

SEPA¹ Environmental Checklist

Purpose of checklist

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

Instructions for applicants

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

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

Instructions for lead agencies

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

Use of checklist for nonproject proposals

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

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

A. Background

[Find help answering background questions²](#)

1. Name of proposed project, if applicable:

Pelican Beach Camping Area

2. Name of applicant:

Washington State Department of Natural Resources

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

Washington Department of Natural Resources
919 North Township Street
Sedro-Woolley, WA 98284
360-854-3500

Contact Person:
Tristan Currin
Natural Areas Public Use Manager
360-522-6434

4. Date checklist prepared:

December 18, 2024

5. Agency requesting checklist:

Skagit County

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

Construction anticipated Start: June 2025
Construction anticipated end: October 2025

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

No.

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

Geotechnical Engineering Memo (Aspect 2024)
Wetlands and Fish and Wildlife Report (Exeltech 2024)

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.

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

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

Shoreline Exemption (Skagit County)

Critical Areas Permit (Skagit County)

Special Use Permit for Development in Zoning Area - Public Open Space of Regional/Statewide Importance (Skagit County)

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 proposed project includes maintenance and repair of existing camping area facilities, installation of new campsites, and re-alignment of existing trail associated with the Pelican Beach Camping Area, in the Cypress Island Natural Resources Conservation Area. The maintenance and repair activities are needed to address maintenance needs that have accumulated over time due to exposure to the weather and use of the facilities. Repair and renovation work is proposed to the existing boardwalk, picnic shelter, and both sets of beach access steps. In addition to the renovations, proposed improvements to the camping area include the installation of six primitive campsites and one new modular urine-diversion, vault toilet system on the uplands adjacent to the existing camping area and trail. Also included in the project is re-alignment of approximately 1,100 linear feet of existing fall line trail that will include closure of the trail segment and construction of approximately 1,800 feet of new trail to better follow the land contours. The trail re-alignment is necessary to address ongoing erosion and trail maintenance concerns associated with the existing fall line trail. No modifications to existing beach campsites or the existing composting toilet are proposed. All proposed maintenance, repair, renovation, and construction activities would be implemented using low impact techniques to protect the existing habitat functions, support the low impact recreation use of the site, minimize ground disturbance and maximize vegetation preservation.

12. Location of the proposal. Give sufficient information for a person to understand the precise location of your proposed project, including a street address, if any, and section, township, and range, if known. If a proposal would occur over a range of area, provide the range or boundaries of the site(s). Provide a legal description, site plan, vicinity map, and topographic map, if reasonably available. While you should submit any plans required by the agency, you are not required to duplicate maps or detailed plans submitted with any permit applications related to this checklist.

The project footprint is located on the northeast side of Cypress Island in Skagit County, Washington. The proposed activities would occur on three parcels (P46440, 46441, and P46439), located within Township 36N, Range 01E, Sections 17 (SE 1/4).

Access to Pelican Beach camping area is by water only, or from other locations on the island via the hiking trail network. Access to Cypress Island is by boat only, there is no ferry access.

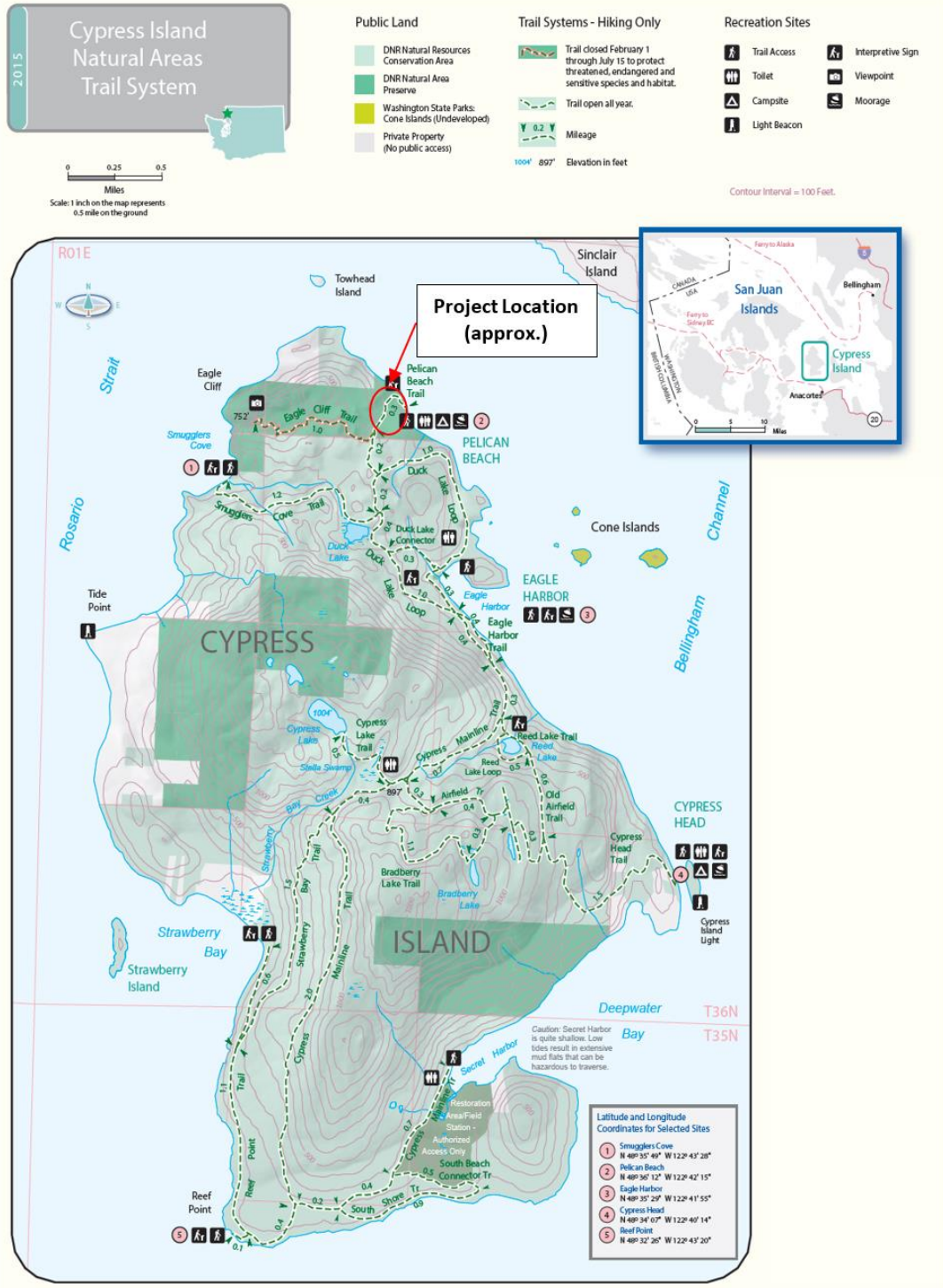
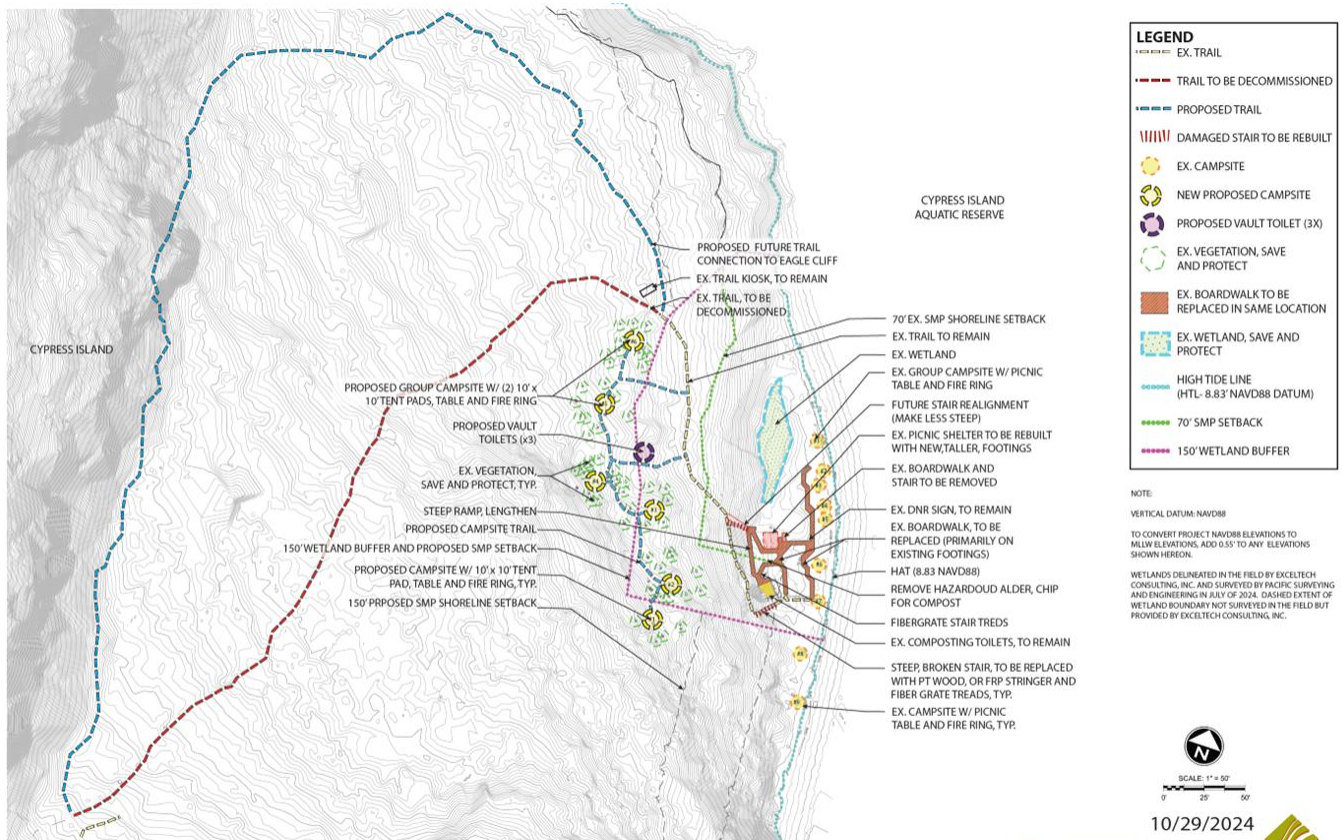


Figure 1. Project Vicinity



Issues And Opportunites Map
Pelican Beach Renovations

B.Environmental Elements

1. Earth

[Find help answering earth questions³](#)

a. General description of the site:

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

The camping area includes several hundred feet of gravel beach adjacent to high-bank uplands on which a hiking trail connects to other parts of the island. The topography in the vicinity of the study area is moderately to steeply sloped to the east, with an abrupt slope down to the beach.

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

The steepest slope on the site, located near the northern beach-to-upland access stair, is approximately 50 percent slope.

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

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

agricultural land of long-term commercial significance and whether the proposal results in removing any of these soils.

According to the USDA Soil Survey, soils in the area are comprised entirely of Guemes very stony loam, 30 to 70 percent slopes.

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

The geotechnical engineering site reconnaissance determined that slopes in the vicinity of the project are stable (Aspect Engineering 2024). Recommendations for steep slope maintenance and management were also provided.

- 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.**

Project impacts associated with all project activities would include approximately 19,300 sq. ft. (0.44 acre) of ground disturbance and an estimated 2 CY (up to 5 CY) of material for the boardwalk, picnic shelter, and access stairs; 6 CY of crushed gravel/rock dust for campsites; and 51 CY concrete slab for modular toilet structure.

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

Erosion could occur to bare soil areas that result from vegetation clearing in or adjacent to the construction of the project. Erosion control would be achieved through the use of straw wattles or compost socks and wood chip mulch, to enable these materials to perform the objective of erosion control during construction and then being allowed to compost in place to minimize site disturbance.

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

Approximately 7% of the site will be covered with impervious surfaces (compacted gravel/rock dust, roof canopies).

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

The project has been designed to minimize ground disturbance as much as possible. Large equipment will not be required and most work will be accomplished by hand tools. Erosion control would be achieved through the use of straw wattles or compost socks and wood chip mulch, to enable these materials to perform the objective of erosion control during construction and then being allowed to compost in place to minimize site disturbance.

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.**

No air emissions are anticipated; work will be accomplished primarily by hand tools, with limited heavy construction equipment as needed for trail work. Boat trips to bring supplies and personnel would not significantly increase traffic to the site over existing conditions.

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

No.

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

None.

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.**

One wetland (unnamed), saltwater lagoon, Category II. This wetland is in a low-lying depression and does not have a surface drainage out; hydrologic input is primarily from storm surges during king tides.

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 work activities are proposed below OHWM. Work activities will occur within 200 feet of the unnamed wetland and marine shoreline (Bellingham Channel).

Repair and maintenance activities within the shoreline area and wetland buffer would consist of renovation of boardwalk and picnic shelter and replacement access

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

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>

stairs. Temporary project impacts associated with these activities would include approximately 5,950 sq. ft. of temporary ground disturbance to previously undeveloped areas, and 3,000 sq. ft. of previously disturbed areas, for a total of approximately 9,000 sq. ft. for construction/work access. Long-term project impacts associated with these activities would include approximately 750 sq. ft. of new long-term ground disturbance, with approximately 540 sq. ft. of new impervious surface from packed gravel/rock dust for tent sites and toilet canopy and increased picnic shelter canopy (canopies would be corrugated metal roofing material). The proposed renovation of the boardwalk also removes an unnecessary portion of the boardwalk and a set of steps within the wetland buffer.

New construction within the wetland and shoreline buffer would consist of installation of portions of two campsites, one modular vault toilet structure, and creation of access trails to these features from the existing upland trail. Removal of several hazard trees would occur in the vicinity of the existing boardwalk, picnic shelter, and new campsites for public safety. Erosion control would be achieved through the use of straw wattles or compost socks and wood chip mulch, to enable these materials to perform the objective of erosion control during construction and then being allowed to compost in place to minimize site disturbance. Disturbed areas will be mulched with on-site chipped material and limited impact areas would be restored with native transplanted material sourced on-site. Post-construction, stormwater drainage will be maintained as unconcentrated sheet flow from impervious surfaces to simulate natural site conditions. Runoff will sheet flow into adjacent undisturbed topsoil and native vegetation.

See **Attachment 1 - Site Plans**.

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.

An estimated 2 CY (up to 5 CY) concrete cement for boardwalk/picnic shelter and stair footings, 2 CY of crushed gravel/rock dust for campsites and 51 CY concrete slab foundation for toilet. For the boardwalk and picnic shelter, existing Sonotube footings would be used where possible, hence the range in estimated fill for those activities.

See **Attachment 1 - Site Plans**.

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.

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:

[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.**

No waste material will be discharged into the ground associated with the project.

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.**

Impervious surfaces are limited to compacted gravel/rock dust for tent sites and roof canopies of the renovated picnic shelter and new modular vault toilet system. Stormwater from these will drain to the adjacent vegetated or mulched ground surface and infiltrate. Boardwalk decking is wooden slats spaced to allow drainage. Post-construction, stormwater drainage will be maintained as unconcentrated sheet flow from impervious surfaces to simulate natural site conditions. Runoff will sheet flow into adjacent undisturbed topsoil and native vegetation.

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

DNR will adhere to a project-specific Spill Prevention, Control and Countermeasures (SPCC) Plan to reduce the risk of waste materials entering ground water and implement BMPs, such as the installation of straw wattles or compost socks to prevent pollutants from entering surface waters.

- 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:

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>

Use of straw wattles or compost socks and wood chip mulch will be implemented for erosion control and to slow the flow of runoff water during construction. Post-construction, stormwater drainage will be maintained as unconcentrated sheet flow from impervious surfaces to simulate natural site conditions. Runoff will sheet flow into adjacent undisturbed topsoil and native vegetation.

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

Other: Douglas-fir, western redcedar, Sitka spruce, hemlock

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?

Removal of several hazard trees is proposed in the vicinity of the existing boardwalk, picnic shelter, and new campsites for public safety. Approximately 12,000 sq. ft. of vegetation clearing, primarily herbaceous plants and may include some shrubs and saplings, for work access adjacent to existing boardwalk, and to install new campsites, modular vault toilet system, access trails and trail re-alignment. Vegetation clearing will be limited to the maximum extent possible. The project has been designed to install new features (campsites, toilet structure, trails) around existing trees and natural resources. The facilities were located with careful consideration to maintain the natural resources of the area, working around the existing topography and vegetation, maintaining a low impact camping environment, and selecting a site proximal to existing trails, all with the goal of expanding outdoor recreational opportunity, while minimizing impacts to fish and wildlife.

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

No threatened or endangered plant species are known to occur on or near the site.

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

Disturbed areas will be mulched with on-site chipped material. Native planting restoration with on-site transplanted material is proposed at limited impact areas.

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

No noxious or invasive plant species are known to occur on or near the site.

5. Animals

[Find help answering animal questions](#)⁸

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

Examples include:

- **Birds: hawk, heron, eagle, songbirds, other:**

Birds observed at or near the site are those common to marine and forested shoreline environments and include shorebirds, waterbirds, songbirds, and raptors.

- **Mammals: deer, bear, elk, beaver, other:**

Mammals observed at and near the project site are those common to marine shoreline uplands and include deer, beaver, raccoon, river otter.

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

Fish likely to be encountered include nearshore species, including salmonids, pelagic, and groundfish.

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

USFWS IPaC identified four federally threatened species with potential to occur near the site: marbled murrelet (*Brachyramphus marmoratus*), yellow-billed cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus*), North American wolverine (*Gulo gulo luscus*), and bull trout (*Salvelinus confluentus*).

NMFS Fisheries Species and Habitats app identified critical habitat near the site for three species: Chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*), bocaccio (*Sebastes paucispinis*), and killer whale (*Orcinus orca*).

NMFS also identified essential fish habitat for salmon for all of Cypress Island. Essential fish habitat was also identified in marine waters for highly migratory species; coastal pelagic species; and groundfish (groundfish, coastal pelagic species, krill - *Euphausia pacifica* and *Thysanoessa spinifera*, other krill species, finfish and market squid).

The Critical Areas Site Assessment Report (Exeltech 2024) identified potentially suitable stopover habitat for marbled murrelet in the study area and evaluated the project

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>

impacts, determining no impacts to marbled murrelet anticipated. Suitable habitat for other threatened and endangered species was not identified.

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

Bellingham Channel serves as part of the saltwater habitat for anadromous salmonids.

The project site is also located along the Pacific Flyway and may be visited by migratory birds using the Pacific Flyway.

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

By rerouting a portion of the existing trail out of the fall line to better follow along the contours of hillsides, the potential for erosion from stormwater runoff is reduced. By following the contours, runoff tends to move downhill in a more sheet-like pattern, broader and more evenly dispersed. Thus, the proposed trail re-alignment would better support the surrounding habitat and natural resources by reducing runoff and erosion, protecting soils and vegetation near and downgradient of the trail, and minimizing the level of interaction needed for trail maintenance, while maintaining the existing natural resources access provided by the trail to other parts of the island, for both recreational users and resource conservation activities

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

No invasive animal species are known to be on or near the site.

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.

The completed project will not require supplemental energy inputs.

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.

The project does not incorporate energy conservation features. The project will be implemented using low-intensity methods and relying primarily on hand tools and foot access by personnel, with limited heavy construction equipment as needed.

7. Environmental health

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

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>

- 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.**

There are no known environmental health hazards that could occur as a result of this proposal.

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

There is no known or possible contamination identified at the site.

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 existing hazardous chemicals/conditions that might affect project development and design.

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.**

Fuel and other lubricant spills could occur from construction equipment during project construction; however, the implementation of a Spill Prevention and Control Plan (SPCP) and BMPs from the TESC Plan would prevent or lessen the impact of a spill to the environment. The SPCP would include a contingency plan describing actions to be taken in the event of a spill. If a spill were to occur, DNR would be required to immediately contain the spill and begin cleanup procedures. The SPCP would also detail the proper procedures to follow to prevent the risk of fire and/or explosion as a result of various construction activities.

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

Construction-related accidents or injuries may require response from local fire, police, aid units, and/or ambulances.

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

Prior to construction commencing, a SPCP would be implemented. In addition, a site health and safety plan will be in place from the beginning to completion of the project.

b. Noise

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

Noise is limited given the primitive camping and low-impact use of the area and would not impact the project. The completed project would not contribute to a change in noise levels.

- 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)?**

Construction noise would be minimal because it would rely primarily on hand tools and methods. Heavy construction equipment use will be limited, if needed. It is anticipated that construction activities would occur on a short-term basis and disturbance would be minimized to the extent possible. There would be no long-term noise associated with this project.

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

Work would be limited to occur during daytime hours.

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.**

The site is currently used for recreational purposes, including primitive camping, hiking, birdwatching, and boating. The proposed camping area improvements would not affect land use at the site 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.

- 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.

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

Existing boardwalk, picnic shelter, and composting toilet structure are all of wood decking and materials and approximately 3,000 sq. ft. in size.

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

The existing boardwalk and picnic shelter would be renovated with in-kind materials (e.g., Alaska Yellow Cedar lumber decking, beams, posts, and connections), and using existing concrete Sonotube footings where possible and providing new footings as needed, to restore structural integrity. The boardwalk will be rebuilt in the same

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>

location, with minor modifications that will remove some unnecessary framing and steps and reduce ramp grades to make pathways more accessible.

The existing picnic shelter would be renovated, to include replacement with new framing, Sonotube footings, and connections.

The two existing beach-to-upland access stairs would be replaced.

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

The site is within the Cypress Island Natural Resources Conservation Area and is zoned Public Open Space of Regional/Statewide Importance (OSRSI).

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

Public Open Space of Regional/Statewide Importance (OSRSI).

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

Conservancy shoreline.

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

Yes – Fish and Wildlife Habitat Conservation Area (Cypress Island Natural Resources Conservation Area);
Shoreline (Type S; Bellingham Channel);
Aquifer recharge area (as mapped by Skagit County); and
Geologic Hazards (unstable slopes as mapped by Skagit County) - a geotechnical site investigation did not identify unstable slopes for the site (Aspect Consulting 2024).

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.

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

b. The project would not result in any change of use of the area. The proposed project is consistent with Skagit County's zoning code, comprehensive plane, shoreline master plan, and critical areas code.

a. 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](#)¹²

- 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](#)¹³

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

The proposed picnic shelter is 15.5 feet tall and would be an open structure constructed of Doug Fir timber beams with roof of plywood clad with corrugated metal roofing material. The proposed modular vault toilet system would be 15 feet tall and clad in metal roofing material for the sides and roof. Roofing material would be rusted steel corrugated metal, selected to maintain the existing primitive aesthetics and blend with the surrounding forest habitat.

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

The picnic shelter would replace the existing structure and would be slightly larger (30 sq. ft.) than the existing. The proposed boardwalk renovations would result in a slightly smaller (42 sq. ft.) footprint than existing and would remain an open-sided structure with timber supports to blend with the surrounding environment. The modular toilet structure and new campsites would be located on a slight bench above the existing trail. Given the low profile of features included, the campsites would likely not be visible from the existing trail, other than the new access trails as they intersect the existing trail. The new toilet structure and new campsites would be upland and landward from the existing trail and facilities and would not obstruct views toward the marine water. As a single structure nestled within existing trees and colored complementary to the environment, visual impacts from the modular toilet structure are not anticipated.

The proposed trail realignment would provide new views along the new route, and by reducing the erosion produced by the current trail alignment, there would be an improvement of visual aesthetics for recreationists in the area.

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

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

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

Campsite design includes primitive elements, using materials and construction methods to blend with the existing environment. The modular toilet structure will be selected of materials/colors that blend in with the existing environment. These features will be sited to nestle within existing trees and vegetation to blend with the existing environment.

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?

No light will be produced by the project.

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

No.

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

[Find help answering recreation questions](#)

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

The site is the existing Pelican Beach camping area, a boat-access only site within the Cypress Island Natural Resources Conservation Area.

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:

The camping area and existing trail will remain open during construction. The boardwalk and picnic shelter will be closed during renovation work. During that time, access from the beach to the trail will be via the south stairs. Once the boardwalk renovations are completed, including the north stairs, the south stairs will be temporary closed during construction of the replacement stairs. Access to the existing toilet will remain during construction, but may be temporarily restricted for short durations to accommodate construction activities.

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>

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.**

No.

- 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.**

None that are known. An archaeological survey was conducted for this project in October of 2024. This survey found no material evidence, artifacts, or items of precontact cultural importance. Evidence for historic logging activity such as springboard notches and yarding scars were noted throughout the project area, but no specific artifacts or items of historic importance were found.

- 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.**

An archaeological survey was conducted at the project site, by a professional archaeologist in October of 2024, without discovery of any cultural or historic resources. Tribal consultation, as per Washington State Executive Order 21-02, has been undertaken to assess the project sites for impacts to cultural and historic resources. To date, Tribal responses have indicated minimal concern regarding this project. However, more Tribal responses are expected, and any feedback will be incorporated into project scope and approach. Additionally, the Department of Archaeological and Historic Preservation (DAHP) will be consulted prior to commencing project work. No construction activities will occur without DAHP 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.**

Ground disturbance will be limited to the maximum extent practicable during all project phases. A cultural resources technician will be on site during excavation work to monitor for any inadvertent discovery of cultural resources. If a presently unknown cultural resource is discovered during operations, DNR

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>

will comply with the March 2010 Cultural Resources Inadvertent Discovery Guidance.

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.**

None – Cypress Island is boat-access only and not served by ferries. Boats may moor in the marine waters immediately adjacent to Pelican Beach Camping Area (see Project Location map above).

- 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?**

None – Cypress Island is boat-access only and not served by ferries.

- 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. Approximately 1,100 feet of existing trail will be decommissioned to reduce erosion. The trail will be re-routed with approximately 1,800 feet of new upland trail to be constructed, to better follow contours and reduce erosion and trail maintenance.

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

No.

- e. **How many vehicular trips per day would be generated by the completed project or proposal? If known, indicate when peak volumes would occur and what percentage of the volume would be trucks (such as commercial and nonpassenger vehicles). What data or transportation models were used to make these estimates?**

None.

- 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. Motorized transportation will not be impacted.

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 proposed.

16. Utilities

[Find help answering utilities questions¹⁸](#)

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

None.

- 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 proposed.

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

Type name of signee: Tristan Currin

Position and agency/organization: Natural Areas Public Use Manager/ NW Region Washington State Department of Natural Resources

Date submitted:

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?

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

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

- **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?

- **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?

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

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>

- **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?

- **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.