

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: **Anthracite Timber Sale**
2. Name of applicant: **Sierra Pacific Industries**
3. Address and phone number of applicant and contact person:
John D. Gold, 14353 McFarland Road, Mount Vernon, WA 98273, 360-424-7619

4. Date checklist prepared: **10/21/16**
5. Agency requesting checklist: **Washington State Department of Natural Resources**
6. Proposed timing or schedule (including phasing, if applicable):
Harvest activities to begin as soon as permitted.
7. Do you have any plans for future additions, expansion, or further activity related to or connected with this proposal? If yes, explain. **The area will remain in timber production following this proposal. Normal timber management activities, including planting, thinning, and future harvests, are likely to occur in adherence to the State of Washington Forest Practices rules.**
8. List any environmental information you know about that has been prepared, or will be prepared, directly related to this proposal. **Hansen Creek Watershed Analysis**
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.
None are known.
10. List any government approvals or permits that will be needed for your proposal, if known.
Washington State Forest Practices Application
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 proposed timber harvest by Sierra Pacific Industries in Skagit County. Approximately 26.7 acres of even-aged conifers and hardwoods ~~on~~ will be harvested. The stand is comprised of ~50 year old western red cedar, western hemlock, and red alder. There is an estimated total volume of 20 thousand board-feet per acre.
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 proposal area is located in Section 03 of Township 35, Range 05 in the Sedro-Woolley, WA area. It is accessed via State Highway 20 and Helmick Road. The proposal

area is completely surrounded by industrial forest land, owned by Sierra Pacific and Washington State.

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)? **90%**

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 NRCS Soil Survey identifies gravelly silt loam as the primary soil type found in the proposal area. According to the Department of Natural Resource's Site Class maps, the subject property is site class II.

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

There are some surface indications of potentially unstable soils in the WAU. Most of them occur in riparian areas and are in the form of excessive channel scouring and inner gorges. Inner gorges occur on some of the streams within this proposal. These inner gorges were bounded out of the sale area. Road construction is required through inner gorges on four stream crossings. These crossings were evaluated by a licensed engineering geologist and "qualified expert" who concluded that the potential to adversely impact the slopes at these crossings is insignificant. Because the potential impacts are judged to be insignificant the consequences are judged to be negligible, the risks are judged to be very low.

Portions of the proposal are located on a large, deep-seated landslide. Field assessment did not reveal any evidence of historic, recent, or ongoing activity. Review of aerial photographs, LiDAR topography, and field reconnaissance suggests this landslide could be characterized as dormant-indistinct or dormant mature. A licensed engineering geologist and "qualified expert" does not anticipate this proposal will adversely affect this landslide because of the relatively minor size of the proposed harvest and the past harvest history, which appears to not have adversely impacted the landslide.

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.

Road construction will utilize standard cut and fill methodology to obtain grade and

alignment. Native soil and rock will be excavated from the road prism and used for fill in the sub-grade and over cross drains and stream crossings.

f. Could erosion occur as a result of clearing, construction, or use? If so, generally describe. [\[help\]](#)

Minor erosion may occur from freshly exposed soils along road cut slopes and embankment slopes. Erosion could result from road and landing construction during periods of heavy rainfall or as a result of yarding during periods of saturation.

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

Less than 2% of the site will be covered with permanent new rock covered (gravel) roads.

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

All roads will be constructed to meet or exceed Forest Practices standards. For road work, rock haul and log haul, appropriate drainage devices including proper culvert size and placement, drain dips, water bars, and ditching will be used as necessary to reduce surface erosion on roads. Relief pipes will be strategically placed to minimize the amount of road ditch water that enters surface waters.

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.

Minor emissions are anticipated from equipment exhaust.

b. Are there any off-site sources of emissions or odor that may affect your proposal? If so, generally describe. **No.**

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

None are necessary for this proposal.

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.

There are five perennial and six seasonal streams within the proposal area. None of the streams contain fish habitat. All streams are eventually tributary to Coal Creek.

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.

50' no-harvest buffers were placed on much of the length of perennial streams in adherence to Forest Practices Rules. Timber will be felled immediately adjacent to the streams and riparian management zones (RMZs). Timber will be felled

away from the streams and RMZs where feasible. Logs may be placed in ground-based stream crossings to facilitate yarding and removed upon completion of yarding. If cable yarding over streams is necessary, the leading edge of logs will be suspended to avoid disturbing the stream banks. When full suspension is not possible, log cribbing, culvert installation, or other approved methods shall need to be in place to protect stream banks and channels. On existing roads, ditchwater will be diverted through relief culverts prior to stream crossing to keep sediment out of streams. Exposed soils will be revegetated.

3) Estimate the amount of fill and dredge material that would be placed in or removed from surface water or wetlands and indicate the area of the site that would be affected. Indicate the source of fill material. **None.**

4) Will the proposal require surface water withdrawals or diversions? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.
Water flow may be temporarily diverted through bypass culverts or retained behind (or pumped around) coffer dams during culvert installations. Typed waters may also be temporarily diverted if culvert replacement is deemed necessary through the course of operations on typed water crossings on existing roads.

5) Does the proposal lie within a 100-year floodplain? If so, note location on the site plan.
No.

6) Does the proposal involve any discharges of waste materials to surface waters? If so, describe the type of waste and anticipated volume of discharge. **No.**

b. Ground Water:

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.
Runoff from the road surfaces will be collected in ditches and diverted to stable areas on the forest floor through the use of ditches, culverts, and energy dissipaters.

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

No waste material is expected to enter any waters as a result of this proposal.

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:

Constructed ditches, cross-drain culverts, drain dips, and/or water bars will be used to control road related runoff on roads. Roads and landings will be crowned to avoid water accumulation. Falling and yarding away from all streams will be applied where feasible. All activities associated with this proposal will meet or exceed Forest Practices standards.

4. Plants

a. Check the types of vegetation found on the site:[\[help\]](#)

- deciduous tree: alder, maple, aspen, other cottonwood
 evergreen tree: fir, cedar, pine, other hemlock
 shrubs
 grass
___ pasture
___ crop or grain
___ Orchards, vineyards or other permanent crops.
 wet soil plants: cattail, buttercup, bullrush, skunk cabbage, other: devil's club
___ water plants: water lily, eelgrass, milfoil, other
___ other types of vegetation

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

The majority of overstory trees will be removed. Plants and shrubs will be temporarily disturbed during the timber removal process.

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

No threatened and endangered plant species are known to be on or near the site.

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on PRAM.
Hill*

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

Native vegetation will persist on the site during and after the proposal.

e. List all noxious weeds and invasive species known to be on or near the site.[\[help\]](#)

Himalayan blackberry and English holly were observed on site.

5. Animals[\[help\]](#)

- a. List any birds and other animals which have been observed on or near the site or are known to be on or near the site. [help]

Examples include:

birds: hawk, heron, eagle, songbirds, other: barred owl
mammals: deer, bear, elk, beaver, other:
fish: bass, salmon, trout, herring, shellfish, other _____

*None found on
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- b. List any threatened and endangered species known to be on or near the site.
No threatened and endangered species are known to be on or near the site.

- c. Is the site part of a migration route? If so, explain.
All of Washington State is considered part of the Pacific Flyway. No impacts are anticipated as a result of this proposal.

- d. Proposed measures to preserve or enhance wildlife, if any:
Mature leave trees will be left on site, in accordance with the Washington State Forest Practices rules. These trees will provide wildlife habitat and a continuation of forest structure, function, and species composition. Areas within the riparian buffer will remain undisturbed.

- e. List any invasive animal species known to be on or near the site.
No invasive animal species are known to be on or near the site.

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. **Not applicable.**
- 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: **Not applicable.**

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. **There is minimal hazard due to harvesting operations. If any toxic or hazardous chemical spill occurs, or if past contamination is discovered, the Department of Ecology will be notified.**

- 1) Describe any known or possible contamination at the site from present or past uses.
None are 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 are 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. **Other than equipment oil and fuel, there will be no hazardous chemicals associated with the project.**
- 4) Describe special emergency services that might be required.
 - **Firefighting by the Department of Natural Resources, possibly supported by local fire districts**
 - **Emergency medical and/or ambulance service for personal injuries**
 - **Responses by the Department of Ecology if a spill were to occur**
- 5) Proposed measures to reduce or control environmental health hazards, if any:
Restrictions and precaution levels regarding forest fire protection will be observed. Harvesting operations will follow Forest Practices guidelines.

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.
Short-term noise from logging operations will occur for the duration of project.
- 3) Proposed measures to reduce or control noise impacts, if any: **None are required.**

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.
The entire hillside is designated for timber production, which will not be affected.
- 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 proposal area is forest land. No conversion is planned.**

1) Will the proposal affect or be affected by surrounding working farm or forest land normal business operations, such as oversize equipment access, the application of pesticides, tilling, and harvesting? If so, how: **No**

c. Describe any structures on the site. **No structures are located on site.**

d. Will any structures be demolished? If so, what? **Not applicable.**

e. What is the current zoning classification of the site? **Industrial forestry.**

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

g. If applicable, what is the current shoreline master program designation of the site?
Not applicable.

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? **None.**

j. Approximately how many people would the completed project displace? **None.**

k. Proposed measures to avoid or reduce displacement impacts, if any: **Not applicable.**

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

m. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts to agricultural and forest lands of long-term commercial significance, if any: **Not applicable.**

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: **Not applicable.**

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? **Not applicable.**
- b. What views in the immediate vicinity would be altered or obstructed? **None.**
- b. Proposed measures to reduce or control aesthetic impacts, if any: **None required.**

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? **Not applicable.**
- 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: **Not applicable.**

12. Recreation

- a. What designated and informal recreational opportunities are in the immediate vicinity? **Informal recreational activities in the vicinity include hiking and hunting.**
- b. Would the proposed project displace any existing recreational uses? If so, describe. **Recreational access to areas within the proposal area may be temporarily interrupted during harvest activities.**
- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts on recreation, including recreation opportunities to be provided by the project or applicant, if any: **None are necessary. The proposal area will be available for use following harvest activities.**

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. **None are known.**
- 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,

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or areas of cultural importance on or near the site? Please list any professional studies conducted at the site to identify such resources. **None are known.**

- 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. **The proposal area will be screened for cultural and historic resources during the Department of Natural Resource's Forest Practices Application process.**
- 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. **Not applicable.**

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. **There are no public streets or highways that serve the site. Private forest roads are accessed via State Highway 20, Helmick Road, and Cokedale Road.**
- b. Is the site or affected geographic area currently served by public transit? If so, generally describe. If not, what is the approximate distance to the nearest transit stop? **No.**
- c. How many additional parking spaces would the completed project or non-project proposal have? How many would the project or proposal eliminate? **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). **The proposal includes the development of private forest roads.**
- e. Will the project or proposal use (or occur in the immediate vicinity of) water, rail, or air transportation? If so, generally describe. **No.**
- f. How many vehicular trips per day would be generated by the completed project or proposal? If known, indicate when peak volumes would occur and what percentage of the volume would be trucks (such as commercial and nonpassenger vehicles). What data or transportation models were used to make these estimates? **Up to 20 vehicular trips per day could occur during peak harvest activities. These trips would occur primarily between the hours of 4 a.m. and 5 p.m. on weekdays.**
- 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 required.**

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.
Not applicable.

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

- 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

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 JOHN D. GOUD

Position and Agency/Organization FOR SIERRA PACIFIC

Date Submitted: 10/27/16