



CITY OF SNOHOMISH

Founded 1859, Incorporated 1890

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STATE ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (SEPA) CHECKLIST

PURPOSE OF CHECKLIST

The State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA), Chapter 43.21C RCW, requires all governmental agencies to consider the environmental impacts of a proposal before making decisions. An environmental impact statement (EIS) must be prepared for all proposals with probable significant adverse impacts on the quality of the environment. The purpose of this checklist is to provide information to help you and the agency identify impacts from your proposal (and to reduce or avoid impacts from the proposal, if it can be done) and to help the agency decide whether an EIS is required.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR APPLICANTS

This environmental checklist asks you to describe some basic information about your proposal. Governmental agencies use this checklist to determine whether the environmental impacts of your proposal are significant, requiring preparation of an EIS. Answer the questions briefly, with the most precise information known, or give the best description you can.

You must answer each question accurately and carefully, to the best of your knowledge. In most cases, you should be able to answer the questions from your own observations and project plans without the need to hire experts. If you really do not know the answer, or if a question does not apply to your proposal, write “do not know” or “does not apply.” Complete answers to the questions now may avoid unnecessary delays later.

Some questions ask about governmental regulations, such as zoning, shoreline, and landmark designations. Answer these questions if you can. If you have problems, the governmental agencies can assist you.

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.

USE OF CHECKLIST FOR NONPROJECT PROPOSALS

Complete this checklist for nonproject proposals, even though questions may be answered “does not apply.” IN ADDITION, complete the SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET FOR NONPROJECT ACTIONS (part D).

For nonproject actions, the references in the checklist to the words “project,” “applicant,” and “property or site” should be read as “proposal,” “proposer,” and “affected geographic area,” respectively.

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A. BACKGROUND

1. Name of proposed project, if applicable:
2. Name of applicant:
3. Mailing Address and phone number of applicant and contact person:
4. Date checklist prepared:
5. Agency requesting checklist:
6. Proposed timing or schedule (including phasing, if applicable):
7. Do you have any plans for future additions, expansion, or further activity related to or connected with this proposal? If yes, explain.
8. List any environmental information you know about that has been prepared, or will be prepared, directly related to this proposal.
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.
10. List any government approvals or permits that will be needed for your proposal, if known.
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.
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.

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B. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS

1. **Earth**

- a. General description of the site (circle one): Flat, rolling, hilly, steep slopes, mountainous, other
- b. What is the steepest slope on the site (approximate percent 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 prime farmland.
- d. Are there surface indications or history of unstable soils in the immediate vicinity? If so, describe.
- e. Describe the purpose, type, and approximate quantities of any filling or grading proposed. Indicate source of fill.
- f. Could erosion occur as a result of clearing, construction, or use? If so, generally describe.
- g. About what percent of the site will be covered with impervious surfaces after project construction (for example, asphalt or buildings)?
- h. Proposed measures to reduce or control erosion, or other impacts to the earth, if any:

2. **Air**

- a. What types of emissions to the air would result from the proposal (i.e., dust, automobile, odors, industrial wood smoke) during construction and when the project is completed? If any, generally describe and give approximate quantities if known.
- b. Are there any off-site sources of emissions or odor that may affect your proposal? If so, generally describe.

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

3. Water

a. Surface:

- 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.

- 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.

- 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.

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

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

- 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.

b. Ground:

- 1) Will ground water be withdrawn, or will water be discharged to ground water? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.

- 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

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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.

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.

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

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

4. Plants

a. Check or circle 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
- 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?

c. List threatened or 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:

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5. **Animals**

- a. Circle any birds and animals which have been observed on or near the site or are known to be on or near the site:

birds: hawk, heron, eagle, songbirds, other:

mammals: deer, bear, elk, beaver, other:

fish: bass, salmon, trout, herring, shellfish, other:

- b. List any threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the site.

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

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

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.

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

- 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.

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.

- 1) Describe special emergency services that might be required.

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2) 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)?

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.

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

8. **Land and shoreline use**

a. What is the current use of the site and adjacent properties?

b. Has the site been used for agriculture? If so, describe.

c. Describe any structures on the site.

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

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

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

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

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- h. Has any part of the site been classified as an “environmentally sensitive” area? If so, specify.

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

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

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

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

9. **Housing**

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

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

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

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?

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

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

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11. Light and glare

- a. What type of light or glare will the proposal produce? What time of day would it mainly occur?
- b. Could light or glare from the finished project be a safety hazard or interfere with views?
- c. What existing off-site sources of light or glare may affect your proposal?
- d. Proposed measures to reduce or control light and glare impacts, if any:

12. Recreation

- a. What designated and informal recreational opportunities are in the immediate vicinity?
- b. Would the proposed project displace any existing recreational uses? If so, describe.
- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts on recreation, including recreation opportunities to be provided by the project or applicant, if any:

13. Historic and cultural preservation

- a. Are there any places or objects listed on, or proposed for, national, state or local preservation registers known to be on or next to the site? If so, generally describe.
- b. Generally describe any landmarks or evidence of historic, archaeological, scientific, or cultural importance known to be on or next to the site.
- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts, if any:

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14. **Transportation**

- a. Identify public streets and highways serving the site, and describe proposed access to the existing street system. Show on site plans, if any.

- b. Is site currently served by public transit? If not, what is the approximate distance to the nearest transit stop?

- c. How many parking spaces would the completed project have? How many would the project eliminate?

- d. Will the proposal require any new roads or streets, or improvements to existing roads or streets, not including driveways? If so, generally describe (indicate whether public or private).

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

- f. How many vehicular trips per day would be generated by the completed project? If known, indicate when peak volumes would occur.

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

15. **Public services**

- a. Would the project result in an increased need for public services (for example: fire protection, police protection, health care, schools, other)? If so, generally describe.

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

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16. Utility

- a. Circle utilities currently available at the site: 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.

The following questions are designed to help project proponents and government agencies identify when a project needs further analysis regarding adverse effects on ESA (Endangered Species Act) listed salmonids. Salmonids are salmon, trout and chars, e.g. bull trout. For our purposes, "ESA listed salmonids" is defined as fish species listed as endangered, threatened or being considered for listing. If you need additional information to answer any of the following questions there are several resources listed at the end of this document to assist you.

If ESA listed species are present or ever were present in the watershed where your project will be located, your project has the potential for affecting them, and you need to comply with the ESA. The questions in this section will help determine if the ESA listings will impact your project.

The Fish Program Manager at the appropriate Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) regional office can provide information for the following two questions

1. Are ESA listed salmonids currently present in the watershed in which your project will be located?
Yes ___ No ___
Please describe.

2. Has there ever been an ESA listed salmonid stock present in this watershed?
Yes ___ No ___ Uncertain ___
Please describe.

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If you answered "Yes" to either of the above questions, you should complete the remainder of this checklist. If you answered "Uncertain" contact the resource agencies listed at the end of these questions for further assistance.

PROJECT SPECIFICS: The questions in this section are specific to the project and vicinity.

1. Name of watershed: _____

2. Name of nearest waterbody: _____

3. What is the distance from this project to the nearest body of water?

Often a buffer between the project and a stream can reduce the chance of a negative impact to fish.

4. What is the current land use between the project and the potentially affected water body (*parking lots, farmland, etc*)?

5. Is the project above a:

- natural permanent barrier (waterfall) Yes ___ No ___
- natural temporary barrier (beaver pond) Yes ___ No ___
- man-made barrier (culvert, dam) Yes ___ No ___
- other (explain):

6. If yes, are there any resident salmonid populations above the blockage? Yes ___
No ___ Don't know ___

7. What percent of the project will be impervious surface (including pavement & roof area)?

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FISH MIGRATION: The following questions will help determine if this project could interfere with migration of adult and juvenile fish.

Both increases and decreases in water flows can affect fish migration.

1. Does the project require the withdrawal of:

i. Surface water? Yes ___ No ___

Amount _____

Name of surface water body _____

ii. Ground water? Yes ___ No ___

Amount _____

From where _____

Depth of well _____

2. Will any water be rerouted? Yes ___ No ___

If yes, will this require a channel change?

3. Will there be retention or detention ponds? Yes ___ No ___

If yes, will this be an infiltration pond or a surface discharge to either a municipal storm water system or a surface water body?

If to a surface water discharge, please give the name of the waterbody.

4. Will this project require the building of new roads?

Yes ___ No ___ *Increased road mileage may affect the timing of water reaching a stream and may impact fish habitat.*

5. Are culverts proposed as part of this project? Yes ___ No ___

6. Will topography changes affect the duration/direction of runoff flows? Yes ___

No ___ If yes, describe the changes.

7. Will the project involve any reduction of the floodway or floodplain by filling or other partial blockage of flows? Yes ___ No ___

If yes, how will the loss of flood storage be mitigated by your project?

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WATER QUALITY: The following questions will help determine if this project could adversely impact water quality. Such impacts can cause problems for listed species. Water quality can be made worse by runoff from impervious surfaces, altering water temperature, discharging contaminants, etc.

1. Do you know of any problems with water quality in any of the streams within this watershed? Yes ___ No ___
If yes, describe.

2. Will your project either reduce or increase shade along or over a waterbody?
Yes ___ No ___
Removal of shading vegetation or the building of structures such as docks or floats often result in a change in shade.

3. Will the project increase nutrient loading or have the potential to increase nutrient loading or contaminants (fertilizers, other waste discharges, or runoff) to the waterbody? Yes ___ No ___

4. Will turbidity be increased because of construction of the project or during operation of the project? Yes ___ No ___
In-water or near water work will often increase turbidity.

5. Will your project require long term maintenance, i.e. bridge cleaning, highway salting, chemical sprays for vegetation management, clearing of parking lots?
Yes ___ No ___ If yes, please describe.

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VEGETATION: The following questions are designed to determine if the project will affect riparian vegetation, thereby, adversely impacting salmon.

1. Will the project involve the removal of any vegetation from the stream banks?
Yes___ No___

If yes, please describe the existing conditions, and the amount and type of vegetation to be removed.

2. If any vegetation is removed, do you plan to re-plant?
Yes___ No___ If yes, what types of plants will you use?

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RESOURCES

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Website

<http://wdfw.wa.gov>

This site has useful information on fish habitat.

Washington Department of Ecology Website

<http://www.ecy.wa.gov>

Click on the Water Quality button on the left side of this page.

National Marine Fisheries Services Website

Evolutionarily Significant Unit (ESU) maps can be found at

<http://www.noaa.gov>

Go to this site and then click on the ESA Salmon button.

NOTE: Most applicants should have the information necessary to answer most of the questions in this checklist. Additional information will need to be obtained by local and state agencies if it appears that the project is likely to affect ESA listed species.

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: _____

Date Submitted: _____