

SEPA¹ 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.

¹ <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/Checklist-guidance>

A. Background

[Find help answering background questions²](#)

1. Name of proposed project, if applicable: Scatter Creek Wildlife Area Oak Release and Prairie Restoration – North Unit

2. Name of applicant: Richard Tveten, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

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

1111 Washington St SE.

Olympia, WA. 98501

360-902-2367

Richard Tveten

4. Date checklist prepared: 4/5/2024

5. Agency requesting checklist: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

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

August - October 2024	November 2024	December 2024 – March 2025	2025-2027
Road construction (including grading, possible gravel placement, etc.). Tree harvest, brush mastication and slash piling.	Abandon and seed temporary roads. Burn slash piles	Plant native species.	Mow Scotch broom

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

No additional commercial harvest projects are anticipated for the foreseeable future on the Scatter Creek Wildlife Area Unit.

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

² <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-A-Background>

The Scatter Creek Wildlife Area Management Plan. A cultural resources review will be prepared.

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.

A Forest Practices Application will be obtained.

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 project will restore 18 acres of oak woodland and 32 acres of complex prairie/conifer transition zones by:

- Commercially harvest excess invading trees (primarily Douglas fir) from 50 acres.
- Minor vegetation clearing and grading along 0.5 miles of existing access road.
- Construction and abandonment of 0.5 miles of temporary roads.
- Clearing brush.
- Piling and burning slash.
- Seeding cleared areas with native prairie and oak woodland species.
- Brush mowing as needed for two years to control invasive Scotch broom.

Similar work was conducted in 2018, mostly in the South Unit.

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 will occur on the North Unit of the Scatter Creek Wildlife Area. The address is 16801 Case Road SW, Rochester, WA 98579 in Thurston County. Work will occur in Section 36 of Township 16 North and Range 3 West.

Site plan with topography and vicinity map attached.

B.Environmental Elements

1. Earth

[Find help answering earth questions](#)³

- a. **General description of the site:** The treatment area is on a flat glacial outwash plain with less than 12 feet in elevation change. The treatment area consists of former prairie, oak woodlands and prairie/forest transition zones that are now overgrown with excess conifers. There are streams and wetlands nearby on the site, but not within the project area. Most of the remainder of the site is prairie but there are forested hills along the northwestern edges of the site that rise about 100 feet above the prairie.

Circle or highlight one: **Flat**, rolling, hilly, steep slopes, mountainous, other:

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

The steepest slope on the project site is about 1%.

- c. **What general types of soils are found on the site (for example, clay, sand, gravel, peat, muck)? If you know the classification of agricultural soils, specify them, and note any agricultural land of long-term commercial significance and whether the proposal results in removing any of these soils.**

- 97% of the project area is mapped as Spanaway sandy gravelly loam
- 2% of the project area is mapped as Everson clay loam
- 1% of the project area is mapped as Spanaway-Nisqually complex (loamy fine sand).

The project area contains no agricultural land of long-term significance, and the project will not remove any soils.

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

No.

- e. **Describe the purpose, type, total area, and approximate quantities and total affected area of any filling, excavation, and grading proposed. Indicate source of fill.**

Minimal grading will occur along the existing access road and the proposed temporary roads to move stumps, large rocks and soil irregularities from the otherwise flat

³ <https://ecology.wa.gov/regulations-permits/sepa/environmental-review/sepa-guidance/sepa-checklist-guidance/sepa-checklist-section-b-environmental-elements/environmental-elements-earth>

outwash plain that would impede vehicle passage. Abandonment of temporary roads will include smoothing of the road surfaces to eliminate tire ruts. No fill will be imported but a surface coating of rock may be placed on the existing access road near the site entrance to prevent tracking of soil onto the county road.

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

Limited erosion could occur within the project area because road construction and abandonment, tree harvesting, brush clearing, and seed bed preparation activities will expose soils. Soils, however, are well draining and relatively flat.

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

0%

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

Minimal erosion is anticipated because the project area is nearly flat and 97% of soils are classified by the Natural Resources Conservation Service as excessively drained. Nevertheless, the following measures will be employed to reduce erosion and prevent impacts:

- harvest activities are scheduled for later summer when rainfall tends to be infrequent and light.
- Soil-stabilizing tree and shrub roots will be retained.
- Native prairie and oak woodland species will be planted in the first available seeding window.

2. Air

[Find help answering air questions](#)⁴

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.

Logging and road construction equipment as well as tractors to disperse seed and mow brush will emit diesel exhaust. Pile burning of slash (perhaps 400-500 tons) will generate smoke but pile burning will be conducted in accordance with DNR permit conditions that are designed to minimize smoke impacts.

⁴ <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-B-Environmental-elements/Environmental-elements-Air>

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

No.

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

Temporary roads will be configured to minimize travel distances by equipment. Weed control mowing will be timed to maximize effectiveness thereby minimizing the number amount of driving needed. Once weed levels are low, control activities will be done on foot rather than using vehicles.

3. Water

[Find help answering water questions](#)⁵

- a. Surface:**

[Find help answering surface water questions](#)⁶

- 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. Scatter Creek and an unnamed tributary to it. Both are seasonal fish bearing streams. There are riparian wetlands in association with both streams. Scatter Creek flows into the Chehalis River.

- 2. Will the project require any work over, in, or adjacent to (within 200 feet) the described waters? If yes, please describe and attach available plans.**

Yes. The project will include tree harvesting as close as 90 feet from Scatter Creek and 50 feet of the unnamed tributary (See site plan map) consistent with DNR Forest Practice regulations designed to protect water quality and fish habitat. Brush clearing, seeding and weed control will also occur in those areas.

- 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.

⁵ <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-B-Environmental-elements/Environmental-elements-3-Water>

⁶ <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-B-Environmental-elements/Environmental-elements-3-Water/Environmental-elements-Surface-water>

4. Will the proposal require surface water withdrawals or diversions? Give a 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.

A small corridor within the project areas lies within the FEMA 100-year floodplain (purple cross-hatching outlined in red on the below aerial photo).



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 and not applicable.

b. Ground:

[Find help answering ground water questions](https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-B-Environmental-elements/Environmental-elements-3-Water/Environmental-elements-Groundwater)⁷

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

⁷ <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-B-Environmental-elements/Environmental-elements-3-Water/Environmental-elements-Groundwater>

quantities withdrawn from the well. Will water be discharged to groundwater? Give a general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.

No and not applicable.

- 2. Describe waste material that will be discharged into the ground from septic tanks or other sources, if any (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.**

Not applicable.

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.**

No stormwater runoff is anticipated as 1) the site is relatively flat, 2) 97% most soils are classified as excessively well drained, 3) tree harvesting will occur in late summer when rainfall tends to be minimal and water absorption capacity is high, 4) the project area contains no impervious surfaces and 5) mature forested buffers would absorb any potential runoff.

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

No. Waste materials will consist of wood slash which will be piled for burning.

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

No and not applicable.

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

Surface water and water runoff: Tree harvesting will occur in late summer on excessively well drained prairie soils when rainfall tends to be minimal and water absorption capacity is high such that no accumulations of surface water or runoff are anticipated.

Groundwater: No groundwater impacts are anticipated as no impervious surfaces will be installed, no surface flows will be altered and no grading will occur within the water table.

Drainage patterns: Drainage patterns will not be altered as minimal grading will occur and temporary roads will be installed and abandoned within a single dry season. As 97% of the soils are classified as excessively well drained, and no imperious surfaces will be installed, surface drainage is not anticipated.

4. Plants

[Find help answering plants questions](#)

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**

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

Trees (mostly evergreens) and brush will be removed to restore oak woodlands and prairie vegetation across 50 acres. Native prairie and oak woodland species will be planted. Invasive weeds will be mowed.

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

Federally threatened Mazama pocket gophers are present on the open prairie portions of the Unit. Federally threatened Mazama pocket gophers and Taylor's checkerspot butterflies are both present on the South Unit of the Scatter Creek Wildlife Area (on the other side of Scatter Creek and it's associated wetlands).

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

The primary purpose of this project is to restore native prairie and oak woodland vegetation. After invading trees and shrubs are removed, the entire area will be seeded with native prairie and oak woodland species. Oak seedling establishment will be favored and invasive species like Scotch broom will be controlled via mowing.

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

Noxious weeds include: Spotted knapweed, sulfur cinquefoil, and tansy ragwort, is noxious weed of greatest concern. There are 75 non-native species on the site. A comprehensive list is available at: https://sites.evergreen.edu/naturalhistory/wp-content/uploads/sites/525/2021/11/Scatter_Creek.pdf. The invasive species of greatest concern within the project footprint include Scotch broom and Himalayan blackberry.

5. Animals

[Find help answering animal questions](#)⁸

- a. **List any birds and other animals that 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:** According to e-bird.org, 145 species of birds have been sighted on the wildlife area. For their complete list, see <https://ebird.org/hotspot/L777678>
- **Mammals: deer, bear, elk, beaver, other:** Black tailed deer, black bear, beaver, coyote, otter, muskrat, mink, weasel, bobcat, rabbits, raccoon, nutria, squirrel, skunk Mazama pocket gopher, mice, voles, moles, shrews and bats.
- **Fish: bass, salmon, trout, herring, shellfish, other:** Cutthroat trout, coho salmon, Olympic mudminnow, three spined stickleback and freshwater mussels.

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

Federally threated Mazama pocket gophers are present on the North Unit of the Wildlife area. Both federally threated Mazama pocket gophers and Taylor’s checkerspot butterflies are present on the nearby South Unit of the wildlife area.

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

The wildlife area unit is part of a migration route for numerous bird species and Scatter Creek is a part of a migration route for cutthroat trout and coho.

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

The purpose of this project is to restore habitats for species (including federally threatened Mazama pocket gophers) that are dependent on prairies and oak woodlands. Removal of trees and brush, planting native species and controlling weeds are all designed in restore and improve these habitats.

⁸ <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-B-Environmental-elements/Environmental-elements-5-Animals>

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

Nutria are present in Scatter Creek.

6. Energy and natural resources

[Find help answering energy and natural resource questions](#)⁹

- 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.**

Diesel and gasoline will be used as fuel to power vegetation clearing equipment.

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

No and not applicable.

- 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.**

The temporary roads are configured to minimize the distance traveled by vehicles. Weed control activities will be timed to optimize effectiveness thereby minimizing vehicle usage.

7. Environmental health

[Health Find help with answering environmental health questions](#)¹⁰

- a. **Are there any environmental health hazards, including exposure to toxic chemicals, risk of fire and explosion, spill, or hazardous waste, that could occur because of this proposal? If so, describe.**

Timber harvesting could start a wildfire, but DNR regulations require that firefighting equipment be pre-positioned site and restrict activities during high fire risk conditions. It is possible that pile burn could start a wildfire, but DNR burn permit regulations contain provisions to minimize the potential for wildfires.

It is possible that vehicles could leak fuel, lubricants or coolants so spill kits are required.

⁹ <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-B-Environmental-elements/Environmental-elements-6-Energy-natural-resou>

¹⁰ <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-B-Environmental-elements/Environmental-elements-7-Environmental-health>

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

None known and none shown on Thurston County maps.

- 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 and none shown on Thurston County maps.

- 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.**

Vehicles contain fuel, lubricants and coolants.

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

If a wildfire were to occur, DNR and the local fire department would be contacted. In anyone were to be injured, the local fire department (2 miles away) could provide emergency medical attention.

- 5. Proposed measures to reduce or control environmental health hazards, if any.**

Follow DNR regulations to minimize the probability of wildfire. Follow Department of Ecology standards for spill prevention and containment.

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)?**

Numerous vehicles (Feller buncher, rubber-tired skidder, processor, loader, masticator, log trucks and pickup trucks during the initial land clearing phase of the project. Hours of operation will vary based on DNR regulations related to wildfire risk. If wildfire risks are low, operations would start in early morning and end in the early afternoon. If wildfire risks are high, operations would likely start at 1-2:00 in the morning and end by 1:00 PM. After the initial land clearing is completed, work would largely occur on weekdays between 8:00 AM and 5:00 PM and only involve a

tractor and occasional chainsaw use. There is one residence about 500 feet from the project. WDFW has met with the residents of the home to discuss the potential for noise and the residents were not concerned. Other nearby homes are more than 1,200 feet from the harvest unit and so close to Interstate 5 that noise from the highway would likely drown out any noise associated with the project. The contract will adhere to all IFPL guidelines.

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

Contact information has been provided to the nearest home and they have been encouraged to call WDFW if noise becomes problematic. If noise becomes a problem, WDFW will address the issue, most likely with work timing restrictions near the house.

8. Land and shoreline use

[Find help answering land and shoreline use questions](#)¹¹

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.

This is a walk-in only wildlife area with hunting and wildlife viewing as the primary recreational activities. Wildlife Area land extend about 1/2-3/4 mile to the northeast and the southwest. Nearby adjacent properties southeast include a commercial fish farm and low-density housing.

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 because 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 site was logged at least once prior to acquisition. While previously logged, forest land is not of long-term commercial significance. The project site was not designated as long-term agriculture or forestry land in the 2020 update of the Thurston County Comprehensive Plan. The presence of prairie soils, historic photos, relative paucity of old-growth conifer stumps and the presence of old-growth oaks all indicate that, until recently, the area was largely open prairie and oak woodland which is not a commercially important species. Much of the land will be managed as oak woodland and savanna. The remaining areas will consist of complex prairie/conifer transition zone habitat with large, widely scattered trees.

¹¹ <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-B-Environmental-elements/Environmental-elements-8-Land-shoreline-use>

- c. 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 and not applicable.

- d. Describe any structures on the site.**

There are no structures in the project area. There is, however, a wildlife area office with a shop about $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile from the project area.

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

No and not applicable.

- f. What is the current zoning classification of the site?**

Rural 1 unit per acres but WDFW lands should be classified as Public parks, trails and preserves.

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

Parks, preserves and open spaces

- h. If applicable, what is the current shoreline master program designation of the site?**

Conservancy management.

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

The streams and associated wetlands have been identified as critical areas on the Thurston County map layers. Oak woodlands and prairie are also considered to critical areas but they are not shown on the county maps

- j. Approximately how many people would reside or work in the completed project?**

None.

- k. Approximately how many people would the completed project displace?**

None.

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

Not applicable.

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

Not applicable. Habitat restoration is consistent with the project land use on the wildlife area.

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

Not applicable. No agricultural or forest lands of long-term commercial significance will be impacted.

9. Housing

[Find help answering housing questions](#)¹²

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

None and not applicable.

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

None and not applicable.

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

Not applicable.

10. Aesthetics

[Find help answering aesthetics questions](#)¹³

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

Not applicable.

¹² <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-B-Environmental-elements/Environmental-elements-9-Housing>

¹³ <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-B-Environmental-elements/Environmental-elements-10-Aesthetics>

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

Views from outside of the wildlife area looking in would not be altered. Views within the project area would be expanded by restoring prairie.

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

None, as the project will result in aesthetically beautiful wildlife habitat.

11. Light and glare

[Find help answering light and glare questions](#)¹⁴

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

Vehicle headlights will produce visible light when using the site entrance on Case Road, prior to sunrise. Most light generated within the treatment unit will be blocked by surrounding forests.

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

No, as there will be no sources of light associated with the finished project.

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

Note

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

None.

12. Recreation

[Find help answering recreation questions](#)

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

The wildlife area is used for hunting, wildlife viewing, dog training and horseback riding.

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

¹⁴ <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-B-Environmental-elements/Environmental-elements-11-Light-glare>

Yes. Recreation would be temporarily diverted to other parts of the wildlife area during the first few months for safety purposes. After that, recreation could resume with increased opportunities for hunting and wildlife viewing as more open prairie edge and oak woodland habitat conditions develop.

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

Project activities will be scheduled to the degree possible to limit overlap with hunting seasons and major recreational events.

13. Historic and cultural preservation

[Find help answering historic and cultural preservation questions](#)¹⁵

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.

WDFW archaeologists are conducting a cultural resources study meeting the Department of Archeological and Historic Preservation standards, including background review, archaeological survey, and consultation with locally affected tribes and the Department of Archeological and Historic Preservation.

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.

As a result of the professional survey conducted by WDFW archaeologists, no previously unrecorded sites were identified

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.

WDFW archaeologists are conducting a cultural resources study meeting DAHP standards including background review, archaeological survey, and consultation with locally affected tribes and the Department of Archeological and Historic Preservation.

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.

Measures will be implemented to avoid sites in consultation with locally affected tribes and the Department of Archeological and Historic Preservation. No permits will be necessary.

¹⁵ <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-B-Environmental-elements/Environmental-elements-13-Historic-cultural-p>

14. Transportation

[Find help with answering transportation questions](#)¹⁶

- 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.**

Traffic during the initial land clearing phase will enter and exit the site via an existing, unpaved road that connects with Case Road SW which is a county road. Traffic associated with plating subsequent weed mowing will be internal with equipment driving across the prairie from the on-site office to the work area.

- 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. 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 existing internal access road will be improved by clearing encroaching vegetation and minor grading to move large rocks and topographical irregularities that impede vehicle use. A new gate will be installed at the entrance to allow for safer ingress and egress. Gravel will be placed near the entrance, if necessary, to prevent tracking of soil onto Case Road.

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

No.

- e. 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?**

None and not applicable as this will a habitat restoration project and not a site development project.

- f. 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.

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

¹⁶ <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-B-Environmental-elements/Environmental-elements-14-Transportation>

None.

15. Public services

[Find help answering public service questions¹⁷](#)

- 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

[Find help answering utilities questions¹⁸](#)

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

None are currently available in the project area.

- 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 are proposed for project area.

C. Signature

[Find help about who should sign¹⁹](#)

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.

¹⁷ <https://ecology.wa.gov/regulations-permits/sepa/environmental-review/sepa-guidance/sepa-checklist-guidance/sepa-checklist-section-b-environmental-elements/environmental-elements-15-public-services>

¹⁸ <https://ecology.wa.gov/regulations-permits/sepa/environmental-review/sepa-guidance/sepa-checklist-guidance/sepa-checklist-section-b-environmental-elements/environmental-elements-16-utilities>

¹⁹ <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-C-Signature>

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Richard Tveten". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line above the first name.

Type name of signee: Richard Tveten

Position and agency/organization: Forest Management Team Lead

Date submitted: 7/11/2024