

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:

Walker Valley 2020 Off-Road Vehicle Bridge Replacement and Removal Project: SMC #2, Pat's #1, Chris Cross #1 Bridges.

2. Name of applicant:

Washington State Department of Natural Resources

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

**Jim Cahill
919 N Township Street
Sedro-Wooley
WA, 98284
360-865-3500**

4. Date checklist prepared:

July 14, 2020

5. Agency requesting checklist:

Washington Department of Natural Resources

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

Construction for the SMC #2 bridge is proposed to begin in the late fall of 2020 and to be completed by late winter to early spring 2021. Construction for the Chris Cross #1 and Pat's #1 bridges are proposed to begin in spring 2021 and to be completed by fall 2021. No construction phasing is proposed. The project may be subject to timing constraints associated with the Hydraulic Project Approval (HPA) required for the bridge replacements.

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

None planned at this time; however, in the future additional bridges may be replaced and/or removed in the Walker Valley Off-Road Vehicle (ORV) area to address water quality issues and serve recreationist needs. Additional SEPA environmental review will be required for such activities.

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

An application for an HPA from Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) for this project will be submitted following completion of the SEPA process.

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 known applications.

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

An HPA from WDFW will be needed for this project. A cultural resource review and request for comments from area tribes for these project sites was completed January, 2012.

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.)

The bridge replacement project intends to improve existing stream crossings and replace deteriorated wooden bridges for the Chris Cross, SMC and Pat's trails within the Walker Valley ORV area. The bridges are intended to accommodate motorcycle and all-terrain vehicle (ATV) trail riding. The SMC #2 bridge crosses an unnamed tributary to Pilchuck Creek. The Pat's #1 bridge crosses an unnamed tributary to Walker Creek. The Chris Cross #1 bridge crosses a type Ns (non-fish-bearing, seasonal) stream which flows to an unnamed tributary to Walker Creek. The new bridges have been designed to span the channels and only impact upland habitat areas around the existing bridge and trail approach.

The proposed project proposes to replace 30-foot bridges at Chris Cross and SMC trails and a 19 foot, 10-inch long bridge at Pat's trail. The existing bridges are 5 feet wide and are composed of log stringers with timber decking. The Chris Cross bridge was damaged by a falling tree and the trail is currently closed at that location. The SMC #2 and Pat's #1 trail bridges are deteriorating and have significant decay. The existing bridges are undersized for the crossing and create a constriction point that is causing erosion of the soils beneath the bridge and downstream, and a backwatering effect upstream. The section of trail involving the subject SMC #2 bridge is also temporarily closed until the bridge is replaced.

At each location, the project will replace the existing bridge with a new 35-foot long by 6-foot, eight-inches wide prefabricated fiber reinforced polymer truss bridge with timber decking. The new bridges will extend the ends of the existing bridges. The new bridges include 4-foot 6-inch tall metal railings and railing outriggers, and will be placed on cast-in-place concrete spread footings at both ends. The constructed bridge will be 2 feet above the ordinary high water mark of the stream. There will be no change to the existing trail alignments. The trail profile will be raised to improve approach grades and the project will remove 0-6 inches of unsuitable material at each approach and backfill with native material and imported trail gravel to achieve the new profile.

The existing trail alignments will accommodate the longer bridges. The longer bridge spans will provide a safe crossing and will reduce erosion and backwatering effects within the stream.

Construction will occur outside the channel, no in-water or in-channel work is proposed. No fill or excavation will take place within any waterbody. Bridge removal will be done using hand crews. Any chemically treated wood will be removed from the site and disposed of at a pre-approved site. Untreated log stringers will be discarded on-site to decay naturally on the forest floor. All exposed soils will be stabilized with sediment control measures, including planting of native vegetation, and installation of silt fences and wattles.

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 project site is located in Skagit County within the Walker Valley Off-Road Vehicle (ORV) area, approximately 8 miles east of the City of Mount Vernon, situated within Washington Department of Natural Resources' (DNR) managed forest lands. The SMC #2 bridge is located along the SMC ORV trail system; Pat's #1 bridge can be accessed via DNR managed forest road

WV-05 off of Peter Burns Road; Chris Cross #1 bridge can be accessed via forest road WV-ML to the Chris Cross trail system.

The project site is located in Sections 3, 10, and 15 of Township 33N, Range 05E of the Public Land Survey System. The street address for the trailhead parking area is 18652 Peter Burns Road, Mount Vernon, WA 98274.

B. Environmental Elements

1. Earth

a. General description of the site:

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

The three bridge sites are located within DNR-managed forest lands. The landscape varies between rolling hills and steep slopes.

The SMC #2 bridge site is located between the base of a hillslope and a forest road. A small perennial stream flows beneath an existing bridge that spans a narrow and moderately steep valley. Exposed bedrock is located at the downstream side of the existing bridge.

The Pat's #1 1 bridge site is located within a narrow, forested valley. A small perennial stream flows beneath an existing bridge that spans the narrow valley. Large downed wood spans the channel downstream of the bridge crossing.

The Chris Cross #1 bridge site is located on a relatively steep, forested slope with a west-facing aspect. A nearby clear-cut area occurs to the south and north of the existing bridge. A small, steep, seasonal stream is spanned by the existing pedestrian bridge.

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

Within the vicinity of the SMC #2 bridge crossing, the steepest slope on site occurs downstream of the bridge crossing. The slopes from the ground surface to the stream below are approximately 80%.

Within the vicinity of the Pat's #1 bridge crossing, the steepest slope occurs on the left bank of the upstream side of the bridge. Approximate slope is 30%.

Within the vicinity of the Chris Cross #1 bridge crossing the steepest slopes are associated with the incised banks of the stream. Approximate slopes were 80-90%. The seasonal stream had slopes of 25+%.

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.

Soils within the locations of the bridges include sandy loams, and silty clayey loams. The NRCS Web Soil Survey maps Chuckanut gravelly ashy sandy loam, 30-65% slopes and Wollard Gravelly silty loam, 3-30% slopes within the project area. Soils mapped within the vicinity of the Chris

Cross bridge include Chuckanut gravelly ashy sandy loam, 15-30% slopes, and Oakes gravelly silty loam, 30-65% slopes.

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

Stream bank erosion and incision was observed on both banks upstream of the SMC #2 bridge crossing. No erosion or evidence of unstable soils was observed in the vicinity of the Pat's #1 and Chris Cross #1 bridges. There is no known history of unstable soils within the project areas.

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.

At each location, no excavation or fill will take place within streams or wetlands. Excavation to mineral soil will take place at both ends of the existing bridges in order to remove the existing bridge abutments and to match the trail grade. Excavation is necessary to install the new bridge abutments that will consist of cast-in-place concrete spread footings. Fill will be required at the bridge ends to tie the existing trail grade into the new bridge deck level. Any unused remaining material will be exported off-site and disposed of at an approved facility. More excavation than fill is required to install the longer bridges.

Approximate cubic yards (CY) of excavation to remove old bridge abutments will occur for the following bridge locations:

**SMC #2: 34 CY
Pat's #1: 20 CY
Chris Cross #1: 26 CY**

Approximate CY of fill material to install new bridge abutments and tie the bridge grade to the existing trail grade will occur for the following bridge locations:

**SMC #2 2: 45CY
Pat's #1 1: 32CY
Chris Cross #1: 32 CY**

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

Erosion could potentially occur during removal and replacement of the bridges due to soil disturbing activities and the potential for precipitation events to mobilize loose soils during this time. Temporary erosion and sediment control measures and appropriate best management practices such as sediment fences and straw wattles will be implemented prior to construction and project related activities. Once completed, the project sites are not anticipated to cause erosion as the bridge elevation and abutments will be located well above the storage depth of the stream.

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

No impervious surfaces are proposed for this project. The new bridges will consist of a reinforced polymer truss bridge with timber decking and will allow for unimpeded flow of water from the bridge deck to the channels below.

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

Appropriate temporary erosion and sediment control measures and best management practices designed to avoid and limit erosion will be deployed during bridge removal and replacement. Silt fencing will be installed around the bridge abutments and along the approach sections of the ORV trails at the project site. Soils exposed for more than 24 hours will be covered with straw or other approved material to limit any potential mobilization.

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.

For each bridge, during bridge replacement there will be emissions from motorized equipment, such as chainsaws and mini-excavators. Motor exhaust from passing ORVs will continue to occur after project construction; these emissions occur under existing conditions and changes in post-project conditions are not anticipated.

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

Off-site sources of emissions include passing ORVs and logging trucks within the Walker Valley ORV area. These sources of emissions occur under normal circumstances and will not affect the project.

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

All onsite equipment will meet applicable emission standards.

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. The bridge replacement sites are located at the crossing of three unnamed tributaries.

The SMC #2 bridge crosses an unnamed tributary to Pilchuck Creek. Using the Washington State Forest Practices Rules' definitions and Forest Practices Application Mapping (FPAM) Tool, the bridge crosses a type N (non-fish habitat) stream. The unnamed tributary is a perennial stream that flows through a narrow, slightly steep valley. The stream has an approximate 5-foot bankfull width. The stream flows through the valley via cascades and falls, and pools beneath the bridge before falling over bedrock and discharging to an approximately 5-foot diameter culvert beneath the adjacent roadway. Stream substrate consists of fine-grained sediments and gravels within the immediate vicinity of the bridge crossing. Substrate upstream of the bridge crossing consists of boulders and cobbles.

The Pat's #1 bridge crosses an unnamed tributary to Walker Creek. Using the Washington State Forest Practices Rules' definitions and the FPAM Tool, the bridge crosses a type N (non-fish habitat) stream. The

stream flows through a cascade system through a narrow valley. The stream system is dominated by cobbles, gravels, and fine-grained sediments upstream of the bridge crossing and gravels and fine sediments downstream of the crossing. Approximate bankfull width of the stream is 5 feet.

One wetland was identified near the northwest corner of the bridge. The wetland is a slope wetland with palustrine emergent habitat. The wetland is located on the upstream right bank and extends beneath the bridge decking. Hydrology in the wetland is driven primarily by groundwater with occasional overbank flooding of the stream.

The Chris Cross #1 bridge crosses a seasonal unnamed stream and eventually discharges its water into Walker Creek. Bankfull width is approximately 4-5 feet. The stream is incised but the banks are stabilized by vegetation. The dominant sediment materials are fines and gravels. The channel is steep, exceeding 25% in many places. The flow regime is intermittent (seasonal) and the stream is a non-fish bearing system due to flow regime and gradient barriers.

- 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. The project involves replacement of three existing bridges over three unnamed tributaries. For this project, an HPA from Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) will be required. However, no in-water work is proposed for this project.

- 3) Estimate the amount of fill and dredge material that would be placed in or removed from surface water or wetlands and indicate the area of the site that would be affected. Indicate the source of fill material.

No fill material will be placed in any waterbody, no dredge material will be removed from any waterbody. No work will occur within any wetlands in the project area.

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

No surface water will be withdrawn or diverted as a component of the project.

- 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. There will be no discharge of waste materials into surface waters.

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.

Groundwater will not be withdrawn, and no water will be discharged to groundwater as a result of the project.

- 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.

No waste material from septic tanks or other sources will be discharged as a result of the project. There are no septic tanks within the project vicinity.

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.

Any storm water runoff from the construction activity will be intercepted by installed erosion control methods such as silt fencing. Under existing conditions, stormwater sheet flows from the trail to the stream channel and infiltrates through the bridge decking. No changes in drainage patterns at the three locations will occur post-construction.

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

No waste material will enter ground or surface waters as a result of the project.

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

The project will not alter or affect drainage patterns in the vicinity of the site.

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

Potential stormwater runoff from the construction activity will be intercepted by installed erosion control methods such as silt fencing and wattles. The new bridges will allow for proper drainage through the bridge decking.

4. Plants

a. Check the 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
 Orchards, vineyards or other permanent crops.
 wet soil plants: cattail, buttercup, bullrush, skunk cabbage, other
 water plants: water lily, eelgrass, milfoil, other
 other types of vegetation

The project site is located within upland mixed deciduous and coniferous forest.

Dominant vegetation within the vicinity of the SMC #2 bridge includes red alder (*Alnus rubra*), western hemlock (*Tsuga heterophylla*), and Western redcedar (*Thuja plicata*), with an understory of sword fern (*Polystichum munitum*), salal (*Gaultheria shallon*), and low Oregon grape (*Mahonia nervosa*).

Dominant vegetation within the vicinity of the Pat's #1 bridge includes red alder, Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*), and western white pine (*Pinus monticola*), with an understory of sword fern and trailing blackberry (*Rubus ursinus*). Stream banks are dominated by black cottonwood saplings (*Populus balsamifera* spp. *trichocarpa*) and salmonberry (*Rubus spectabilis*).

Dominant vegetation within the vicinity of the Chris Cross #1 bridge includes Douglas-fir and western hemlock with an understory of sword fern, trailing blackberry, osoberry (*Oemleria cerasiformis*), and huckleberry (*Vaccinium* spp). Stream banks and the stream bed are dominated by sword fern.

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

Three mature red alder trees may be removed at the SMC #2 bridge site. The trees lean over the ORV trail near the bridge and pose a hazard to trail users. No other trees are proposed for removal. Other minor removal of herbaceous vegetation may be required for bridge placement, such as sword fern, Himalayan blackberry (*Rubus armeniacus*), or salmonberry.

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

None known. The Department of Natural Resources indicates no known rare, threatened, or endangered plant species in the Township, Range, and Sections where the project site is located. The project area in the immediate vicinity of the bridge does not appear to provide known or suitable habitat for any state listed threatened or endangered plant species.

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

Disturbed soils and areas where vegetation is removed and is not part of the ORV trail system will be planted with native vegetation.

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

Himalayan blackberry is present at the SMC #2 and Pat's #1 bridge sites. Himalayan blackberry is also found associated with the clear-cut areas near the Chris Cross #1 bridge.

5. Animals

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

Examples include:

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

mammals: **deer**, **bear**, elk, beaver, other: **bobcat**, **raccoon**, **opossum**, **rabbit**, **small rodents**

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

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

None known. There are no listed threatened and endangered species on or near the site as mapped by Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's (WDFW) Priority Habitat Species Mapping Tool.

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

Yes. The site is within the broad boundaries of the Pacific Flyway, the major migrating corridor for birds in North America west of the continental divide. However, none of the bridge sites themselves are a known congregation point for migrating birds.

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.

There are no known invasive animal species 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.

None needed for the completed project.

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

The project will not affect the potential use of solar energy.

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. The project consists of the removal and replacement of three bridges, and will not consume additional energy once completed

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.

Environmental health hazards associated with the project is limited to those produced by standard trail and ORV bridge construction projects. These may include the emission of gases or minor spilling of fluids associated with construction equipment. All treated wood material will be removed from site.

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

None. Fluids from motorcycles or ATVs that frequent the ORV trails may leak at times, though there are no known contaminants at the site from past or present use.

- 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. There are no existing hazardous chemicals or conditions that may affect the project.

- 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.

Spilling of fluids associated with construction equipment may occur. Fluids such as gasoline and oil will be stored away from the streams and in spill preventative containers. There will be no other storage, use or production of hazardous chemicals during project development and construction.

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

First aid kit and emergency 911 response if there is a worker injury. No other emergency services relating to the removal and replacement of the bridge project is anticipated following completion of the project.

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

Appropriate best management practices will minimize risk of environmental health hazard exposure, and reduce/control environmental health hazards should exposure occur.

b. Noise

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

Existing noise in the project area consists mostly of noise associated with the operation of ORVs. Existing noise sources are not anticipated to affect the proposed project.

- 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.

For the short term during removal of existing bridges, there will be muffled motorized equipment and the sounds of carpentry/handheld power tool equipment. The bridges will be transported to the site in component parts and will be assembled on site. The hours of operation during construction would be from approximately 8 AM to 5 PM.

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

None, other than maintain working mufflers on motorized equipment during construction. The project area is a mile or more from any residential areas and/or human receptors.

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 project site is located in the Walker Valley ORV area in the Walker Valley commercial forest lands. The proposed project will not affect current land uses on or nearby adjacent properties. Though the project may limit the use of the three trails during construction, there will be no effect to the site after construction is complete.

- b. Has the project site been used as working farmlands or working forest lands? If so, describe. How much agricultural or forest land of long-term commercial significance will be converted to other uses as a result of the proposal, if any? If resource lands have not been designated, how many acres in farmland or forest land tax status will be converted to nonfarm or nonforest use?

The project site has not been used for farmlands, but the areas in the vicinity of the project sites have been previously logged. There is no current logging around the project site. The sites are being used as recreational ORV land and the bridges are located within riparian areas that receive additional protections during logging activity. No resource lands will be affected by the project 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:

The proposal will not affect or be affected by surrounding forest-land business operations.

- c. Describe any structures on the site.

The three sites have existing log stringer bridges. The Chris Cross #1 and SMC #2 bridges have 30-foot long bridges and the Pat's trail has a 19-foot, 10-inch long bridge. The existing bridges are 5-foot wide and are composed of log stringers with timber decking. The Chris Cross #1 bridge was damaged by a falling tree and the trail is currently closed at that location. The SMC #2 and Pat's #1 trail bridges are deteriorating and have significant decay. The existing SMC #2 bridge is undersized for the crossing and create a constriction point that is causing erosion of the soils beneath the bridge and downstream, and a backwatering effect upstream.

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

The existing bridges, wingwalls, and abutments will be removed and replaced with new 35-foot long by 6-foot, eight-inches wide prefabricated fiber reinforced polymer truss bridges with timber decking. The new bridges will extend the ends of the existing bridges

Any chemically treated wood will be removed from the site and disposed of at a pre-approved facility.

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

The site is zoned Natural Resource Lands—Industrial Forest.

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

The site is designated Natural Resource Lands—Industrial Forest.

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

Not applicable. There is no shoreline master program designation for the site.

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

Skagit County identifies Walker Creek and two wetlands within the same section, township, and range as the proposed Pat's #1 bridge replacement. No wetlands were identified within the Pat's #1 project area. The stream on site is a tributary to Walker Creek. Skagit County identifies one wetland within the same section, township and range as the Chris Cross #1 project area. No wetlands were identified within the project area during an environmental field survey.

No critical areas are identified by Skagit County within the SMC #2 project vicinity. No wetlands were identified within the project area. The stream on site is a tributary to Pilchuck Creek. The three streams are considered critical areas per Skagit County Code Chapter 14.24

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

None. No people reside or work within the project area.

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

None. The proposed project will not displace any people.

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

None. There will be no displacement impacts.

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

The area is used for ORV recreation and forestry practices. The project will not have an effect on existing land uses. Replacing the bridge will allow for continued use of the ORV trail.

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

The project will not impact agricultural or forest lands.

9. Housing

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

None. No housing is proposed for this project.

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

None. No housing is located within the project vicinity.

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

None. There will be no housing impacts as a result of this project.

10. Aesthetics

a. What is the tallest height of any proposed structure(s), not including antennas; what is the principal exterior building material(s) proposed?

The proposed replacement bridges will be new 35-foot long by 6-foot, eight-inches wide prefabricated fiber reinforced polymer truss bridges with timber decking. The new bridges will extend the ends of the existing bridges. The new bridges includes 4-foot 6-inch tall metal railings and railing outriggers, and will be placed on cast-in-place concrete spread footings at both ends. The constructed bridges will be 2 feet above the ordinary high water mark of the stream.

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

None. No views will be altered or obstructed by the new bridge. There will be no changes in views.

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

None. There will be no impacts to aesthetics as a result of the project.

11. Light and Glare

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

No lighting is proposed for this project, and no glare will be produced. No lighting is present at the site. Removal and replacement of the existing bridge will occur during daylight hours.

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

Not applicable. No light or glare will be produced by the completed project. No lighting is proposed.

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

None. There are no off-site sources of light or glare within the project vicinity.

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

None. There will be no light or glare impacts.

12. Recreation

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

The three bridges are located within the Walker Valley ORV recreational area. Recreational opportunities are largely associated with ORV trail use.

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

No. The Walker Valley Off-Road Vehicle trails are used primarily by ORV recreationists under existing conditions. The proposed project will provide continued use of and access to these trails.

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

Not applicable. The project will provide continued use of and access to existing ORV recreation trails.

13. Historic and cultural preservation

a. Are there any buildings, structures, or sites, located on or near the site that are over 45 years old listed in or eligible for listing in national, state, or local preservation registers? If so, specifically describe.

No, the Washington State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation's (DAHP) website data base does not indicate the presence of any such places or objects.

b. Are there any landmarks, features, or other evidence of Indian or historic use or occupation? This may include human burials or old cemeteries. Are there any material evidence, artifacts, or areas of cultural importance on or near the site? Please list any professional studies conducted at the site to identify such resources.

No historic, scientific, or cultural landmarks are known to be associated with the proposed bridge site.

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.

A cultural resource review and request for comments from area tribes for these project sites was completed January, 2012. No specific concerns were noted by the area tribes. The Washington State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP) has reviewed the project proposal and has issued a letter of concurrence with DNR's findings of no known historic, scientific, or cultural landmarks associated with the project sites.

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.

If any archaeological or historical artifacts are found during project activity, work will stop, the site will be protected from further disturbance, and DNR will notify the Tribes, and all appropriate federal, state and county agencies, including DAHP.

14. Transportation

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

This proposal is located on off-road recreation vehicle dirt trails. Access to these trails is via existing forest logging roads.

- b. Is the site or affected geographic area currently served by public transit? If so, generally describe. If not, what is the approximate distance to the nearest transit stop?

No public transit is located within the project vicinity. The nearest transit stop is approximately 11 miles west near Mount Vernon.

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

None. No parking exists within the project vicinity. No parking is proposed by the project.

- 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 project intends to improve a stream crossing bridge on a recreational ORV trail. No roads, streets, or transportation facilities will be improved or are proposed for this project.

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

No. No water, rail, or air transportation is located within the project vicinity.

- 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?

The project will not generate any vehicular trips above existing conditions.

- 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. The project is located within the vicinity of forestry practices, but will occur along an existing ORV recreational trail. The project will not interfere with the movement of forest products.

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

None. No transportation impacts are anticipated as a result of the project.

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. The project will not result in an increased need for public services. The project will replace an existing ORV trail bridge with a new bridge at the same location.

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

None. There will be no impacts to public services.

16. Utilities

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

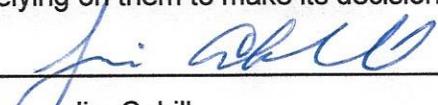
There are no utilities available at the site.

c. Describe the utilities that are proposed for the project, the utility providing the service, and the general construction activities on the site or in the immediate vicinity which might be needed.

No utilities are proposed for the project.

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 Jim Cahill

Position and Agency/Organization Recreation Manager, Washington State Department of Natural Resources

Date Submitted: 7/21/2020