

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:

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:
Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the City of Castle Rock real property exchange, 86-087302
2. Name of applicant:
DNR
3. Address and phone number of applicant and contact person:
Contact: Robin Hammill, 360-902-1082

1111 Washington St SE
Olympia WA 98504-7027

4. Date checklist prepared:
10/10/2016

5. Agency requesting checklist:
DNR

6. Proposed timing or schedule (including phasing, if applicable):
Transaction complete by June 2017.

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

Yes. In the future, the City hopes to site a recreational vehicle campground on a portion of the land it will receive. As documented in the City's adopted parks and recreation plan (2016), the objective includes: "Pursu[ing] opportunities to partner with a private developer to improve and market a portion of the site as a recreational vehicle (RV) resort. Other possible improvements include parking facility construction, development of access ramps to public fishing sites on the Cowlitz River and Arkansas Creek, and installation of erosion control measures. Fish habitat enhancement and educational opportunities could also result. A day-use area along Arkansas Creek should also be provided. A bridge crossing Arkansas Creek should be constructed or installed in order to extend the City's trails to the regional trail system." Separate and appropriate review under SEPA will occur in conjunction with any future development.

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

None

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.

DNR needs to have the Board of Natural Resources approval. The City of Castle Rock needs to have city council approval.

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.)

This is a non-development project action. DNR intends to exchange a portion of an abandoned channel of the Cowlitz River for the current river bed of the Cowlitz River as it flows through the City of Castle Rock. The exchange consists of DNR exchanging approximately 31 acres of abandoned river bed for the current bed and shorelands of the Cowlitz River (approximately 33 acres) as it runs through the City of Castle Rock.

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.

That portion of publicly owned property generally bounded by SR 411 (Westside Highway) to the west, Arkansas Creek to the south, the easterly bank (dike) of the Cowlitz River to the east, and Whittle Creek to the north.



B. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS

1. Earth

- a. General description of the site (circle one): Flat, rolling, hilly, steep slopes, mountainous, other _____
The City owned property consists of a portion of the Cowlitz River. The DNR owned property consists of generally flat land with some piles of Mount St. Helens dredged spoils.
- b. What is the steepest slope on the site (approximate percent slope)?
The City-owned parcel has little to no slope. The DNR parcel has an approximate slope of 3/1.
- 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 City owned bed of the river consists of mud, sand and rock.
The DNR parcel consists of sand and Mt. St. Helens dredged spoils.
- d. Are there surface indications or history of unstable soils in the immediate vicinity? If so, describe.
No
- 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.
There is no proposal to place any fill on either site.
- f. Could erosion occur as a result of clearing, construction, or use? If so, generally describe.
N/A
- g. About what percent of the site will be covered with impervious surfaces after project construction (for example, asphalt or buildings)?
There is no proposed construction on either property, this project is for a land exchange only.
- h. Proposed measures to reduce or control erosion, or other impacts to the earth, if any:
N/A

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 proposed construction on either site, this project is for a land exchange only.
- 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:
Does not apply

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.
The City owned parcel consists of the bed and shorelands of the Cowlitz River. Whittle Creek flows through the north end of the DNR parcel and empties into the Cowlitz River.
- 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. This is a land exchange only.
- 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.
N/A
- 4) Will the proposal require surface water withdrawals or diversions? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.
No
- 5) Does the proposal lie within a 100-year floodplain? If so, note location on the site plan.
Yes. The City property lies completely within the 100 year flood plain. The DNR parcel is not within the 100 year flood plain.
- 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.

Some degree of stormwater runoff is likely to occur currently on or involving the subject sites. The proposed action will not change any runoff as it currently occurs.

2) Could waste materials enter ground or surface waters? If so, generally describe.
No

3) Does the proposal alter or otherwise affect drainage patterns in the vicinity of the site? If so, describe.
No

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

None proposed

4. Plants

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

- X deciduous tree: alder, maple, aspen, other
- X evergreen tree: fir, cedar, pine, other
- X shrubs
- grass
- pasture
- crop or grain
- Orchards, vineyards or other permanent crops.
- X 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.
Kincaid's lupine is known to be present in Cowlitz County; however, the proposed land exchange will have no effect on Kincaid's lupine as suitable habitat is not present on the subject sites.

d. Proposed landscaping, use of native plants, or other measures to preserve or enhance vegetation on the site, if any:
None

e. List all noxious weeds and invasive species known to be on or near the site.
None on the City owned parcel and scotch broom on the DNR parcel.

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, eagle, songbirds, geese**
mammals: **deer, beaver,**
fish: **salmon, trout, smelt**

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

Lower Columbia River chinook salmon
Lower Columbia River coho salmon
Lower Columbia River steelhead
Columbia River chum salmon
Eulachon
Columbia River bull trout
Marbled murrelet
Streaked horned lark
Yellow-billed cuckoo

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

This section of the Cowlitz River is a river migration route for bald eagles. The Cowlitz River salmonid species listed above migrate to the ocean and back to their natal waters through this river corridor. Cowlitz County as a whole lies within the Pacific Flyway.

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

None

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

Possibly nutria.

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.

Does not apply

- b. Would your project affect the potential use of solar energy by adjacent properties?

If so, generally describe.

Does not apply

- 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:

Does not apply

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

None known

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

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.

Does not apply

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

None

- 5) Proposed measures to reduce or control environmental health hazards, if any: N/A

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? Will the proposal affect current land uses on nearby or adjacent properties? If so, describe.

Both sites are currently used as passive public use and access by trespass. Occasionally illegal dumping has occurred. The property to the west of the DNR parcel is used for a commercial business, to the north of the DNR parcel are fair grounds and a motorcycle race track that hosts occasional events. To the east of the DNR parcel and the west and east of the City parcel, dredge spoil removal/sales are taking place.

- 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

- 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.

None

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

No

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

Parks, Recreation, & Open Space

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

Open Space/Recreation.

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

Urban (to east) & Rural (to west)

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

The Cowlitz River is considered a critical area.

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:

Does not apply

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

DNR intends to place deed restrictions limiting the City's uses to those compatible with public use and access.

m. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with nearby agricultural and forest lands of long-term commercial significance, if any:

Does not apply

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.

None

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

Does not apply

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?

Does not apply

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

None

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

Does not apply

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?

Does not apply

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

Does not apply

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

Does not apply

12. Recreation

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

Walking, jogging, fishing, boating, kayaking, swimming

- 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:

No

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.

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

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.
N/A

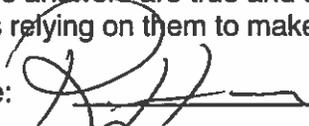
16. Utilities

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

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

The above answers are true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that the lead agency is relying on them to make its decision.

Signature:  _____

Name of signee Robin Hammill

Position and Agency/Organization NRS3 - DNR - Aquatic Resources

Date Submitted: 10/20/16