



State of Washington
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

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SEPA ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST FOR WDFW CAMP PROJECTS

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.

Some of the answers below have been pre-filled (underlined text). **Please review them for accuracy and edit as needed for your proposal.**

A. Background [Find help answering background questions](#)

1. Name of proposed project:

Palmer Ponds – River Intake Platform

2. Name of applicant:

Michelle Holtz – Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

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

Address: 600 Capitol Way N, Olympia, WA 98501

Phone number: (564) 669-4904

4. Date checklist prepared:

11/25/2024

5. Agency requesting checklist:

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

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

Spring 2025

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

WDFW is considering updating hatchery infrastructure at the Palmer Rearing Ponds facility within the next 5 years.

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

None List: Wetland Delineation, Cultural Resources Report

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 Yes, explain:

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

- A SEPA threshold determination.
- A WDFW Hydraulic Project Approval.
- A WDFW Fish Habitat Enhancement Exemption.
- A WA Dept. of Natural Resources Aquatic Use Authorization.
- A USACE Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 404 – discharges to navigable waters.
- A USACE CWA Section 10 – work in navigable waters.
- A WA Dept. of Ecology CWA Section 401 Water Quality Certification.
- Local Jurisdiction – County/city:
 - Shoreline Substantial Development permit.
 - Critical Areas Permit.
 - Other: Clearing/Grading Permit, Floodplain Development Permit (no shoreline required per RCW 90.58.357)
- Other permits:

11. Give a 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.

The current Green River intake at the Palmer Ponds Rearing Facility does not have safe access for hatchery staff to conduct periodic maintenance of the intake. This work includes cleaning the intake screens at all hours of the day and night. This has become a difficult and dangerous task for staff. WDFW proposes to construct a new 31' x 2' x 4' walkway to allow safe access to the hatchery intake. It will attach to a concrete abutment (existing boulder encased in concrete) on shore and rest on an existing boulder on the other side. No dredge or fill is required for installation of this walkway.

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.

Project address or location description:

Palmer Ponds Fish Rearing Facility
32915 SE 309th St.
Ravensdale, WA 98051

County: King Township, Range, and Section: 21N, 07E, 10

GPS coordinates (optional): 47.32222, -121.901339

B. Environmental Elements

1. Earth [Find help answering earth questions](#)

a. General description of the site:

Check one: Flat, Rolling, Hilly, Steep slopes, Mountainous, Other:

b. 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.

The NRCS Web Soil Mapper identified Edgewick silt loam (map unit 53) and Barneston gravelly ashy coarse sandy loam (map unit 12) as the two main soil units occurring in the project area. No soils of agricultural significance will be removed as a result of this project.

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

No Yes, describe:

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

Not applicable

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

No Yes, describe: Construction could potentially cause minor erosion. Best management practices (BMPs) will be installed to limit the extent of erosion caused by construction.

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

No change in impervious surface is anticipated.

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

Construction activities will be in accordance with a temporary erosion and sediment control plan. Any bare earth will be stabilized with seeding, mulching, or other appropriate methods.

2. Air [Find help answering air questions](#)

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.

Dust and vehicle emissions may be slightly increased during construction but no increase of emissions are anticipated once the project is complete.

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

No Yes, describe:

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

Equipment and construction time will be limited to the amount necessary to complete the project. Appropriate BMPs will be implemented, as needed.

3. Water [Find help answering water questions](#)

a. Surface Water: [Find help answering surface water questions](#)

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.

No Yes, describe: The intake associated with this project is located in the Green River. The Green River is Type S and flows in the Duwamish 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.

No Yes, describe: This project will install a gangway to allow hatchery staff to maintain the hatchery intake. One side of this gangway will be attached to a concrete abutment on shore and the other side will rest on an existing boulder.

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

No fill or dredge material will be placed in or removed from surface water or wetlands.

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

No Yes, describe:

5. Does the proposal lie within a 100-year floodplain? If so, note location on the site plan.

No Yes, describe: Panel No. 53033C1325G on the FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) depicts the area as Zone X, an area of minimal flood hazard.

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 Yes, describe:

b. Ground Water: [Find help answering ground water questions](#)

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 Yes, describe:

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 water runoff is anticipated from this project.

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

No Yes, describe:

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

No Yes, describe:

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

No runoff is anticipated from this project. However, BMPs will be implemented as needed during construction.

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?

Some grasses and small shrubs may be removed for access, but no major vegetation removal is anticipated for this project.

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

None.

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

None. Yes, describe:

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

English Ivy (*Hedera helix*)

5. Animals [Find help answering animal questions](#)

a. Circle or 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:

Mammals: deer, bear, elk, beaver, other: racoons

Fish: bass, salmon, trout, herring, shellfish, other:

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

Species:

- Endangered – Gray Wolf (*Canis lupus*)
- Threatened – North American Wolverine (*Gulo gulo luscus*), Marbled Murrelet (*Brachyramphus marmoratus*), Yello-billed Cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus*), Bull Trout (*Salvelinus confluentus*)
- Candidate – Monarch Butterfly (*Danaus Plexippus*)

- ESA-listed species range for the Chinook Salmon Puget Sound Evolutionarily Significant Unit (ESU) and the Steelhead Puget Sound Distinct Population Segment (DPS)

Information obtained from: USFWS Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC), NOAA Fisheries Protected Resource App

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

No Yes, describe:

The Green River and surrounding area serve as migration routes for salmonids and birds. Salmonid species documented in the Green River include Chinook Salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*), Coho Salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*), Steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*), Sockeye Salmon (*Onchorhynchus nerka*), Cutthroat Trout (*Oncorhynchus clarkii*), and Rainbow Trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*). The five migratory birds with the potential to occur at this location according to IPaC are the Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*), Black Swift (*Cypseloides niger*), Chestnut-backed Chickadee (*Poecile rufescens rufescens*), Evening Grosbeak (*Coccothraustes vespertinus*), Olive-sided Flycatcher (*Contopus cooperi*), and Rufous Hummingbird (*Selasphorus rufus*).

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

Work will be limited to the time needed for construction. No dredging or fill will occur within the Green River.

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

No invasive animals are known to occur at this site.

6. Energy and Natural Resources [Find help answering energy and natural resource questions](#)

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.

The machinery used during construction will use diesel fuel to complete the work.

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

No Yes, describe:

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.

No specific energy conservation features are included in this proposal.

7. Environmental Health [Find help with answering environmental health questions](#)

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 Yes, specify: Fuel spills or vehicle/machinery leaks are possible during construction. The risk of a spill or leak is not likely and spill kits are available at the project site if a spill should occur. Fueling of vehicles and machinery is done at least 50 feet from waterbodies.

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

There is no known contamination at the site from present or past uses.

- 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.**

There are no known hazardous chemicals or conditions that might affect project development.

- 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.**

No toxic or hazardous chemicals are anticipated to be onsite during the life of this project outside those associated with construction equipment, such as fuel.

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

No special emergency services are anticipated.

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

Fueling of vehicles and machinery will be completed on uplands and away from the water body to prevent any source of fuel from entering surface waters. A spill kit will be available on site in the event of an accidental spill.

b. Noise

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

The closest source of noise comes from the Green River, hatchery operations, and residences nearby. No noise is expected to impact this project.

- 2. What types and levels of noise would be created by or associated with the project on a short-term or a long-term basis (for example: traffic, construction, operation, other)? Indicate what hours noise would come from the site)?**

The project will generate noise from construction vehicles during construction. Equipment is anticipated to run during normal working hours of operation for the majority of the project. Increases in noise after construction are not anticipated.

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

Noise from construction activities will be limited to typical working hours (7am-5pm, Monday-Friday).

8. Land and Shoreline Use [Find help answering land and shoreline use questions](#)

- a. What is the current use of the site and adjacent properties? Will the proposal affect current land uses on nearby or adjacent properties? If so, describe.**

The current use of the site is as the Green River intake for the adjacent Palmer Ponds Fish Rearing Facility. This proposal will not affect current land uses on nearby or adjacent 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 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?

No Yes, describe:

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 Yes, how:

c. Describe any structures on the site.

The Palmer Ponds rearing facility includes rearing ponds, raceways, tanks, residence, detached garage area, intake, and pumphouse/well.

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

No Yes, specify:

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

RA-5 (Rural Area)

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

F (forestry) and ra (Rural Area)

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

Conservancy and Rural Shoreline

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

No Yes, specify: The King County iMap shows this area designated as an erosion and seismic hazard area. The project area is also approximately 60 feet from a designated potential landslide 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.

Not applicable. There will be no displacement.

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

No impact to existing or projected land uses and plans are anticipated.

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

Not applicable.

9. Housing [Find help answering housing questions](#)

- 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.**

Not applicable.

10. Aesthetics [Find help answering aesthetics questions](#)

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

No buildings are proposed for this project. The gangway structure will be approximately four feet tall, 31' long, and two feet wide. It will be attached to existing boulders.

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

No views of the river are expected to be blocked for surrounding landowners. A small portion of the view may be altered if standing directly behind the walkway on hatchery property.

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

The gangway side railing is not solid and allows viewers to see through the railing. The gangway is also located near shore in an eddy so it does not completely block views.

11. Light and Glare [Find help answering light and glare questions](#)

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

No additional light or glare will be produced by this project.

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

No Yes, specify:

- 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.**

No light or glare impacts are anticipated.

12. Recreation [Find help answering recreation questions](#)

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

The Green River provides recreational opportunities to anglers, boaters, swimmers, and wildlife/nature viewing. This project will not impact any recreational opportunities in this area.

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

No Yes, specify:

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

No impacts to recreation are anticipated.

13. Historic and Cultural Preservation [Find help answering historic and cultural preservation questions](#)

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.

As part of WDFW's project review process, available records in DAHP's WISAARD will be reviewed to identify whether there are 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.

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 part of WDFW's project review process, available records in DAHP's WISAARD will be reviewed to identify whether there are any landmarks, features, or other evidence of Indian or historic use or occupation, including recorded burials or old cemeteries. WDFW's review process will include consultation with interested Tribes.

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.

As part of WDFW's project review process, cultural context for project evaluation will be derived from a review of survey and site documents available on DAHP's WISAARD database, a review of DAHP's predictive model, and Tribal consultation.

d. Proposed measures to avoid, minimize, or compensate for loss, changes to, and disturbance to resources. Please include plans for the above and any permits that may be required.

If need is identified during project review and/or consultation, the project will be surveyed to clarify the expectations for intact archaeological resources. The results of consultation, research and review will be used to inform final project design.

If no need for field survey is identified during Tribal consultation, the project will proceed with an Inadvertent Discovery Plan and project implementation conditions have been developed in consultation with DAHP and affected Tribes. WDFW's Inadvertent Discovery Plan provides the project implementation team with a detail series of steps to follow upon the unanticipated discovery of archaeological or cultural materials.

If cultural significant features are discovered during research, the IDP will be implemented and consultation will be carried out with affected Tribes measures to avoid, minimize, or compensate for loss, changes to, and disturbance to resources.

If ground disturbing activities encounter human skeletal remains during the course of construction, then all activity will cease that may cause further disturbance to those remains. The area of the find will be secured and protected from further disturbance until the State provides notice to proceed. The finding of human skeletal remains will be reported to the county medical examiner/coroner and local law enforcement in the most expeditious manner possible. The remains will not be touched, moved, or further disturbed. The county medical examiner/coroner will assume jurisdiction over the human skeletal remains and make a determination of whether those remains are forensic or non-forensic. If the county medical examiner/coroner determines the remains are non-forensic, then they will report that finding to the Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP) who will then take jurisdiction over the remains. The DAHP will notify any appropriate cemeteries and all affected tribes of the find. The State Physical Anthropologist will make a determination of whether the remains are Indian or Non-Indian and report that finding to any appropriate cemeteries and the affected tribes. The DAHP will then handle all consultation with the affected parties as to the future preservation, excavation, and disposition of the remains.

14. Transportation [Find help with answering transportation questions](#)

- 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.**

The Palmer Ponds rearing facility is located off SE 309th St in Ravensdale, WA. The project area is adjacent to the Green River and can be accessed through the rearing facility.

- 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 Yes, specify: The nearest transit stop is 8 miles away on Kent-Kangley Rd and Black Diamond Rd.

- 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 Yes, specify:

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

No Yes, specify:

- 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?**

No additional vehicular trips per day would be generated by the completed project. This project aims to help hatchery staff safely maintain the existing water intake. A small increase in vehicular traffic will occur during construction but will return to existing conditions once the project is completed.

- 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 Yes, specify:

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

No transportation impacts are anticipated.

15. Public Services [Find help answering public service questions](#)

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 Yes, specify:

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

No impacts on public services are anticipated.

16. Utilities [Find help answering utilities questions](#)

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

There are utilities throughout the hatchery facility but no utilities are present at the project site.

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.

No utilities are proposed for this project.

C. Signature [Find help about who should sign](#)

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 

Typed/printed name of signee: Michelle Holtz

Position and agency/organization: Environmental Planner – WDFW (CAMP)

Date submitted: 11/25/2024

Individuals who need to receive this information in an alternative format, language, or who need reasonable accommodations to participate in WDFW-sponsored public meetings or other activities may contact the Title VI/ADA Compliance Coordinator by phone at 360-902-2349, TTY (711), or email (Title6@dfw.wa.gov).