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:

WFT First Amendment

2. Name of applicant:

West Fork Timber Company, LLC.

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

3115 Kuper Road, Centralia, Washington 98531. Parker Waber, Sierra Pacific Industries 360-736-5417

4. Date checklist prepared:

6/17/2024

5. Agency requesting checklist:

Washington State Department of Natural Resources

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

Summer/Fall 2024

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

None known at this time

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

NF Mineral Creek watershed analysis State Soil Survey State DNR Special Concerns report DNR's 1997 Habitat Conservation Plan Final EIS South Puget Planning Unit Forest Land Plan

Referenced documents may be obtained from the South Puget Sound Region office during the SEPA comment period.

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

None known

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

Easement amendment to #50-085304 from DNR

 $^{^2\} https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-A-Background$

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.)

Proposal to construct approximately 438 feet of new forest road on State Trust 03 timber production ground, with grant of easement over new road to West Fork Timber Company LLC. (Easement Amendment to #50-085305)

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.

New road construction located in E1/2 NE1/4 Section 2, Township 13 North, Range 06 East, W.M. in Lewis County Washington. See included map.

B.Environmental Elements

1. Earth

Find help answering earth questions³

a. General description of the site:

The project area is located within the boundary of the NF Mineral Creek WAU. The immediate area is 10-year-old Douglas fir; the surrounding area is second-growth mixed conifer and hardwood comprised of a mix of Douglas fir, western hemlock, western red cedar, red alder, black cottonwood, noble fir, Pacific silver fir and vine maple.

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

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

The project area is generally flat ranging from 0-8% 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 agricultural land of long-term commercial significance and whether the proposal results in removing any of these soils.

Site is located within a State Soil Survey Unit Polygon for Cotteral V.Cindery Sandy Loam soil. DNR State Upland Viewing Tool describes the Cotteral V.Cindery Sandy Loam as

 $^{^{3}\} https://ecology.wa.gov/regulations-permits/sepa/environmental-review/sepa-guidance/sepa-checklist-guidance/sepa-checklist-section-b-environmental-elements/environmental-elements-earth$

pumice over highly weathered volcanic ash with insignificant mass wasting potential, low erosion potential, and low compaction potential.

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

None known

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.

The project area is small. Overall, about 0.60 acres of land would be disturbed for the new forest road construction.

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

Due to the small footprint of the project, minimal erosion may occur as the result of the new forest road construction.

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

None – 0%

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

Best management practices (BMPs) will be utilized in the construction of the new forest road. BMPs include but are not limited to, roads will be crowned or in-sloped and cross-drained or out-sloped to provide water drainage as needed; cross drains, if needed, will be properly spaced, installed and maintained; protection measures to avoid sediment delivery will be addressed as needed during road construction activities and may include the use of water bars, catch basins or silt traps; there will be periodic maintenance and inspection of the road to ensure proper drainage; grass seeding to any and all exposed soils that are not part of the surface of the road.

2. Air

Find help answering air questions⁴

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.

Some short-term fugitive dust and vehicle emissions would occur during construction. Only minor impacts to air quality are expected.

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

None known

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

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

None due to low concern

3. Water

Find help answering water questions⁵

- a. Surface: Find help answering surface water questions⁶
 - Is there any surface water body on or in the immediate vicinity of the site (including year-round and seasonal streams, saltwater, lakes, ponds, wetlands)? If yes, describe type and provide names. If appropriate, state what stream or river it flows into.

No wetlands or floodplains exist in or near the project area. No impacts to water bodies, floodplains or fish would occur.

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.

Approximately 50 feet of new road construction is within 200 feet of a non-fish Type 5 water. No impacts to water bodies, floodplains or fish would occur.

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

None

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

No

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

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

⁵ https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-B-Environmental-elements/Environmental-elements-3-Water

⁶ https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-B-Environmental-elements/Environmental-elements-3-Water/Environmental-elements-Surface-water

b. Ground:

Find help answering ground water questions⁷

 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 areas of shallow groundwater are known to exist within or around the project area and forest road construction activities are not expected to create pathways or materials that could affect groundwater or aquifers. No impacts to groundwater and aquifers are expected.

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

None

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

None

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

No

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:

Road construction and maintenance techniques utilizing best management practices.

4. Plants

Find help answering plants questions

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

🛛 deciduous tree: <u>alder, maple</u>, aspen, <u>other</u>

⊠ evergreen tree: <u>fir, cedar,</u> pine, <u>other</u>

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

 \boxtimes shrubs

□ grass

□ pasture

- \Box 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
- \Box other types of vegetation
- b. What kind and amount of vegetation will be removed or altered?

It is expected that three non-merchantable trees will need be felled for the new road construction. These non-merchantable trees will be left on site as downed woody debris. Safety considerations may result in the removal of one snag, which if felled, will also be left on site as downed woody debris.

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

Site review did not reveal any WANHP rare species or plant communities. FPRAM review of 5/28/2024 shows no known occurrences.

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

None

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

None are known or observed on the site.

5. Animals

Find help answering animal questions⁸

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: <u>hawk,</u> heron, eagle, songbirds, other:
- Mammals: deer, bear, elk, beaver, other:
- Fish: bass, salmon, trout, herring, shellfish, other:

Elk are noted within DNR's special concerns report in the entire section.

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

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

Elk. FPRAM review of 5/28/2024 confirms no conflict with T & E Species.

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

All of western Washington is within the Pacific flyway. Although no migratory birds have been observed on site, it is possible that some migratory birds do use the vicinity as a stopping over point.

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

None

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

Barred Owl (Strix varia)

6. Energy and natural resources

Find help answering energy and natural resource questions⁹

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.

Petroleum products will be used for transportation to the site and equipment.

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

Health Find help with answering environmental health questions¹⁰

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

No hazardous materials beyond petroleum-based products would be used during forest road construction. No impacts to human health and safety are expected. Spill kits are required to be onsite during operations.

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

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

None

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

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-based products will be used by equipment during the construction of the forest road.

4. Describe special emergency services that might be required.

The Department of Natural Resources, private, and fire protection district suppression crews may be needed in case of wildfire. In the event of personal injuries, emergency medical services from Elbe, Ashford, Mineral or Morton may be required. Hazardous material spills may require Department of Ecology and/or county assistance.

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

During fire season, April 15 through October 15, crews will comply with all State fire laws and have the proper fire equipment on site. In addition, operations will be suspended if the onsite relative humidity falls below 30 percent.

No petroleum-based products will be disposed of on site. If spills occur, containment and cleanup will be required. Spill kits are required to be onsite during all heavy equipment operations.

- 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)?

There will be short term low level and high-level noise created within the proposal area. This type of noise has been historically present in this geographical area. The typical hours of operation will be Monday-Friday from 4:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

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

None

8. Land and shoreline use

Find help answering land and shoreline use questions¹¹

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 and adjacent land is timber production and forest management under State, private and Federal ownerships. The proposal will not affect current land uses on nearby 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?

The project site has been used as working forest lands. The proposal is for a forest road, thus no acres will be converted to other uses.

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?

None

c. Describe any structures on the site.

No structures on site

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

No structures on site

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

Forest Resources Zone

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

Timber Production

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

Does not apply

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

None

i. Approximately how many people would reside or work in the completed project? None

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

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

None

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

None

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

None

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

None

9. Housing

Find help answering housing questions¹²

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

Find help answering aesthetics questions¹³

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

Does not apply

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

None

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

None

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

11. Light and glare

Find help answering light and glare questions¹⁴

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?

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?

There are informal walk-in recreational activities such as hiking and hunting around the proposal site.

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

There may be some disruptions to recreational use in the area during road construction activities.

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

Those found or known to be recreating or inquiring about recreation in the vicinity of this proposal will be informed of any active operations at that time and alternate recreation opportunities will be discussed.

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 questions¹⁵

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.

FPRAM review of 5/28/2024 confirms no known conflict with cultural, archaeological, or historic resources. On site review did not reveal any concerns.

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

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.

Review of GLO and historic maps, FPRAM, as well as consultation with DNR Archeologist during previous 2015 timber sale in the vicinity. Additionally, ground review was conducted which did not reveal any concerns.

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

If historic or prehistoric archeological sites or resources, or human skeletal remains are found within the proposal area during road construction activities they will not be intentionally disturbed or removed from the site and Department of Natural Resources guidelines for inadvertent discovery or cultural resources will be followed.

14. Transportation

Find help with answering transportation questions¹⁶

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 new road construction will connect with other forest roads within the Tahoma State Forest, as well as the Murray Mainline.

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
¹⁶ https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist

b. Is the site or affected geographic area currently served by public transit? If so, generally describe. If not, what is the approximate distance to the nearest transit stop?

No, the nearest public transit is 31 miles away in the town of Morton.

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

No

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

There will not be an increase over historic levels.

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?

Vehicle trips occur most frequently during timber sales operations. Timber sale vehicle trips per day average between 15 and 20 round trips. Peak volumes typically occur between 4:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. of the timber sale operating period.

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

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.

Accidents would need to use existing emergency services provided by the local communities. Wildfires would need fire response from local fire districts and the Department of Natural Resources.

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

None

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

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

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 betty Buton

Type name of signee: Betty Burton

Position and agency/organization: Rights-of-Way Specialist, Engineering Division, South Puget Sound Region, Washington State Department of Natural Resources

Date submitted: 6/18/2024

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