SEPA ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

Purpose of checklist:

Governmental agencies use this checklist to help determine whether the environmental impacts of your proposal are significant. This information is also helpful to determine if available avoidance, minimization or compensatory mitigation measures will address the probable significant impacts or if an environmental impact statement will be prepared to further analyze the proposal.

Instructions for applicants:

This environmental checklist asks you to describe some basic information about your proposal. Please answer each question accurately and carefully, to the best of your knowledge. You may need to consult with an agency specialist or private consultant for some questions. You may use "not applicable" or "does not apply" only when you can explain why it does not apply and not when the answer is unknown. You may also attach or incorporate by reference additional studies reports. Complete and accurate answers to these questions often avoid delays with the SEPA process as well as later in the decision-making process.

The checklist questions apply to all parts of your proposal, even if you plan to do them over a period of time or on different parcels of land. Attach any additional information that will help describe your proposal or its environmental effects. The agency to which you submit this checklist may ask you to explain your answers or provide additional information reasonably related to determining if there may be significant adverse impact.

Instructions for Lead Agencies:

Please adjust the format of this template as needed. Additional information may be necessary to evaluate the existing environment, all interrelated aspects of the proposal and an analysis of adverse impacts. The checklist is considered the first but not necessarily the only source of information needed to make an adequate threshold determination. Once a threshold determination is made, the lead agency is responsible for the completeness and accuracy of the checklist and other supporting documents.

Use of checklist for nonproject proposals:

For nonproject proposals (such as ordinances, regulations, plans and programs), complete the applicable parts of sections A and B plus the SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET FOR NONPROJECT ACTIONS (part D). Please completely answer all questions that apply and note that the words "project," "applicant," and "property or site" should be read as "proposal," "proponent," and "affected geographic area," respectively. The lead agency may exclude (for non-projects) questions in Part B - Environmental Elements –that do not contribute meaningfully to the analysis of the proposal.

A. Background

1. Name of proposed project, if applicable:

West Fork Teanaway Trailhead

2. Name of applicant:

Washington State Department of Natural Resources Southeast Region

3. Address and phone number of applicant and contact person:
Ryan Schreiner
713 Bowers Road
Ellensburg, WA 98926
509-607-0972

4. Date checklist prepared:
09/06/2023

5. Agency requesting checklist:
Washington State Department of Natural Resources

6. Proposed timing or schedule (including phasing, if applicable):
All proposed work will be complete prior to December 31, 2026.

7. Do you have any plans for future additions, expansion, or further activity related to or connected with this proposal? If yes, explain.
There is a possibility of an additional loop in the future should public use exand to the point it becomes necessary.

8. List any environmental information you know about that has been prepared, or will be prepared, directly related to this proposal.
A recreation land suitability analysis was completed for the Teanaway Community Forest (TCF), including Trust Lands within the TCF boundary, as part of the Teanaway Community Forest Recreation Planning process. The analysis considered biological elements, soil and geological conditions, public access and forest management considerations, and social considerations to show areas where extra care may be needed when planning recreation activities. The results of this analysis are displayed on maps that were used by DNR staff and the Teanaway Community Forest Advisory Committee to determine general locations for different recreational opportunities. Documents may be reviewed at the DNR Southeast Region Office.

9. Do you know whether applications are pending for governmental approvals of other proposals directly affecting the property covered by your proposal? If yes, explain.
No known pending applications.

10. List any government approvals or permits that will be needed for your proposal, if known.
An Administrative Permit is required from Kittitas County for the trailhead.
A privy permit and a building permit for the CXT vault toilet installation. Kittitas County clearing and grading, and a Forest Practices Application.

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 proposal area is north of the West Fork Teanaway Road approximately 500 feet east of where the pavement ends in Section 1, Township 20 North, Range 15 East. The proposal includes creating a trailhead that will consist of a gravel roadway forming two loops that will proved access to approximately 70 parking spaces, 1 new vault toilet (in addition to 1 existing), and 2 informational kiosks. The road prism will be approximately 20 feet wide and approximately 1900 feet in length. The trailhead will also include equestrian amenities such as pull in parking with adequate space for tacking and hitching posts.

The trailhead road surface will be gravel surfaced with widths of 16 to 20 feet depending on the circulation of the trailhead. There will be one new single vault toilet installed that will meet ADA standard for accessibility. There is one already existing double vault toilet that will be modified to become ADA accessible as well. In addition to these improvements, two new ADA kiosks, and interpretive signage will be installed in the campground to educate users about the history, ongoing restoration, and trail work as well as information on the unique nature of the community forest.

This project is identified in the first phase of the Teanaway Community Forest Recreation Plan, a multi-stakeholder public planning process completed in December 2018, which helps begin implementation of the plan. It fulfills the need for additional equestrian, hiking, biking and winter amenities in and around the Community Forest.

12. Location of the proposal. Give sufficient information for a person to understand the precise location of your proposed project, including a street address, if any, and section, township, and range, if known. If a proposal would occur over a range of area, provide the range or boundaries of the site(s). Provide a legal description, site plan, vicinity map, and topographic map, if reasonably available. While you should submit any plans required by the agency, you are not required to duplicate maps or detailed plans submitted with any permit applications related to this checklist.
This project is located approximately seven miles north of the town of Cle Elum in the Teanaway Community Forest at 1701 West Fork Teanaway Road, Cle Elum, WA 98922 in Kittitas County. The trailhead location is Section 1, Township 20 North, Range 15 East.

B. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS

1. Earth

a. General description of the site:

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

b. What is the steepest slope on the site (approximate percent slope)?
The landscape vicinity contains mostly flat terrain, the steepest slope in the construction area is approximately 5%.

c. What general types of soils are found on the site (for example, clay, sand, gravel, peat, muck)? If you know the classification of agricultural soils, specify them and note any agricultural land of long-term commercial significance and whether the proposal results in removing any of these soils.
Soils identified in the project area are Nard ashy loam, and Patnish-Mippon-Myzel complex (Soil data derived from the NRCS).

d. Are there surface indications or history of unstable soils in the immediate vicinity? If so, describe.
No, there is nothing in the immediate vicinity.

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.
Filling and grading will be required for the construction of the new loop road and ADA parking pads at the vault toilets. The expected area of proposed disturbance will be 1.45 acres. Fill material may be sourced on site if selected fill meets construction standards. Balanced construction will be used wherever possible. Expected cut and fill volumes are likely to be approximately 547 cubic yards, but may vary depending on

construction techniques. Additionally, the expected volume of gravel surfacing could be 1,500 cubic yards or more. Prior to any cutting or filling activities, a county grading permit will be acquired.

f. Could erosion occur as a result of clearing, construction, or use? If so, generally describe.
Some minor erosion could occur as a result of construction, but it is expected to be minimal and not have any adverse impacts. Minor erosion may also occur on disturbed surfaces during seasonal snowmelt and spring thaw. As vegetation becomes more present, erosion will also decrease.

g. About what percent of the site will be covered with impervious surfaces after project construction (for example, asphalt or buildings)?
Approximately 5% of the 1.45 acre site will be covered with impervious surfaces. This will primarily be small amounts of poured concrete around structures, and one vault toilet.

h. Proposed measures to reduce or control erosion, or other impacts to the earth, if any:
Roads and parking spaces will be designed to ensure proper drainage and revegetation of disturbed areas.

2. Air

a. What types of emissions to the air would result from the proposal during construction, operation, and maintenance when the project is completed? If any, generally describe and give approximate quantities if known.
Emissions from and during the construction phase of the project would be minor and consist of equipment exhaust and minor dust. Upon completion of the project, dust may be present during the dry season from vehicle traffic and there may be minor amounts of equipment exhaust during large site maintenance projects.

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.

3. **Water**

a. Surface Water:

1) Is there any surface water body on or in the immediate vicinity of the site (including year-round and seasonal streams, saltwater, lakes, ponds, wetlands)? If yes, describe type and provide names. If appropriate, state what stream or river it flows into.
Yes, the West Fork of the Teanaway River (Type S) is in the vicinity but is more than 200 feet to the project boundary.

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.
No fill or dredging will take place.

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

No.

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

No.

6) Does the proposal involve any discharges of waste materials to surface waters? If so, describe the type of waste and anticipated volume of discharge.

No.

b. Ground Water:

1) Will groundwater be withdrawn from a well for drinking water or other purposes? If so, give a general description of the well, proposed uses and approximate quantities withdrawn from the well. Will water be discharged to groundwater? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.

No.

2) Describe waste material that will be discharged into the ground from septic tanks or other sources, if any (for example: Domestic sewage; industrial, containing the following chemicals. . . ; agricultural; etc.). Describe the general size of the system, the number of such systems, the number of houses to be served (if applicable), or the number of animals or humans the system(s) are expected to serve.

None.

c. Water runoff (including stormwater):

1) Describe the source of runoff (including storm water) and method of collection and disposal, if any (include quantities, if known). Where will this water flow? Will this water flow into other waters? If so, describe.

Roads are appropriately designed with graveled surfacing to reduce soil erosion on road surfaces, as well as the parking pads.

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

Unlikely

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:

Professional design to ensure proper drainage. Measures during construction will include, where needed, stabilizing soils with weed-free straw and revegetation.

4. **Plants**

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

__x__deciduous tree: alder, maple, aspen, other
__x__evergreen tree: fir, cedar, pine, other
__x__shrubs
__x__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
__x__other types of vegetation

b. What kind and amount of vegetation will be removed or altered?
Twelve trees will be removed. Some shrubs and herbaceous plants will be disturbed to varying degrees during the construction of the new trailhead road and during the construction of parking pads and installation of the vault toilet.

c. List threatened and endangered species known to be on or near the site.
None known. A search of the Natural Heritage Program GIS data layers did not reveal any threatened, endangered or sensitive plant species.

d. Proposed landscaping, use of native plants, or other measures to preserve or enhance vegetation on the site, if any:
Restoration work associated with ground disturbance will involve revegetation using native plants and grasses, and continue to actively manage noxious weeds.

e. List all noxious weeds and invasive species known to be on or near the site.
The project area contains patches of diffuse knapweed, mullen, and houndstongue.

5. **Animals**

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

Examples include:

birds: hawk, heron, eagle, songbirds, Northern Spotted Owl other:
mammals: deer, bear, elk, beaver, Wolf other:
fish: bass, salmon, trout, Summer Stealhead, Coho other _____

b. List any threatened and endangered species known to be on or near the site.
WDFW Biologist conducted a remote review of their database and the following threatened or endangered species are on or near the site: Wolf, Northern Spotted Owl, Steelhead.

e. Is the site part of a migration route? If so, explain.
This proposal is located in the Columbia River Flyway, which is part of the Pacific Flyway. Migratory waterfowl use the Columbia River Flyway; however, the area in which this proposal is contained is not generally the type of area used for resting or feeding by migratory waterfowl. While migrating through Pacific Northwest, many Neotropical migratory birds are closely associated with riparian areas, cliffs, snags, and structurally unique trees.

f. Proposed measures to preserve or enhance wildlife, if any:

None. No wolf den sites are documented near the site and the proposal does not impact Northern Spotted Owl habitat. Worked with WDFW biologist to incorporate any recreation development into their work plans. Routinely held meetings with WDFW biologist during the planning of this project to insure there would be no impacts to wildlife.

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

No Known.

6. **Energy and Natural Resources**

a. What kinds of energy (electric, natural gas, oil, wood stove, solar) will be used to meet the completed project's energy needs? Describe whether it will be used for heating, manufacturing, etc.

No energy needs post construction.

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

No.

c. What kinds of energy conservation features are included in the plans of this proposal? List other proposed measures to reduce or control energy impacts, if any:

None.

7. **Environmental Health**

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

None anticipated beyond operating equipment during construction. No toxic chemicals are being used as part of construction. Spill containment kits will be required for each piece of equipment.

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

The Department of Ecology has no contamination sites listed in the project area.

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.

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.

Petroleum products for heavy equipment and vehicle operation, and herbicides.

4) Describe special emergency services that might be required.

None.

5) Proposed measures to reduce or control environmental health hazards, if any:
Standard operating practices for handling and use of petroleum products will be used. Spill contamination kits will be required for each piece of equipment on site. NOTE: If contamination of the environment is suspected, DNR will contact the Department of Ecology and adhere to their spill response protocol.

b. Noise

1) What types of noise exist in the area which may affect your project (for example: traffic, equipment, operation, other)?
Current uses in the area include passenger vehicles and equestrians. This will not have an impact on the project. Heavy equipment noise and handheld power tools will be used during construction.

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.
Heavy equipment and hand held power tools used during construction will create noise during work hours. Recreational traffic may increase once construction is complete.

3) Proposed measures to reduce or control noise impacts, if any:
Standard noise suppression methods on heavy equipment and hand held power tools.

8. **Land and Shoreline Use**

a. What is the current use of the site and adjacent properties? Will the proposal affect current land uses on nearby or adjacent properties? If so, describe.
The current use of the site is working forest. Adjacent lands are managed as a working forest and for outdoor recreation. The project is not anticipated to affect the 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 as a result of the proposal, if any? If resource lands have not been designated, how many acres in farmland or forest land tax status will be converted to nonfarm or nonforest use?
Yes. Approximately 1.6 acres of the site will be utilized as access roads, however these roads may be used in the future for forestry activities. Access roads have been designed to minimize the impact on existing and future timber production.

1) Will the proposal affect or be affected by surrounding working farm or forest land normal business operations, such as oversize equipment access, the application of pesticides, tilling, and harvesting? If so, how:
The project should not affect forest operations.

c. Describe any structures on the site.
None.

d. Will any structures be demolished? If so, what?
No.

e. What is the current zoning classification of the site?
Forest and Range

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

Rural Working

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

Rural Conservancy

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

Teanaway Elk Calving Area, Teanaway River Riparian Area, Rural Conservancy Shoreline, wetland code: R5UBH, R3USC, PSSC, R4SBC water types: N, F, U.

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

None.

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

None.

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

None.

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

The project will allow continued use of the area for forest management and recreation opportunities. The project is consistent with the Teanaway Community Forest Management Plan and the county's comprehensive plan designation.

m. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with nearby agricultural and forest lands of long-term commercial significance, if any:

No impact to nearby agricultural and forest lands. Long term forest management will continue in the surrounding area.

9. **Housing**

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

None.

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

None.

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

None.

10. **Aesthetics**

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

CXT vault toilet, 12 feet tall with a 15 foot vent pipe, with concrete siding.

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

None.

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

The structure will be a neutral color so it doesn't stand out against surroundings.

11. **Light and Glare**

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

None.

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

None.

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

None.

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

None.

12. **Recreation**

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

Camping, hiking, hunting, fishing, wildlife viewing, horseback riding, mountain bike riding, snowmobiling, snowshoeing, cross country skiing.

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

No.

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

There will be no long term impacts to recreation. This project will provide structure and sanitation to promote responsible and sustainable recreation across the Teanaway Community Forest.

13. **Historic and cultural preservation**

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

There are no buildings, structures, or sites located on or near the project area which are over 45 years old.

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.

There are two identified archaeological sites near the project area. One is a railroad grade remnant, and the other is a small historic debris scatter. Project boundaries are designed to avoid impacts to both of these resources.

Peterson and Johnson 2020 and Barrick 2019 surveys identified these cultural resources.

Peterson, Emily and Jack Johnson

2020 Cultural Resources Assessment for the Teanaway Community Forest Recreation and Access Improvement Project. Prepared by Perteet for WA DNR. On file with the Washington State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation.

Barrick, Wilbur

2019 Cultural Resources Inventory for the Teanaway Community Forest Aquatic Restoration Phase II Project at Carlson Creek, Kittitas County, Washington. Prepared by the Yakama Nation Fishereies, Yakima Klickitat Fisheries Project for WDFW and WA DNR. On file with the Washington State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation.

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.

The Confederated Bands and Tribes of the Yakama Nation, and the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation were consulted regarding this project.

Background research for this project included investigation of local history, environmental history, ethnography, examination of historical USGS maps, and GLO maps, and a search of DAHP's WISAARD database.

A cultural resource survey including pedestrian survey, shovel scrapes, and shovel test probes was conducted by archaeologists who meet the Secretary of the Interior standards for a qualified archaeologist. Shovel test probes were excavated on a 40 meter grid across the project area, with shovel scrapes excavated at the 20 meter interval between shovel test probes.

The final report containing all of this information was sent to DAHP for concurrence.

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.

This project has been designed to avoid cultural resources. As a result, no permit will be required.

14. **Transportation**

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

The project is accessed via West Fork Teanaway Road, and State Route 970.

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?

Not served by public transportation.

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 proposal will add two loop roads. See the attached site plan map.

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?

Based on trail counter data and observations from Law Enforcement and Education Enforcement Officers it is estimated that up to 100 vehicle trips per day during the peak season is likely. No commercial or non-passenger vehicles traffic will occur.

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.

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

None.

15. **Public Services**

a. Would the project result in an increased need for public services (for example: fire protection, police protection, public transit, health care, schools, other)? If so, generally describe.

No.

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

None.

16. **Utilities**

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

None.

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

None.

C. Signature

The above answers are true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that the lead agency is relying on them to make its decision.

Signature: Ryan Schreiner

Name of signee Ryan Schreiner

Position and Agency/Organization Recreation Specialist, WDNR

Date Submitted: 09/07/2023