

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](https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-A-Background)

1. Name of proposed project, if applicable:

Methow Wildlife Area Winter Closure

2. Name of applicant:

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

Attn: Brandon Troyer – Assistant Regional Wildlife Program Manager, R2 North

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

Methow Wildlife Area

350 Bear Creek Rd., Winthrop, WA 98862

509-996-2559

Brandon.Troyer@dfw.wa.gov

4. Date checklist prepared:

11/26/2024

5. Agency requesting checklist:

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

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

To close annually on December 15th, 2024 and reopen on April 1, 2025st. WDFW is also considering a subsequent closure the following winter, December 15, 2025 through March 31, 2026. Depending on information gathered during 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 winter closures, WDFW will consider whether to put in place an annual winter closure that would occur each year at approximately the same time (mid-December to end of March).

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

The closure boundaries and dates may be adjusted in the future, but there are no plans to do so at this time.

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

This winter range closure has been discussed with the Methow Wildlife Area Advisory Committee, the Methow Planning Team, and the District Team, all of which support the closure. This winter range closure is also part of the draft Methow Wildlife Area Management Plan. Additionally, “Winter Ranges of Mule Deer in Methow Herd in Washington” was published in 2022. Lastly, winter range closure were discussed as a

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

management tool back in 1978 when the Okanogan Mule Deer book was published by Don Zeigler with the Washington Department of Game.

9. Do you know whether applications are pending for governmental approvals of other proposals directly affecting the property covered by your proposal? If yes, explain.

None known.

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

None known.

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.)

WDFW proposes to close portions of the Methow Wildlife Area from December 15 – April 1. This SEPA checklist is intended to cover the 2024-2025 closure, as well as potential closure in 2025-2026, and other future years of closure implementation. This will include partially closing five units: Texas Creek, Golden Doe, Methow, Big Buck and Rendezvous. The following units are NOT part of the closure: Hunter Mountain, Big Valley, and Early Winters.

The Methow Valley is home to one of the largest migratory mule deer herds in Washington state. Many of these deer take up wintertime residence on the Methow Wildlife Area. Much of the Methow Wildlife Area was purchased specifically for the protection of migratory corridors and mule deer winter range. Several factors including climate change, wildfire, land development/conversion, have resulted in both temporary and permanent reductions in mule deer winter range habitat quality and quantity, and the magnitude of these impacts has accelerated in recent decades. In addition, winter and early spring recreation has increased significantly in the watershed including on mule deer winter range. The displacement effects of human activity on deer are well documented in the literature. Increasing human use is also impacting habitat effectiveness (the ability/willingness of animals to use an area). Consequently, this closure is intended to conserve and perpetuate mule deer populations by reducing human pressure in critical habitat during the months when mule deer are most challenged by food scarcity and energetic demands. The proposed closure areas are centered on quality winter/spring range and known mule deer activity areas.

The closure area encompasses approximately 23,396 acres and includes 5 partial units of the Methow Wildlife Area, which is located in Okanogan County: The Texas Creek Unit is closed west of Hwy 153. The Golden Doe Unit is closed west of Twisp-Carlton Road. The Big Buck Unit is closed east of Frost Road, but Frost Lake is excluded from the closure. The Methow Unit is closed except for lands west of East Chewuch Road, including Upper and Lower Bobcat campgrounds and Boulder Creek campground. The Beaver Creek campground, Lloyd Ranch, and Bowen Mountain would also be exempt from the closure. The Rendezvous Unit is closed around Lewis Butte and Rizeor Lake.

Areas to be closed within those units will be thoroughly delineated with closure signs and maps detailing the closure boundaries. No public access will be permitted within the closure boundaries. The closure will begin at 12:01 a.m. on December 15th, 2024 and end at 11:59 p.m. on March 31st, 2025. As noted above, there may be similar winter closures in subsequent years. U.S Forest Service and Okanogan County roads within the wildlife area remain open and are not impacted by this closure.

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.

Texas Creek and Golden Units: T31 R22E, T32 R22E, T33 R22E

Big Buck Unit: T33 R21E, T34 R21E

Methow Unit: T33 R22E and 23E, T34 22E and 23E, T35 R21E and 22E

Rendezvous Unit: T35 R21E

All of the above closures occur on the Methow Wildlife Area in Okanogan County. Please see maps for exact boundaries.

B. Environmental Elements

1. Earth

[Find help answering earth questions³](#)

a. General description of the site:

Predominantly shrubsteppe, mixed conifer and pine forests, and riparian areas.

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

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

Variable

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.

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

The closure area covers thousands of acres and includes various soil types such as sandy and loamy soils. Portions of the wildlife area used to be ranches and agricultural lands, but no soils will be removed as part of this project. No commercial agricultural practices will be impacted by this closure.

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

The proposed closure covers thousands of acres and does not involve any ground disturbing activities. It is likely given the scale of the closures that there are some areas with unstable soils.

- 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.**

NA. No soil will be removed.

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

The proposed closure is unlikely to change current conditions.

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

NA. The proposed closure does not involve any construction.

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

NA. No soil disturbing work is planned as part of this closure.

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.**

NA. No construction and no estimated changes in emissions.

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

None known.

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

None.

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

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, there are multiple water bodies within the units, but the proposed closure does not impact surface water. Common names of some of the water bodies in the area are the Methow, Twisp, and Chewuch Rivers, Deadhorse Lake, Peter's Puddles, Rizeor Lake, Frost Lake, Campbell Lake, Cougar Lake, Bear Creek, Sullivan Pond, Beaver Creek, Libby Creek Frazer Creek, Wenner Lakes, Alder Creek.

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

No.

- 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 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.**

NA. No construction to occur.

- 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.

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>

b. Ground:

[Find help answering ground water questions](#)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 quantities withdrawn from the well. Will water be discharged to groundwater? Give a 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 (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.**

The proposed closure does not result in any changes to stormwater. No construction or impervious surfaces.

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

NA. No waste materials generated as part of 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.

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

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>

- 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.

None known.

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.

Primarily native habitats, but some noxious weeds are present on the landscape, including, knapweeds, thistles, houndstongue, mullein, whitetop, and nonnative annual grasses such as cheatgrass.

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, among others:
- **Mammals:** mule deer, white-tailed deer, black bear, beaver, western gray squirrel, among others:
- **Fish:** predominantly salmon and trout.

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

Western gray squirrels, gray wolves, bull trout, salmon, steelhead.

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

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>

Yes. Much of the Methow Wildlife Area was purchased and is managed for its mule deer winter range and mule deer migration corridors.

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

The primary purpose of the proposed closure is to protect wildlife from human disturbance during winter and spring.

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

None known.

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.

NA

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

NA

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.

NA

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.

No.

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

NA

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.

NA

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>

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.

NA

4. Describe special emergency services that might be required.

NA

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

NA

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)?

No new noise.

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

None.

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.

Sites are currently managed by WDFW as part of wildlife management areas. No lands outside of the WDFW closure boundaries are anticipated to be impacted by the closure.

- 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?

Some areas were working farmlands before government acquisition and some is working forest land. No conversions of any lands will take place as part of this project.

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?

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>

No.

c. Describe any structures on the site.

Kiosk, signs, fences, gates, and relic farm structures such as barns and grain silos.

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

No.

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

Okanogan County Rural 5 Acre, Rural 20 Acre, Forest 20, and Agriculture 20, water, valley floor, uplands.

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

Agriculture and Forest Resources. The Okanogan County Comprehensive Plan is still in draft form.

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

The majority of the Methow Wildlife Area is not in the shoreline master designation. A limited amount of parcels fall under the Natural and Conservancy shoreline designation

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

None known.

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

NA

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

None.

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

NA

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

None.

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

None.

9. Housing

[Find help answering housing questions](#)¹²

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>

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

NA

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

NA

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

NA

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?**

NA

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

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

NA

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?**

NA

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

NA

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

NA

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

NA

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>

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>

12. Recreation

[Find help answering recreation questions](#)

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

WDFW wildlife areas are usually open to a variety of recreational activities, including, hunting, hiking, wildlife viewing, mountain biking, equestrian, and fishing.

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

Yes, the proposed closure will displace all forms of recreation within the closure boundaries, which only accounts for approximately 2.2% of all public land in the Methow watershed.

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

Three wildlife area units are not impacted by this closure. The five units included in the closure are only partially closed to ensure each unit can provide sufficient recreational opportunities. WDFW is providing groomed trail recreation at the Big Valley and Lloyd Ranch.

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.**

Yes. There are various structures that would likely qualify for registry. Nearly all structures have been surveyed and documented in a built inventory assessment of the wildlife area. The closure will not impact any of the structures.

- 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, multiple sites are likely to occur or are known to occur. Multiple studies are likely to have been completed related to other activities. This project has no ground disturbing activities and is not anticipated to negatively impact any sites.

- 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.**

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>

No ground disturbing activities or actions that would impact cultural or historic resources are part of this project. WDFW did meet with the Confederated Colville Tribes and the Yakama Nation. Both tribes support the closure to protect wintering wildlife.

- 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

[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.**

No county or federally managed roads will be impacted.

- 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).**

No

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

NA

- 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

- 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:**

None

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>

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:**

- 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

[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.

X *Brandon Troyer*

Type name of signee: Brandon Troyer

Position and agency/organization: WDFW, Assistant Regional Wildlife Program Manager, R2 North

Date submitted: 11/26/2024

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>

D. Supplemental sheet for nonproject actions

[Find help for the nonproject actions worksheet²⁰](#)

Do not use this section for project actions.

Because these questions are very general, it may be helpful to read them in conjunction with the list of the elements of the environment.

When answering these questions, be aware of the extent the proposal, or the types of activities likely to result from the proposal, would affect the item at a greater intensity or at a faster rate than if the proposal were not implemented. Respond briefly and in general terms.

- 1. How would the proposal be likely to increase discharge to water; emissions to air; production, storage, or release of toxic or hazardous substances; or production of noise?**

NA

- **Proposed measures to avoid or reduce such increases are:**

- 2. How would the proposal be likely to affect plants, animals, fish, or marine life?**

NA

- **Proposed measures to protect or conserve plants, animals, fish, or marine life are:**

- 3. How would the proposal be likely to deplete energy or natural resources?**

NA

- **Proposed measures to protect or conserve energy and natural resources are:**

- 4. How would the proposal be likely to use or affect environmentally sensitive areas or areas designated (or eligible or under study) for governmental protection, such as parks, wilderness, wild and scenic rivers, threatened or endangered species habitat, historic or cultural sites, wetlands, floodplains, or prime farmlands?**

The proposed closure area is located on state lands managed by WDFW as a wildlife area.

- **Proposed measures to protect such resources or to avoid or reduce impacts are:**

The proposed closure area will reduce human disturbance to wildlife during critical periods.

- 5. How would the proposal be likely to affect land and shoreline use, including whether it would allow or encourage land or shoreline uses incompatible with existing plans?**

²⁰ <https://ecology.wa.gov/regulations-permits/sepa/environmental-review/sepa-guidance/sepa-checklist-guidance/sepa-checklist-section-d-non-project-actions>

NA

- **Proposed measures to avoid or reduce shoreline and land use impacts are:**

6. How would the proposal be likely to increase demands on transportation or public services and utilities?

NA

- **Proposed measures to reduce or respond to such demand(s) are:**

7. Identify, if possible, whether the proposal may conflict with local, state, or federal laws or requirements for the protection of the environment.

Proposal does not conflict with local, state or federal laws.