangular rusting trough isolate ca. pre-1964, .25 miles southwest

45CO00348 – Historic objects, farm equipment, abandoned automobile scatter, ca. 1900-1953, .25 miles south (potentially eligible)

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.

No previously conducted cultural resource surveys. Within 1-mile of project area:

1334664 – Tracy 1995 (Hartstock Habitat Management Unit)

1343937 – Dickson 2004 (Letter regarding proposed BPA Tucannon River substation)

1344230 – Dickson 2004 (Survey and testing for proposed Tucannon River substation)

1349932 – Ives 2007 (Blue Mnt. elk fence replacement)

1347325 – Willis 2006 (BPA Walla Walla-North Lewiston 115-kV transmission pole replacement)

1354905 – Hannum 2010 (Walla Walla - Tucannon River No. 1 transmission line rebuild)

1682344 – Hannum 2012 (Hartstock Antenna Tower)

1685374 – Buettner 2014 (Tucannon River Restoration Project, Area 15)

1683757 – Harder 2013 (Tucannon Area 14)

1696068 – Chadez 2020 (Tumalum passage and habitat enhancement)

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. .

Project is funded through FEMA and subject to National Historic Preservation Act Section 106. FEMA has a memorandum of agreement with the Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation for project review.

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.

Project is under NHPA Section 106 through FEMA and subject to FEMA MOA with DAHP. WDFW inadvertent discovery plan will be in place.

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.

This project is immediately adjacent to NF-47/Tucannon Rd. The closest highway is US-12 (approximately an hour away) and the site is accessible via county and forest service managed roads.

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 public transit serving this site. Rides can be scheduled within the county with the Columbia County Public Transportation service, however there are no established routes nearby.

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

The project will create 10 new parking spaces.

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).

Gravel will be placed within the parking area and leading to Tucannon Road as part of the project. No other improvements will be needed.

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

No, site only uses roads for transportation.

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?

Increased vehicular trips would occur during construction only. Once the project is completed, volumes will return to normal.

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:

No transportation impacts anticipated.

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.

No.

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

None proposed or needed.

16. Utilities

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

h. 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 additional utilities needed or utilized at the site.

C. Signature

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: *P. Frank Stevick*

Name of signee: P. Frank Stevick

Position and Agency/Organization: Environmental Permitter 4, with CAMP, at WDFW

Date Submitted: 11/28/22