WAC 197-11-960 Environmental checklist.

2910376

ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

Purpose of checklist:

The State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA), chapter 43.21C RCW, requires all governmental agencies to consider the environmental impacts of a proposal before making decisions. An environmental impact statement (EIS) must be prepared for all proposals with probable significant adverse impacts on the quality of the environment. The purpose of this checklist is to provide information to help you and the agency identify impacts from your proposal (and to reduce or avoid impacts from the proposal, if it can be done) and to help the agency decide whether an EIS is required.

Instructions for applicants:

This environmental checklist asks you to describe some basic information about your proposal. Governmental agencies use this checklist to determine whether the environmental impacts of your proposal are significant, requiring preparation of an EIS. Answer the questions briefly, with the most precise information known, or give the best description you can.

You must answer each question accurately and carefully, to the best of your knowledge. In most cases, you should be able to answer the questions from your own observations or project plans without the need to hire experts. If you really do not know the answer, or if a question does not apply to your proposal, write "do not know" or "does not apply." Complete answers to the questions now may avoid unnecessary delays later.

Some questions ask about governmental regulations, such as zoning, shoreline, and landmark designations. Answer these questions if you can. If you have problems, the governmental agencies can assist you.

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.

Use of checklist for nonproject proposals:

Complete this checklist for nonproject proposals, even though questions may be answered "does not apply." IN ADDITION, complete the SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET FOR NONPROJECT ACTIONS (part D).

For nonproject actions, the references in the checklist to the words "project," "applicant," and "property or site" should be read as "proposal," "proposer," and "affected geographic area," respectively.

A. BACKGROUND

1. Name of proposed project, if applicable:
   Newskah B-900 Timber Cedar Block Harvest

2. Name of applicant: **Weyerhaeuser Company**
3. Address and phone number of applicant and contact person:

   Marty Brooks

   PO Box 1000

   Cosmopolis, WA 98537

   (360) 537-8526
4. Date checklist prepared: **August 7, 2004**
5. Agency requesting checklist: **Washington State Department of Natural Resources**
6. Proposed timing or schedule (including phasing, if applicable):

   Work will be done immediately upon receiving the approved Forest Practices Application and may continue throughout the 2-year term of the application.

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

   Yes. Commercial forest operations will continue on this site and adjacent sites in the future.

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

All known environmental information was submitted as part of the Forest Practices Application, including a geologic review 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

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

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.)

Helicopter harvest of downed, merchantable cedar materials left after prior harvests (including the tops of stumps). Materials will be hand cut (with chainsaws) into 16"–24" lengths, hand stacked, and then lifted out with the helicopter in bundles. The bundles will be flown to a nearby road or landing (drop of point). Once on the ground, the individual cedar blocks will be hand loaded onto trucks and stacked. No other mechanized equipment will be used. No standing timber will be cut. Only existing roads will be used, therefore, no new road construction is being proposed. The proposed harvest area lies within a 108 acre stand of mature timber.

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.

Located in Sec 16, 17 & 20, T16N, R9W. For the unit boundaries, please refer to the maps submitted with the Forest Practices Application. To view the access roads to this unit, please refer to the attached planimetric map titled "Access Roads".

B. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS

1. **Earth**

a. General description of the site (circle one): Flat, rolling, hilly, steep slopes, mountainous, other . . . . . .

See the attached geologic report for a more complete description.

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

110%. This occurs on less than 1% (approximately) of the total unit area. See the attached geologic report for more details.

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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 prime farmland.

Soils are clay loams and are typical forest soils for this area.

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

See geologic report.

e. Describe the purpose, type, and approximate quantities of any filling or grading proposed. Indicate source of fill.

N/A

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

This is very unlikely given the harvest will be done by helicopter.

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

N/A. No new road construction or rock pit development is being proposed. Only existing roads will be used for access.

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

Forest Practice Rules will be followed per WAC 222-30-045.

a. Air

a. What types of emissions to the air would result from the proposal (i.e., dust, automobile, odors, industrial wood smoke) during construction and when the project is completed? If any, generally describe and give approximate quantities if known.

Minimal amounts of road dust from trucks used for hauling.

Diesel exhaust from trucks and helicopter during harvesting activities.

Automobile exhaust and dust from personal vehicles.

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

Does not apply

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

Does not apply. Operations will not be occurring within or near a residential area.

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3. Water

a. Surface:

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.

The harvest area is bound by two unnamed Type 3 (fish bearing) streams tributary to North River. The Type 3 stream that forms the west boundary of the unit is named East Fork North River. As shown by the Forest Practices Map, there are Type 4 and 5 (both non-fish bearing) streams present within the harvest boundaries.

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

Yes, see the attached Forest Practices Application. Operations will be in compliance with WAC 222-030-045 and 222-030-021.

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

None

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

No

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

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:

1) Will ground water be withdrawn, or will water be discharged to ground water? 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.

N/A

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.

Runoff from the existing forest roads will continue to be directed onto the forest floor through the road drainage system (e.g., ditches, cross drains, crowned road surfaces, etc).

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

Some minor amounts of woody debris may inadvertently enter the streams thoughout the harvest period. However, this material will be removed concurrent with the operations. Sediment will not enter surface waters due to the methods used to harvest the unit.

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

Proper road maintenance practices to minimize runoff impacts. Harvesting activities will utilize full suspension at all times with helicopter yarding.

4. **Plants**

a. Check or circle 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

__X__ 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?

An estimated 60 loads of cut cedar blocks will be removed. The blocks will be cut and stacked by hand. Later, the stacked blocks will be flown out by a helicopter. An average, 2-3 cords per acre will be harvested.

c. List threatened or endangered 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. The harvest area has already been replanted. The proposed activity will not reduce the stocking level of the planted tree seedlings.

5. **Animals**

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

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

b. List any threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the site. **None**

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

No

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

Standard Forest Practice Rules will be followed.

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.

Oil. Petroleum products will be used to power equipment and vehicles.

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:

N/A

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.

Fuels will not be stored and vehicles will not be service on site. However, workers will be exposed to potential hazards while working around the helicopters. This includes potential exposures to fuel. Though extremely rare, mechanical failures may result in fire, explosions, property damage, or personal injury.

Through the use of chainsaws, workers and the environment will be exposed to potential hazards from fuel and oil. Chainsaws predictably leak minute amounts of oil during use. Minute amounts of gasoline may also be leaked.

With respect to the hauling operations, the potential hazards are in conjunction with the use of diesel fuel and hydraulic oil for the trucks. There is also a potential exposure to antifreeze. These fluids could be spilled or leaked.

1) Describe special emergency services that might be required.

Emergency medical (911) or air ambulance (MAST Helicopter) services may be needed.

2) Proposed measures to reduce or control environmental health hazards, if any:

Prior to the start of operations, every one involved in the harvesting operation will be knowledgeable in their responsibilities for spill prevention and response. The training will include:

- **Type of spill and criteria for response**
- **Notification procedures – supervisor, EPA, DOE, State Forester**
- **Initial response, including location and availability of spill supplies**
- **Use of personal protective equipment**
- **Cleanup and disposal procedures**
- **Record Keeping**
- **Prevention Methods**

At a minimum, spill response kits will be maintained in supervisory vehicles, equipment maintenance trucks, and all vehicles that carry fuel for the woods equipment. The kits must contain oil booms, absorbent pads and protective gloves. During activities, crews are required to monitor their equipment for leaks, including oils, hydraulic fluids, fuel, antifreeze, or chemical. All workers are directed to fix small leaks before they become problems.

Crews will be provided emergency contact information, including telephone numbers. Workers are also required to obtain current first aid and CPR training.

As a standard policy, Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) are made available to employees to assure workers are aware of potential exposures. With regards to MSDS, employees will be trained on:

- **How to obtain, read, and use MSDS**
- **Which chemicals are or may be in the work place and associated hazards**
- **How to reduce or prevent exposure to these hazardous chemicals through the use of protective equipment and safe work practices**
- **Procedures to follow in the event of exposure or spill**

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.

The types of noise created will be from the helicopter equipment, chainsaws, personal vehicles and trucks for hauling. The noise from the chainsaws and personal vehicles will be generated daily

during daylight hours over the life of the project. However, loads will not be hauled everyday and will coincide with the use of the helicopter to harvest the cedar blocks. The helicopter will only be in operation 1-2 days each 2-week period. The project (i.e., harvesting) is expected to last 3-4 months.

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

None

8. **Land and shoreline use**

a. What is the current use of the site and adjacent properties?

Long-term forest management

b. Has the site been used for agriculture? If so, describe.

No. Site has already been forested.

c. Describe any structures on the site.

No structures exist on site.

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

N/A

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

Forestland

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

Forestland

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

There are no Shorelines of the State associated with this application. The shoreline master program does not affect this particular area.

h. Has any part of the site been classified as an "environmentally sensitive" area? If so, specify.

No. There are no critical areas identified for this area, such as wetlands, streams, recharge areas, etc.

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:

N/A

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

None

9. **Housing**

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

None

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

None

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

None

10. **Aesthetics**

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

N/A

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

None. The proposed harvest unit cannot be seen from any major transportation, towns, cities, scenic vistas, designated scenic corridors, or residential areas.

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

N/A

11. **Light and glare**

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

N/A

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

N/A

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?

These forest lands are privately owned and subject to controlled access. Limited access is permitted for recreation as per Weyerhaeuser's Public Access Policy.

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

No

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

None

13. **Historic and cultural preservation**

a. Are there any places or objects listed on, or proposed for, national, state, or local preservation registers known to be on or next to the site? If so, generally describe.

None

b. Generally describe any landmarks or evidence of historic, archaeological, scientific, or cultural importance known to be on or next to the site.

None known

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

None

14. **Transportation**

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

Private logging roads will be used for logging and timber hauling. Access to the site is via the Newskah County Road. See attached "Access Roads" map.

b. Is site currently served by public transit? If not, what is the approximate distance to the nearest transit stop?

No

c. How many parking spaces would the completed project have? How many would the project eliminate?

N/A

d. Will the proposal require any new roads or streets, or improvements to existing roads or streets, not including driveways? If so, generally describe (indicate whether public or private).

No. Only existing roads will be used.

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

No

f. How many vehicular trips per day would be generated by the completed project? If known, indicate when peak volumes would occur.

Some light vehicle administrative traffic during harvest activities. Only light traffic will occur from the hauling activities. Loads will not be hauled everyday and will coincide with the use of the helicopter to harvest the cedar blocks. Hauling will only be necessary 2-4 days per month over a 6-month time span. When hauling is occurring, less than 10 loads will be hauled each day. It's estimated that there will be a total of 60 loads.

g. 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, health care, schools, other)? If so, generally describe.

No

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

No

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.

N/A

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: Robert M. Brooks For Weyerhaeuser

Date Submitted: August 7, 2004