

# 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: *Middle Fork Snoqualmie Trust Land Transfer*
2. Name of applicant: *State of Washington Department of Natural Resources*
3. Address and phone number of applicant and contact person: *1111 Washington Street SE, P.O. Box 47014, Olympia, WA 98504, Bob Winslow, 360-902-1622*

4. Date checklist prepared: *September 28, 2020*
5. Agency requesting checklist: *State of Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR).*
6. Proposed timing or schedule (including phasing, if applicable): *Project will not be phased. Anticipate trust ownership re-designation in late 2020 or early calendar 2021 if/when this project is taken before and approved by the Board of Natural Resources.*
7. Do you have any plans for future additions, expansion, or further activity related to or connected with this proposal? If yes, explain. *No.*
8. List any environmental information you know about that has been prepared, or will be prepared, directly related to this proposal. *Standard DNR agency due diligence property research and investigations. This property lies within the SEPA reviewed planning area for the Snoqualmie Corridor Recreation Plan dated March 2015 which was completed by DNR. This property lies within the SEPA reviewed NRCA Statewide Management Plan dated 1992 which was completed by DNR.*
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. *Yes, this project will need to be approved by the Board of Natural Resources who makes the final DNR land transaction decisions. This Board of Natural Resources decision will occur after SEPA has been completed, and prior to the Closing of this transaction.*
10. List any government approvals or permits that will be needed for your proposal, if known. *The approval of the Board of Natural Resources decision as listed in #9 above along with a Commissioner's Order for state ownership re-designation by the Commissioner of Public Lands Hillary Franz.*
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 Middle Fork Snoqualmie Trust Land Transfer project is funded through the 2019-2021 capital budget of the State of Washington Legislature as passed in Section 3281, Ch. 413, Washington Laws of 2019. The existing Common School Trust land will be re-designated as Natural Resource Conservation Area (NRCA) land upon approval of this transaction and after full financial compensation to the Common School Trust beneficiary. The property size is approximately 25.88 acres and the property is surrounded on all four sides by existing Middle Fork Snoqualmie NRCA ownership. This parcel is the last DNR managed trust parcel within the approved boundary of the Middle Fork Snoqualmie NRCA that has not been transferred into this natural area.*
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. *This Middle Fork Snoqualmie Trust Land Transfer property is located approximately 2.5 miles east of North Bend, Washington in the Middle Fork*

*Snoqualmie watershed. The Middle Fork County Road goes through the property. Applicant is not aware of any assigned address for this property. The property is located in a portion of the East ½ of the Northeast ¼ of Section 16, Township 23 North, Range 9 East, W.M., King County, Washington. The legal description is the following:*

*All those portions of the East Half of the Northeast Quarter of Section 16, according to U.S. government subdivision procedures, lying southerly of the centerline of the Middle Fork Snoqualmie River, in Township 23 North, Range 9 East, W.M., King County, Washington, EXCEPT those portions of the beds and shorelands of the Middle Fork Snoqualmie River if determined to be navigable by law.*

*The site plan map is attached as Exhibit A. The vicinity map is attached as Exhibit B. The topographic map is attached as Exhibit C.*

## **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)? *20 percent*

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. *Menzel sandy loam #4722 and Klaus sandy loam #3954.*

d. Are there surface indications or history of unstable soils in the immediate vicinity? If so, describe. *Yes, the Middle Fork Snoqualmie River has historically and currently eroded and meandered across this property and a stream located in the southern portion of the property has also created soil instability on the property. There are signs of past glacial action on this property and in surrounding areas of the Middle Fork Snoqualmie River valley. The Middle Fork Snoqualmie River is likely a publicly owned navigable river and is located at the northern portion of this property.*

e. Describe the purpose, type, total area, and approximate quantities and total affected area of any filling, excavation, and grading proposed. Indicate source of fill. *There is a county road (Middle Fork County Road) that crosses this property with minor cuts and fills and grading. The quantity of filling is not entirely known as limited data exists as to pre-construction site grade conditions. Borrow fill location is unknown, but it is speculated to be nearby on-site fill dirt which is common for minimizing road construction costs.*

f. Could erosion occur as a result of clearing, construction, or use? If so, generally describe. *No, as no clearing or construction is proposed with this project. This project is solely a re-designation of State of Washington ownership. Natural erosion is likely to occur on this property even with no human actions to this property.*

g. About what percent of the site will be covered with impervious surfaces after project construction (for example, asphalt or buildings)? *No impervious surfaces or ground disturbance actions are proposed as part of this project which is solely a realty ownership re-designation.*

*About 1 percent of the property currently has gravel road ballast on the county road which may be an impervious surface.*

h. Proposed measures to reduce or control erosion, or other impacts to the earth, if any: *None.*

## **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. *Project solely a State of Washington realty ownership re-designation. No air emissions are planned with the project.*

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

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control emissions or other impacts to air, if any: *None.*

## **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 surface water bodies present on the property and in the immediate vicinity which include the Middle Fork Snoqualmie River and an unnamed stream located along the southern portion of the property. The Middle Fork Snoqualmie River is likely a navigable river and fish bearing. Downstream of this property King County has typed this river as a Type 1 water. The un-named stream on the southern portion of the property flows into the Middle Fork Snoqualmie River and may be fish bearing due to its proximity to the river and its gentle stream gradient.*

2) Will the project require any work over, in, or adjacent to (within 200 feet) the described waters? If yes, please describe and attach available plans. *No, this project is solely a State of Washington realty ownership re-designation and no work is planned in, over, or adjacent to any water courses.*

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. *No.*

5) Does the proposal lie within a 100-year floodplain? If so, note location on the site plan. *Yes, portions of the property appear to lie within the 100-year floodplain. Appraisal states flood map no. 53033C1100, but not mapped by FEMA. Location would be the northern portions of the red outlined property shown in Exhibit A.*

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. *None associated with this project. There may be some movement of ditch water along the county road during high rainfall events or during flood events. This project will not modify any stormwater flows.*
- 2) Could waste materials enter ground or surface waters? If so, generally describe. *No waste materials are created associated with this project.*
- 3) Does the proposal alter or otherwise affect drainage patterns in the vicinity of the site? If so, describe. *No.*

d. Proposed measures to reduce or control surface, ground, and runoff water, and drainage pattern impacts, if any: *None proposed.*

4. **Plants**

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

- deciduous tree: alder, maple, aspen, other, Cottonwood
- 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

b. What kind and amount of vegetation will be removed or altered? *None.*

c. List threatened and endangered species known to be on or near the site. *No known threatened or endangered plants. DNR staff ran an agency Special Concerns Report on 10/28/2020 which indicated no known threatened or endangered plants. DNR transaction staff also contacted the DNR Natural Heritage staff who checked the*

heritage database. Heritage staff stated on 11/4/2019 that there were no known threatened or endangered plants or plant communities on this property.

- d. Proposed landscaping, use of native plants, or other measures to preserve or enhance vegetation on the site, if any: *None*.
- e. List all noxious weeds and invasive species known to be on or near the site. *None 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.

Examples include:

birds: hawk, heron, eagle, songbirds other:  
mammals: deer, bear, elk, beaver other:  
fish: bass, salmon, trout, herring, shellfish, other \_\_\_\_\_

- b. List any threatened and endangered species known to be on or near the site. *None*.
- c. Is the site part of a migration route? If so, explain. *Likely part of a neo-tropical songbird seasonal migration route. Elk may seasonally migrate along the river corridor. All of Washington state is within the Pacific Flyway.*
- d. Proposed measures to preserve or enhance wildlife, if any: *None*.
- e. List any invasive animal species known to be on or near the site. *None*.

## 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*.
- 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. *None*.

Describe any known or possible contamination at the site from present or past uses. *None*.

- 1) 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*.

- 2) 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. *None.*
- 3) Describe special emergency services that might be required. *Past human recreational use may have resulted in past need for emergency services. Future human uses may result in similar needs for emergency services.*
- 4) Proposed measures to reduce or control environmental health hazards, if any: *None.*

b. Noise

- 1) What types of noise exist in the area which may affect your project (for example: traffic, equipment, operation, other)? *No affect on project. Some road noise from traffic on county road.*
- 2) What types and levels of noise would be created by or associated with the project on a short-term or a long-term basis (for example: traffic, construction, operation, other)? Indicate what hours noise would come from the site. *None with project. Continued public use of the property may generate some levels of noise from vehicles or recreationists.*
- 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. *Current use of the site and adjacent lands include wildlife habitat, open space, public recreation, picnicking, fishing and hunting. The proposal is not anticipated to affect the land uses on nearby properties.*
- 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? *Yes, the project site has been used as working forestland. The project site will remain as forestland with forest growth productive enough to be classified as commercial forestland, however timber may or may not be harvested in the future under natural area management. Project lands are not tax status designated as commercial forestland as the existing ownership is government ownership under the State of Washington and is tax exempt regarding general taxes.*
  - 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 with this project.*
- e. What is the current zoning classification of the site? *Forestry (F).*
- f. What is the current comprehensive plan designation of the site? *Forest Production District.*

- g. If applicable, what is the current shoreline master program designation of the site? *Not applicable to the realty designation only scope of this project. Shoreland area extends 200 feet inland from the floodplain and the outer edge of the ordinary high water mark.*
- h. Has any part of the site been classified as a critical area by the city or county? If so, specify. *Yes, the area adjacent to the Middle Fork Snoqualmie River is a King County erosion critical area.*
- i. Approximately how many people would reside or work in the completed project? *None.*
- j. Approximately how many people would the completed project displace? *None.*
- k. Proposed measures to avoid or reduce displacement impacts, if any: *None.*
- L. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with existing and projected land uses and plans, if any: *None.*
- m. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with nearby agricultural and forest lands of long-term commercial significance, if any: *None.*

## 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: *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? *None.*
- b. What views in the immediate vicinity would be altered or obstructed? *None.*
- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control aesthetic impacts, if any: *None.*

## 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? *The property has a designated public outdoor recreation lease with oversight by WA State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) with a lease term ending on May 31, 2026. The site has been used for various types of outdoor recreation and is currently used for day visits and was formerly used as a campground. Both the Washington State Department of Natural Resources and the United States Forest Service Mt. Baker Snoqualmie National Forest have designated recreational trails and public recreation sites in this Middle Fork area.*
- b. Would the proposed project displace any existing recreational uses? If so, describe. *No.*
- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts on recreation, including recreation opportunities to be provided by the project or applicant, if any: *None.*

### 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 known to be on-site. Nearby is a trail shown on GLO maps that appear to meet this criteria.*
- 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. *Yes, a check of Washington State Dept. of Historic Preservation records indicate two archaeological sites within one mile of this property.*
- 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. *DNR staff sent notices to the North Puget Sound tribes on 7/12/2019 about the proposed Trust Land Transfer project. A representative from the Swinomish Tribe then contacted DNR to find out the staff contact information for the DNR Middle Fork Snoqualmie NRCA manager and about tribal hunting rights on the property proposed for transfer.*
- 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. *None.*

### 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. *Middle Fork County Road goes across the property. Users can travel east from North Bend using this county road to get to the property. Location shown on Exhibits A and B.*
- 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 known to serve this property or nearby area at this time. King County has intermittently provided some public transportation for recreationists to eastern King County.*
- 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). *None.*
- e. Will the project or proposal use (or occur in the immediate vicinity of) water, rail, or air transportation? If so, generally describe. *Project will not use transportation. Near the project site is the Middle Fork Snoqualmie River and while not currently known as a transportation hub, a person could attempt upstream or downstream travel in a watercraft.*
- 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? *Project is not anticipated to change the number of day trips for this area.*
- 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 road access across this property is over a county road and no anticipated changes in county control or permitted road uses are known at this time for this road.*
- 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 increase in anticipated with this State of Washington ownership re-designation.*
- 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: *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: Bob Winslow

Name of signee Bob Winslow

Position and Agency/Organization Transaction Project Manager; DNR CRT Division; Olympia, WA.

Date Submitted: 9/28/2020