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**WHATCOM COUNTY**  
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**Endangered Species Act (ESA) Checklist for Development within the ESA  
Potential Impact Area**

**Applicant Information**

**Project Information**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_  
Parcel Number \_\_\_\_\_

**Project Description**

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This checklist is for all development within the ESA Potential Impact Area, which consists of the following:

- The FEMA designated floodplain and/or floodway,
- The Riparian Buffer Zone (RBZ) as described by the Dept of Natural Resources 2007 stream typing system and WDFW's 1997 stream buffer guidelines, and/or
- Channel Migration Zone (CMZ) plus 50' as identified according to Dept of Ecology 2003).

This checklist was developed to help project proponents and government agencies identify when a project needs further analysis regarding potential adverse effects on Endangered Species as required by the Endangered Species Act (ESA). For our purposes, "ESA listed species" are any species listed as endangered, threatened, or being considered for listing.

**If ESA listed species are present or ever were present within the ESA Potential Impact Area where your project will be located, your project has the potential for affecting them, and you must comply with the ESA. The questions in this section will help determine if your proposed project could have an impact.**

**Whatcom County Planning and Development Services and/or the River and Flood Division of Public Works can provide technical assistance in answering the following questions in this checklist. If necessary, The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) regional office can also provide information to help you answer these questions.**

1. Are there any ESA listed species currently present within the ESA Potential Impact Area in which your project will be located? Yes\_\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_\_

Please describe the species and its habitat: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. Were any of the ESA listed species historically present in within the ESA Potential Impact Area? Yes\_\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_\_ Uncertain\_\_\_\_\_

Please describe: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**If you answered "yes" to either of the above questions (1 and 2), you must complete the remainder of this checklist.**

**PROJECT SPECIFICS: The questions in this section are specific to the project and vicinity.**

1. Name of watershed:  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. Name of nearest waterbody:  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. What is the distance from this project to the nearest body of water?  
\_\_\_\_\_

Often a buffer between the project and a stream can reduce the chance of a negative impact to fish.

4. What is the current land use adjacent to the potentially affected water body (*developed including commercial, parking lots, residential, paved and/or graveled surfaces, agriculture, forestry, etc*)?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. What is the predominant vegetal cover between the project and the potentially affected water body (*dense forest, woodland, scrub, herbaceous grass and forbs, etc*)?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

6. Is the project above a barrier to fish passage:
- natural permanent barrier (waterfall)      Yes\_\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_\_
  - natural temporary barrier (beaver pond)      Yes\_\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_\_
  - human-made barrier (culvert, dam)      Yes\_\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_\_
  - other:      Yes\_\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_\_ (explain): \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

If you answered yes to the questions above, describe the barrier and source of information:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

7. If you answered yes to the question 6 above, are there any resident salmonid populations above the blockage? Yes\_\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_\_ Don't know\_\_\_\_\_

8. What percent of the project will be impervious surface (including pavement, graveled surfaces, compacted soil, and/or roof area)?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**FISH MIGRATION: The following questions will help determine if this project could interfere with the migration of adult and juvenile fish. (Both increases and decreases in water flows can affect fish migration.)**

1. Does the project require the withdrawal of:
- a. Surface water? Yes\_\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_\_
- Amount \_\_\_\_\_
- Name of surface water body \_\_\_\_\_
- b. Ground water? Yes\_\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_\_
- Amount \_\_\_\_\_
- From where \_\_\_\_\_
- Depth of well \_\_\_\_\_

***(If you answered yes to any of the above question, the applicant shall contact the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Washington Department of Ecology to obtain appropriate approvals)***

2. Will any water be rerouted? Yes\_\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_\_
- If yes, will this require a channel relocation? Yes\_\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_\_
- Please describe: \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

3. Will there be retention or detention ponds? Yes\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_

If you answer yes, will this be an infiltration pond or a surface discharge to either a municipal storm water system or a surface water body?

Yes\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_

If you answer yes to a surface water discharge, please give the name of the waterbody that will be discharged into: \_\_\_\_\_

4. Will this project require the building of any temporary or permanent roads?

Yes\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_ *(Increased road distance may affect the timing of water reaching a stream and may impact fish habitat.)*

5. Are any new or replacement culverts or bridges proposed as part of this project?

Yes\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_

6. Will topography changes affect the duration/direction of runoff flows?

Yes\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_

If yes, describe the changes: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

7. Will the project involve any placement of fill within the ESA Potential Impact Area?

Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_

If you answered yes, describe expected impacts on flood storage and/or flood conveyance and how these impacts will either be avoided or mitigated:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**WATER QUALITY:** The following questions will help determine if this project could adversely impact water quality for either surface or groundwater. Such impacts can cause problems for listed species. *(Water quality can be made worse by runoff from impervious surfaces, altering water temperature, discharging contaminants, etc.)*

1. Do you know of any problems with water quality in any of the streams within the ESA Potential Impact Area? Yes\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_

(Information on impaired water bodies can be obtained from Washington Department of Ecology)

If you answered yes, describe \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. Will your project either reduce or increase shade along or over a waterbody?  
Yes\_\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_\_
- (Removal of shading vegetation or the building of structures such as docks or floats often result in a change in shade).***

If you answered yes, please describe:

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3. Will the project introduce any nutrients or other contaminants (fertilizers, other waste discharges, or storm water runoff) to the waterbody? Yes\_\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_\_
4. Will turbidity be introduced to a water body by construction of the project or during operation of the project? Yes\_\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_\_
- (In-water or near water work will often increase turbidity.)***

If you answered yes, consult with Washington Department of Ecology to ensure compliance with water quality regulations.

5. Will your project require long term maintenance that could affect water quality in the future, e.g., bridge cleaning, highway salting, chemical sprays for vegetation management, clearing of parking lots? Yes\_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

If you answered yes, please describe:

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**VEGETATION: The following questions are designed to determine if the project will affect riparian vegetation, thereby, adversely impacting salmon.**

1. Will the project involve the removal of any vegetation from the stream banks?  
Yes\_\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_\_

If you answered yes, please describe the existing conditions, and the amount and type of vegetation to be removed:

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If any vegetation is removed from a riparian area, a mitigation plan prepared by a qualified specialist will be required. Please provide a copy of the plan if available. Describe briefly what your proposed mitigation would consist of:

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**RESOURCE AGENCIES:**

**Whatcom County Planning and Development Services - GIS mapping**

[http://www.co.whatcom.wa.us/pds/planning/CAO\\_September/CAO\\_Frequently Flooded.pdf](http://www.co.whatcom.wa.us/pds/planning/CAO_September/CAO_Frequently_Flooded.pdf)

[http://www.co.whatcom.wa.us/pds/planning/CAO\\_September/CAO\\_Wildlife.pdf](http://www.co.whatcom.wa.us/pds/planning/CAO_September/CAO_Wildlife.pdf)

**Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Website**

<http://wdfw.wa.gov/>

This site has useful information on fish habitat.

**Washington Department of Ecology Website**

[www.ecy.wa.gov](http://www.ecy.wa.gov)

Click on the Water Quality button on the left side of this page.

**National Marine Fisheries Services Website**

Evolutionarily Significant Unit (ESU) maps can be found at

[www.nwr.noaa.gov](http://www.nwr.noaa.gov)

Click on the Endangered Species Act (ESA) links to view the ESU maps and other information.

**NOTE: Most applicants should have the information necessary to answer most of the questions in this checklist. Additional information will need to be obtained from local and state agencies if it appears that the project is likely to affect ESA listed species.**