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:
   Hellyer Family Timber Harvest

2. Name of applicant:
   Hellyer / Nielsen Brothers Inc.
   Mid Valley Resources Inc.
3. Address and phone number of applicant and contact person:
Nielsen Brothers Inc. - PO Box 2789 Bellingham, WA 98227 – Samuel Petska : 360-630-0725

4. Date checklist prepared:
3/11/2022

5. Agency requesting checklist:
WA DNR NW Region – Forest Practices

6. Proposed timing or schedule (including phasing, if applicable):
Within the next 3-6 years pending FPA approval and issuance.

7. Do you have any plans for future additions, expansion, or further activity related to or connected with this proposal? If yes, explain.
Post timber harvest, commercial tree seedlings will be planted at approximately 325 trees to the acres. Timber harvest area will be monitored for tree seedlings development. If necessary hand cutting of competing vegetation(generally hardwood) may occur 4-6 years after trees planting. Additionally road maintainace, rock haul or other forestry related activitves may occur in the future.

8. List any environmental information you know about that has been prepared, or will be prepared, directly related to this proposal.
Middle Fork of the Nooksack River is a 303(d) listed water body.
DNR FPA forms.

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 Forest Practices permit FPA#: 2818578 is available on FPARS 5/18/2022 BH

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.)

Even aged harvest of approximately 153 acres of timber (3160 mbf). 1.5 miles of new road construction is proposed to access the timber as well as using existing forest road infrastructure. Most road construction is re-construction of old logging grades that were abandoned.

Road construction for access will occur on adjacent WA DNR State Trust Land(Public) and Mid Valley Resources Inc.(Private). See FPA for more detail.

The proposal is located within the Nooksack Cultural District and this is a class IV special trigger for the FPA.

Timber harvest will occur using ground based and cable yarding systems.

Forest practice activitves will also occur across Mid Valley Resources property and WA DNR State lands property. A separate FPA and SEPA will be submitted for work located on DNR Trust land.
This parcel is surrounded by state managed land and private commercial timber lands. Leave areas include Np buffers, unstable feature buffers, non merchantable trees.

Proposal is located within marmot ridge WAU, no watershed analysis has been completed. New Rock pit will be developed on site and other adjacent forest rock pits in the area may be utilized.

Timber on site is 2nd growth stand, originating around 1960 via assumed natural regeneration methods. The stand dominated by Douglas fir and western hemlock and silver fir. There is also western red cedar and Alaska yellow cedar. Red alder, birch, big leaf maple and black cottonwood are also on site. The site class is III with variable growth rates in areas due to steepness of slopes and soil composition.

~8190 ft of road will be constructed for this proposal. ~18 typed water crossings will be made. One crossing is along a Np stream and the rest are associated with Ns streams. Cross drains will be utilized where appropriate.

FPA 2818578 indicates 152.5 acres of timber harvest, development of 0.5 acre rock pit, and 300 feet of road abandonment. 5/18/2022 BH

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.

See FPA maps for detailed location. The general location of the harvest area is Township 38N Range 6E Section 28 & 33 in Whatcom County.

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)?

   100%

   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.

   Below is an approximate soil type percentage that overlays the proposed harvest area. This data is based on whatcom county soils data.
No removal of soils is planned, the site is long ter forest and has little to no agricultural value.

Kindy Gravelly Loam – ~50%
Serpod Very Gravelly Loam –~40%
Edfro Very Gravelly Silt Loam ~10%

d. Are there surface indications or history of unstable soils in the immediate vicinity? If so, describe.
Inner gorge and bedrock hollows exist on the site, these areas that are identified as Rule
Identified features for WA DNR Forest practices have been removed from the harvest area. WA
DNR LSI polygons map show pre-historic deep seated landslides(>150 yrs) within the harvest
areas. See submitted FPA for more information.

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.
Roads will be constructed as part of this proposal. Almost all of the new road construction
will occur on existing road logging grades. On site rock will be used and off site rock from
existing forest rock pits in the area could be used.
f. Could erosion occur as a result of clearing, construction, or use? If so, generally describe.
Yes, some erosion could occur during new road construction, culvert installation, timber harvesting
and hauling.
g. About what percent of the site will be covered with impervious surfaces after project
construction (for example, asphalt or buildings)?

Forest gravel roads after the project will cover approximately 1.5% of the site.

h. Proposed measures to reduce or control erosion, or other impacts to the earth, if any:
The harvest will follow all procedures and rules related to harvest BMP’s logging layout, WAC
222-30, and forest practice rules. No road sediment will enter surface waters. Cross drains and
ditchouts will be utilized to ensure that all stormwater generated from new roads will be infiltrated
onto forest floor. Culverts and cross drains will be adequately sized and installed correctly to reduce
any impact from increased stormwater drainaged. Riprap will be used at culvert inlets and outlets
to prevent erosion. Existing roads will be maintained to keep drainage structures and water patterns
functional. Storm patrols will be conducted over the first few years on newly constructed roads to
monitor and correct any potential erosion issues.

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 amounts of exhaust from logging and road construction equipment. Dust from timber
hauling and access to harvest areas. Landing debris may be burned once harvest is complete.
Smoke from debris burning would be generated. If debris burning occurs proper permits will be
obtained from WA DNR. No future emission are planned once project is compete.
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: If landing debris is burned, permits will be obtained from WA DNR and all rules and regulations will be followed.

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.

Yes, there are streams across the proposal.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Protections/mitigations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unnamed Creek</td>
<td>Ns</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>30ft equipment limitation zone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unnamed Creek</td>
<td>Np</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Portions of these creeks have FP Np buffers. See FPA for more information.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All of this water is Tributary to the middle fork of the Nooksack River. Some creeks are also tributary to Galbrith Creek.(Which is also tributary to the middle fork nooksack.)

The marmot ridge WAU does not have a completed watershed analysis.

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.

Yes, timber harvest and forest road operations will occur within 200 ft of most of the water described above. See FPA for details regarding logging and road 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.

None.

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

Yes, water flow may be temporarily diverted through bypass culverts or retained behind or pumped around dams during culvert installation.
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.

   Waste material should not enter surface waters. There is always potential for heavy equipment failures however, but all equipment will have spill kits and will follow proper spill procedures if emergencies occur.

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 ground water will be withdrawn or discharged.

   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.

   Small amounts of heavy equipment waste material, oil lubricants, may be accidently discharged to ground during operations. No waste will be disposed on site. All heavy machinery will contain and clean up spills in accordance with emergency spill policies.

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.

   Stormwater runoff from new and proposed road surfaces will be collected by ditches, cross drains and ditchouts and diverted onto the forest floor. All water control systems will be in accordance with DNR FP rules and using associated BMPs.

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

   No waste material should enter any water during the project.

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

   No, the drainage patterns at the site should remain unchanged.
d. Proposed measures to reduce or control surface, ground, and runoff water, and drainage pattern impacts, if any:

    Water will be controlled using existing road and proposed road drainage systems. Ditches, cross drains, water bars will be used to ensure runoff is dispersed across the forest floor. Seed and straw will be used to cover any exposed soil during logging and road building operations to prevent sedimentation. Roads will be crowned and shaped properly to ensure drainage systems work effectively. Falling and yarding away from water systems. All operations will meet or exceed FP standards. Silt fences and other BMPS will be used when necessary.

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

    _X_ deciduous tree: alder, maple, Cottonwood, Birch
    _X_ evergreen tree: fir, cedar, pine, Western Hemlock, Silver Fir,
    _X_ shrubs: Salmon Berry, huckleberry, salal, Osoberry
    _X_ grass
    _X_ pasture
    _X_ crop or grain
    _X_ Orchards, vineyards or other permanent crops.
    _X_ wet soil plants: skunk cabbage
    _X_ water plants: water lily, eelgrass, milfoil, other
    _X_ other types of vegetation

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

    A 2nd growth conifer and hardwood stand will be removed using an even-aged harvesting method. Merchantable timber will be removed from the site. Understory and middle canopy vegetation will be disturbed by logging and road building equipment. Leave trees will be left concentrated around potentially unstable features and RMZ buffers. Non merchantable trees will be left on site.

    FPA 2818578 indicates removal of approx. 3,160 mbf of timber 5/18/2022 BH

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

    None known.
    None found per FPRAM 5/18/2022 BH

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

    Conifer seedlings will be planted post harvest. Existing plants on site will be left. Post harvest disturbance, existing plants on site will naturally regenerate.

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.

   birds: hawk, heron, eagle, songbirds, grouse
   mammals: deer, bear, elk, beaver,

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

   Bluue trout are a population of concern in the watershed. However no stream features near the proposal are desinaged fish streams.

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

   All of Washington State is within the Pacific Flyway.

   Marbled Murrelet Detection Area per FPRAM 5/18/2022 BH

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

   Forest practices stream buffers(Np buffers and 30ft equipment limitation zones, road drainage systems, BMP’s, Leave trees, Slope stability protections

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

   None known.

6. **Energy and Natural Resources**
   a. What kinds of energy (electric, natural gas, oil, wood stove, solar) will be used to meet the completed project's energy needs? Describe whether it will be used for heating, manufacturing, etc.

   Gas and diesel will be used for heavy equipment during logging, hauling, transportation and road building activities.

   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.

   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.

Gas and diesel will be stored on site during the logging and road building operations for heavy equipment use.

4) Describe special emergency services that might be required.

DNR Fire Crews, Emergency medical services, Department of ecology/Whatcom County in spill event.

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

All operators will have spill kits in event of hazardous materials spills and will follow proper spill clean up procedures.

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 will be created by timber harvesting, road building and log hauling operations. This type of noise is common in these working forest lands. Noise impacts will generally occur Monday – Friday, 4am to 6pm.

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.

Commercial Forestry. This proposal will not affect the land use of this site or any adjacent site.

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 project site has been used as working forest lands in the past, and will continue to be working forest lands after the proposal.

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?
None.

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

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

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

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. The site will be visited post project to ensure that reforestation and road maintenance is adequate. No other people will work or reside at the completed site.

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

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

l. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with existing and projected land uses and plans, if any:
Project is consistent with current planning and zoning classifications of the site.

m. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with nearby agricultural and forest lands of long-term commercial significance, if any:
Site will be maintained as working forest ground. FP rules and regulations will be followed including reforestation to ensure long term forest use.

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.
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?
No structures are proposed.

b. What views in the immediate vicinity would be altered or obstructed?
Portions of the timber harvest will be visible from the FS 38 Road that runs along the Middle Fork of the Nooksack River.

b. Proposed measures to reduce or control aesthetic impacts, if any:
Buffers and leave trees will help to mitigate visual impacts.

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?
No.

c. What existing off-site sources of light or glare may affect your proposal?
None.

d. Proposed measures to reduce or control light and glare impacts, if any:
None.

12. Recreation

a. What designated and informal recreational opportunities are in the immediate vicinity?
Hiking, biking, hunting, ORV use, foraging.

b. Would the proposed project displace any existing recreational uses? If so, describe.
There could be some intermittent disruptions to recreation during timber harvest and hauling operations but these should be limited.

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 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.

This proposal is located in the Nuxwt’iqw’em Cultural District.

There is an old cabin site that is associated with the homesteading of the Hellyer family.

Archaeological & Historic Site # WH00540 Nuxwt’iqw’em/Middle Fork Nooksack River Valley Site per FPRAM 5/18/2022 BH

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.

There is a cabin site on the property related to the Galbraith/Hellyer Family Homestead.

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 archaeology and historic preservation, archaeological surveys, historic maps, GIS data, etc.

Consulting with Hellyer family.

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.

Planned harvest trees around cabins will be felled and yarded away from the cabin to preserve the site. The cabin area is marked with green flagging.

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.

N/A

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).

Existing forest roads will be improved to provide access and timber hauling.
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 no passenger vehicles). What data or transportation models were used to make these estimates?

Up to 25 trips per day could occur during peak harvest activity. Once project is complete the project area could generate a few trips a year for forest management purposes. All trips will occur primarily between 5am and 6pm 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.

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.

16. Utilities

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

N/A

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: [Signature]
Name of signee: Samuel Petska
Position and Agency/Organization: Nielsen Brothers Inc.
Date Submitted: 5/13/22