SEPA ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

UPDATED 2014

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: [help]

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: [help]

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

A. background [help]

1. Name of proposed project, if applicable: [help]

   Monte Cristo Mining Area: Interim Action

2. Name of applicant: [help]

Washington Department of Ecology

3. Address and phone number of applicant and contact person: [help]

Washington Department of Ecology
Central Regional Office – Toxics Cleanup Program
Attn: Jason Shira
15 W. Yakima Avenue, Suite 200
Yakima, WA 98902

4. Date checklist prepared: [help]

March 9, 2015

5. Agency requesting checklist: [help]

Washington Department of Ecology

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

Anticipated construction begins July 2, 2015 with final reclamation and erosion control activities ending October, 7, 2015. Tree felling is scheduled to begin April 25, 2015 on parcels near the Monte Cristo Townsite.

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

No. Washington Department of Ecology is conducting a remedial investigation and feasibility study. Future cleanup actions will be identified in a final feasibility study report.

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

Removal Action Work Plan and Design Drawings, Monte Cristo Mining Area, Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, Snohomish County, Washington, January 2015. Cascade Earth Sciences.

Removal Action Memorandum Non-Time Critical Removal Action Monte Cristo Mining Area (MCMA) Site Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest Snohomish County, Washington. September 2012. United States Department of Agriculture – Forest Service.

Biological Opinion for the Monte Cristo CERCLA Project. September 16, 2011. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS).

Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis, Monte Cristo Mining Area, Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, Snohomish County, Washington. CES. April 2010..

Site Inspection Report Monte Cristo Mining Area Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest. CES. December 2007.

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. [help]

No.

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

EPA's Generator Identification Number
Construction Stormwater NPDES Permit

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.) [help]

The proposed project is a Washington Department of Ecology conducted cleanup of 15,000 cubic yards of mining waste located on five private parcels within the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest. The total disturbed area is expected not to exceed 2.2 acres. The contaminated material will be placed in the planned United States Forest Service repository, except for material that designates as state-only dangerous waste. Dangerous waste will be hauled off-site to a RCRA Subtitle C facility for disposal. Following excavation of the contaminated material the disturbed areas will be graded to match the existing topography, revegetated, and cultural resources managed per the work plan.

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. [help]

The properties that are the subject of this cleanup are in-holdings within the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, Darrington Ranger District, Snohomish County, Washington. The parcels are approximately 28 air-miles east-southeast of Granite Falls, Washington. The parcels are within Sec 21 and 22 of T29N, R11E.

B. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS [help]

1. Earth

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

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

Variable: <5% at Concentrator, >45% at Ore Collector

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. [help]

cryumbrepts/andic cryumbrepts

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

No.

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. [help]

Approximately 15,000 cubic yards of mine waste will be removed from the surface. The area will be graded to match existing topography. Approximately 6,000 cubic yards of soil will be mined from a USFS borrow area for reclamation.

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

Yes. Due to steepness of some parcels where work will occur; the occurrence of high intensity, short duration summer rain events; low intensity, long duration winter rain events; or snowmelt.

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

Zero

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

Stormwater and snowmelt run-on will be controlled on upgradient side by run-on control ditches or berms to route water around revegetated areas.

All disturbed areas will be recountoured and prepared for revegetation according to USFS Technical Specifications Section 02801 of the Removal Action Work Plan. A certified weed free straw mulch will be applied to control erosion during plant establishment.

Work stoppage associated with heavy rainfall events will be assessed and implemented in agreement with USFS. Contractor will monitor weather forecast to identify possible heavy rainfall events. Based on weather forecast disturbed areas will be examined to ensure soil and sediment control structures are properly installed. Soil and sediment control structures will be inspected following any heavy rainfall or flooding event for any damage or maintenance needs.

2. Air

a. What types of emissions to the air would result from the proposal during construction, operation, and maintenance when the project is completed? If any, generally describe and give approximate quantities if known. [help]

Diesel fuel emissions from heavy equipment during construction. Fugitive dust is expected to be minimal.

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

No.

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

None.

3. **Water**

a. Surface Water: [help]

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. [help]

Yes. Glacier Creek, a tributary of the South Fork Sauk River.

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

Yes. A portion of the work will occur within 200-feet of Glacier Creek. Please refer to the USFS *Removal Action Work Plan* and USFWS *Biological Opinion.*

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. [help]

None.

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

Yes. Water will be obtained from Sunday Creek for dust abatement, estimated withdrawal is 5-gallons/day for 20-days. Additional water will be withdrawn from South Fork Sauk River for running temporary on-site residency (showers and restrooms) for maximum 10 – 12 people.

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

Yes. It is expected that a portion of the work area is located within a 100-year floodplain. See references to Rainy Mine and Concentrator in the USFS *Removal Action Work Plan.*

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. [help]

No. A temporary onsite residency will be established for workers. All blackwater will be stored in 1,000-gallon above ground storage tank, with secondary containment. The tank will be pumped or transported off-site for disposal, as needed.

b. Ground Water:

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

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. [help]

Graywater will be manage onsite with a 500-gallon above ground storage tank and plumbed to a subsurface drainfield 500-feet upslope of SF Sauk River.

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. [help]

Water for dust abatement will applied using an atomized spray until visually damp. Special consideration will be given not to over-water. No ponding or runoff will be allowed.

Prior to invasive activities, sediment control devises (i.e. straw bale barrier and silt fencing) will be installed to control migration of sediment to surface water bodies. All silt fencing will be installed with straw waddles anchored on uphill side of fences.

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

Yes. There is potential that contaminated soil will enter surface waters. Best management practices for source control and stormwater runoff will be implemented. In addition, turbidity monitoring will occur in streams per USFWS Biological Opinion and USFS Removal Action Workplan.

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:

Implement best management practices to prevent run-on, control and treat runoff, and work stoppage when weather forecast heavy rainfall. Post cleanup, disturbed sites will be reclaimed and revegetated.

4. **Plants** [help]

a. Check the types of vegetation found on the site: [help]

_X__deciduous tree: alder, maple, aspen, other
_X___evergreen tree: fir, cedar, pine, other
_X___shrubs
_X___grass
____pasture
____crop or grain
____ Orchards, vineyards or other permanent crops.
_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? [help]

Shrubbery, low vegetation and some small trees. No timber harvest. Total estimated disturbed acreage is 2-acres.

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

Bull trout

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

All disturbed areas will be recontoured and prepared for revegatation in accordance with Section 02801 of the Technical Specifications in the USFS Removal Action Work Plan.

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

common hawkweed

5. **Animals**

a. List any birds and other animals which have been observed on or near the site or are known to be on or near the site. Examples include: [help]

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

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

Bull trout

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

Pacific flyway

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

Remove contaminated soil

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

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. [help]

Gasoline and diesel will be used to power generators and heavy equipment.

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

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: [help]

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. [help]

Yes. The basis of the proposal is removal of contaminated soil and dangerous waste from historical mining activity. A full description of environmental contamination can be found in the following documents:

Draft Interim Action Plan, Monte Cristo Mining Area Silverton, WA. March 2014. Washington Department of Ecology, Toxics Cleanup Program, Central Regional Office, Yakima, WA.

Removal Action Memorandum Non-Time Critical Removal Action Monte Cristo Mining Area (MCMA) Site Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest Snohomish County, Washington, USFS, September 2012.

Monte Cristo Mining Area, Remedial Investigation Phase 2, Summary Report, Prepared for Washington State Department of Ecology, May 31, 2012, 17800-06. Hart Crowser, Inc.

Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis, Monte Cristo Mining Area, Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, Snohomish County, Washington, CES, April 2010.

Site Inspection Report Monte Cristo Mining Area Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, CES, December 2007.

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

Historical mining operations have resulted in soil contamination due to spillage of ore at aerial tram terminals and haulage ways. In addition, waste rock dumped at the Rainy Mine and operation of a mill to concentrate ore for smelting resulted in deposit of tailings on the land surface.

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.

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.

Less than 100 cubic yards of state-only dangerous waste will be generated during excavation. The dangerous waste will be placed in containers on the site and transported off-site for disposal.

4) Describe special emergency services that might be required.

Due to the remoteness of project communication will be limited to Forest Service supplied radio, satellite phone, and satellite internet connection. In the event of life threatening injury helicopter transport will be used.

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

Refer to the Health and Safety Plan in the USFS Removal Action Work Plan.

b. **Noise**

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

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. [help]

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Short-term noise will result from construction activity associated with operation of to fall trees and remove contaminated soil. Operation of equipment will be during daylight hours.

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

None.

8. **Land and shoreline use**

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

Recreational

b. Has the project site been used as working farmlands or working forest lands? If so, describe. How much agricultural or forest land of long-term commercial significance will be converted to other uses as a result of the proposal, if any? If resource lands have not been designated, how many acres in farmland or forest land tax status will be converted to nonfarm or nonforest use? [help]

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. [help]

None.

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

No.

e. What is the current zoning classification of the site? [help]

F, Forestry

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

Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, FLU 530, other ownership with NF boundary

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

Resource Shoreline Environment

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

No.

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

None.

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

None.

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

None.

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

Remove contaminated soil that may otherwise prevent landowners from full enjoyment their land.

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

Remove contaminated soil that may otherwise hinder land use.

9. **Housing**

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

None.

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

None.

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

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? [help]

None.

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

Trees will be removed in areas of disturbance for removal of contaminated soil.

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

Revegetate area and encourage natural propagation of tree species.

11. **Light and glare**

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

None.

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

No.

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

None.

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

None.

12. **Recreation**

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

The parcels are located within the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, Darrington Ranger District. The area is a popular destination for people interested in mining history, backpacking, and mountaineering. The area is surrounded by the Henry M. Jackson Wilderness

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

Public use will be limited during construction activity.

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

None.

13. **Historic and cultural preservation**

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

Yes, the Monte Cristo Mining Historic District (06050200135). Cleanup activities in areas of potential effects are: United Companies Concentrator, the Ore Collector, the Comet Mine tram terminal, and the Haulage Ways.

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. [help]

Yes.

Kelly, Katherine M., Pam Trautman, Garth Baldwin, Jason Cowan, Jeffrey Flenniken, Jennifer Hushour, and Keith Solmo, 2014. Cultural Resources Assessment for the Monte Cristo Mining Area CERCLA Project, Snohomish County, Washington: Cleanup Area of Potential Effect. Tierra Right of Way, Settle, Washington.

Friel, Breton, 2011. A Cultural Resources Study of the Monte Cristo CERCLA Project. Prepared by Heritage Stewardship Group, US Forest Service Enterprise Unit, for the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, Snohomish County, Washington, March 7.

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. [help]

Refer to above reports in c.

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.

See Appendix G of the USFS Removal Action Work Plan.

Mitigation measures will be taken by a combination of training, documentation by digital photography, narrative recordation, and spatial recordation. Treatment measures taken to minimize and avoid adverse effects by informing contractors of preservation measures; such as, mapping and documenting current conditions; reconstruction; leaving large structural members and equipment in situ; cleaning and salvage mining debris and return to approximate original location; collect artifacts for analysis and prepare artifacts for curation; provide a professional archeological monitor; prepare a professional report; and historical interpretation installation.

14. **Transportation**

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

The properties are accessed from the Mountain Loop Highway via a USFS Access Route, Monte Cristo Mine to Market Road, and access routes along former mining operation haul routes.

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? [help]

No.

c. How many additional parking spaces would the completed project or non-project proposal have? How many would the project or proposal eliminate? [help]

None.

d. 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). [help]

No.

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

No.

f. 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? [help]

None.

g. Will the proposal interfere with, affect or be affected by the movement of agricultural and forest products on roads or streets in the area? If so, generally describe.

No.

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

None.

15. **Public services**

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

No.

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

16. **Utilities**

a. Circle utilities currently available at the site: [help]
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. [help]

None.

C. Signature [HELP]

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: _____

Name of signee Jason Shira

Position and Agency/Organization Site Manager / Department of Ecology

Date Submitted: 5/12/15