Purpose of Checklist: The State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA), chapter 43.21C RCW, requires all governmental agencies to consider the environmental impacts of a proposal before making decisions. An environmental impact statement (EIS) must be prepared for all proposals with probable significant adverse impacts on the environment. The purpose of this checklist is to provide information to help the Responsible Official of the Public Utility District No. 1 of Snohomish County (the District), and any other agencies with jurisdiction, to identify impacts from a proposal (and to reduce or avoid impacts from the proposal, if it can be done) and to help the District decide whether an EIS is required.

A. BACKGROUND

1. Name of proposed project, if applicable:

   Woods Creek Shelter and Trail

2. Name of applicant:

   Public Utility District No. 1 of Snohomish County

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

   P.U.D. No. 1 of Snohomish County
   P.O. Box 1107
   Everett, WA 98206-1107
   Project Leader/Contact Person: Jerome Drescher
   Phone: 425-783-8425

4. Date checklist prepared:

   July 8, 2024

5. Agency Requesting Checklist:

   Public Utility District No. 1 of Snohomish County (Snohomish PUD)

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

   Design, Permitting, and Bidding: 2024
   Construction: 2024

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

   Ongoing maintenance and repair of facility structures, property grounds and vegetation will occur as needed.

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

   Critical Areas Study and Mitigation Plan Wetland Resources, 2024

Shoreline Site Plan, Wetland Resources, 2024

Shoreline Compliance Narrative, Wetland Resources, 2024

Archaeological Survey Report, Equinox Consulting, 2023

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 applications are pending.

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

    Public Utility District No. 1 of Snohomish County: SEPA Checklist and Threshold Determination

    Snohomish County: Building permit
    Clearing and grading permit
    Shoreline substantial development permit

11. Give a 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.

    The proposed project includes the construction of a covered shelter approximately 24' x 46' located at the existing Woods Creek hydroelectric facility. A trail will be built to connect the sheltered area to the powerhouse. The purpose of this project is to provide a gathering area that will be used during educational tours and public outreach events.

    In addition to the proposed work, this project evaluation also includes an impact analysis and proposed mitigation for clearing that occurred on the west side of Woods Creek within critical area buffer. The clearing occurred in the footprint of an overgrown access road for the purposes of emergency access to infrastructure located on the west side of Woods Creek.

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.

    Street Address: 10700 and 10618 Hand Rd, Monroe, WA

    Parcel Numbers: 28072300200600, 28072300200700, and 28072300200800.

    Legal Description:
    Section 23 Township 28 Range 07 Quarter NW-SW LOT 2 SNO CO BLA 08-109839 BA

REC UND AFN 200903311394 & ROS FOR PUD #1 OF SNO CO AS REC UND AFN 200903315110 BEING SELY PTN SE1/4 NW1/4 & NWLY PTNNE1/4 NE1/4 SW1/4 SD SEC 23

Vicinity map of the project site.

B. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS

1. Earth

a. General description of the site

(underline one): **Flat**, rolling, hilly, **steep slopes**, mountainous,

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

The site is mostly flat, with grades around 1-3%. On the north and west side of the property there is a steep slope of approximately 45%. The proposed project is not anticipated to impact or be impacted by the 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.

On-site soils have been mapped by the NRCS as Ragnar fine sandy loam, Norma loam, and Tokul-Ogarty Rock outcrop complex.

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

No evidence of unstable soils was observed in the immediate vicinity.

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.

Grading for the covered structure will be carried out to prepare for the construction area and to construct the proposed additional parking. This includes 1,825 SF of land disturbance area.

Trail preparation and construction will be completed with hand tools and will require minimal site disturbance. The footprint of new trail area is approximately 2,800 SF, with 1,421 SF of this occurring within existing buffer area. Impacts to existing vegetation are limited to scrub shrub and herbaceous plants.

Clearing for emergency access on the west side of Woods Creek previously occurred and impacted approximately 14,456 SF of buffer area that consisted of a mix of young forest, herbaceous plants and scrub shrub areas. The clearing reclaimed a previous access road.

f. Could erosion occur as a result of clearing, construction, or use? If so, generally describe.
Minimal grading and excavation activities are anticipated during construction. This may expose soils, temporarily increasing the potential for erosion. The proposed construction area is already nearly flat, significantly reducing the potential for erosion. The potential for erosion during construction activites will be further reduced by the application of Best Management Practices (BMPs) during the construction process.

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

The proposed shelter will result in 2,114 SF of total impervious surface, with 1,794 SF of that total being new.

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

Proposed measures may include, but not be exclusive of the following BMPs:

- **Operating equipment under stable soil and weather conditions.**
- **Construction will be of short duration – 1 to 2 days.**
- **Equipment will be limited to hand tools and operations will take place from the uplands.**

2. Air

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

Short term, direct emissions from construction equipment, which consists of an excavator, support vehicles and dump truck. Odors from construction materials may occur, engine exhaust will be present during construction, and dust may be temporarily generated during the removal of fill. A temporary increase in carbon dioxide, nitrous oxide and methane emissions from use of the motorized equipment involved in the construction phase will occur during the period of active project work and discontinue when work is complete.

The greenhouse gas emissions associated with the active construction phase of this project are estimated to be as follows:

- **Carbon dioxide** **1.33 metric tons**
- **Methane** **0.07 kg**
- **Nitrous oxide** **0.03 kg**
- **Total combined in carbon dioxide equivalents** **1.34 metric tons**

Long term emissions for the completed project are expected to remain consistent with existing emissions resulting from daily operations. These include emissions that may be associated with routine maintenance and/or repair of the completed project.

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

No off-site sources of emissions or odor in the immediate vicinity of the project site are known that will impact the proposed project.

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

The following measures may be implemented for dust cover: seeding of exposed soils, as needed.

PUD No. 1 of Snohomish County has adopted a Climate Change Policy providing both strategies and guidance for addressing and supporting planning and

operational changes with the goal to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from non-generation related activities and improve the energy efficiency of generation, transmission, distribution, and administrative facilities. Total utility greenhouse gas emissions inclusive of all District operations are also calculated and reported annually to the US Energy Information Agency under the 1605 (b) reporting program and this process is expected to continue.

In addition, the PUD continuously monitors and evaluates weather events and projected climate conditions in order to address operational needs and for resource availability and conservation planning considerations. Both short term actions to address immediate weather conditions and longer term planning to address seasonal changes in hydrologic conditions will continue to be implemented.

In regard to the proposed project, all passenger vehicles and construction related equipment are and will be properly maintained and will comply with applicable emission control devices and federal and state air quality regulations for exhaust pipe emissions. Operational measures to increase fuel efficiency and reduce fuel related emissions will be applied when practicable and attainable at reasonable cost. Idling of combustion engines will be minimized and equipment will be turned off when applicable.

3. Water

a. Surface Water:

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.

Woods Creek is adjacent to the proposed project site and is the location of the Woods Creek Hydroelectric Project. Associated wetlands have been delineated and are described in the Wetland Resources report dated June 18, 2024.

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 in-water work is proposed. A portion of the proposed trail is located within 200-feet of Woods Creek. Additionally, clearing for the reclamation of the western emergency access road occurred within 200 feet of Woods Creek. No in-water work occurred during this action.

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.

No fill or dredging is proposed.

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

No surface water withdrawals or diversions are associated with the project.

5) Does the proposal lie within a 100-year flood plain? 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 discharges of waste materials to surface waters will occur in association with the project.

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.

No groundwater withdrawals are associated with the project.

2) Describe waste material that will be discharged into the ground from septic tanks or other sources, if any (for example: domestic sewage; industrial waste materials, agricultural wastes; 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.

Not applicable.

c. Water Runoff (including storm water):

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.

The project will not result in increased stormwater runoff conditions.

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

Spills during fueling or maintenance of construction equipment could occur. Equipment will be checked for leaks prior to use and maintenance will occur in upland areas, away from the riparian shoreline and area wetlands.

3) Does the proposal alter or otherwise affect drainage patterns in the vicinity of the site? If so, describe.

The project is designed to minimize impacts to surface runoff and drainage patterns. Run-off from the proposed covered shelter area will be infiltrated on-site.

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

BMPs, as outlined in Ecology's latest version of the *Stormwater Management Manual for Western Washington* or any additional guidance, as required by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife or Snohomish County Public Utility District No. 1, will be implemented during the construction phase of the project to control any potential erosional stormwater runoff and prevent potential sedimentation of aquatic habitat adjacent to the project site.

4. Plants

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

__X__ deciduous tree: **alder, maple**, aspen, other: **cottonwood**
__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?

The proposed covered shelter will be constructed in an area currently maintained as lawn. The proposed trail will result in minor impacts to existing vegetation (herbaceous and shrubs).

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

No threatened or endangered plant species are documented to be present at or near the project site by the WDNR Natural Heritage Program and none were observed during previous site visits to the area.

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

Permanent buffer impacts associated with the existing and proposed clearing will be mitigated through the preservation of additional upland habitat.

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:

birds: **hawk, heron, eagle, songbirds, birds of prey**
mammals: **deer, bear, elk, beaver, other small mammals**
fish: bass, **salmon, trout, shellfish**

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

The East Fork of Woods Creek flowing through the property is mapped as a priority habitat for dolly varden/bull trout and cutthroat trout. Spawning habitat for non-ESA-listed coho, chum and pink salmon is also present within the stream.

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

Salmon and steelhead utilize Woods Creek downstream of Coho Falls for migration to and from spawning sites. The project site is also located under the Pacific Flyway for migrating birds.

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

Additional buffer area will be preserved to offset buffer impacts. No live trees within the forested riparian buffer will be removed.

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

None known or documented.

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.

Not applicable.

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

Not applicable.

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:

No measures are proposed.

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.

None known.

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

None known.

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.

Not applicable to the project site.

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.

No hazardous chemicals will be stored, used, or produced during the project's construction.

4) Describe special emergency services that might be required.

No special emergency services are required as part of this project.

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

Oil, gas, diesel or hydraulic fluids required to operate construction equipment will be stored or refilled at upland locations away from the shoreline.

b. Noise:

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

Existing noise related to project operations and adjacent residential land uses, will not affect the project proposal.

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.

Equipment operation will generate in-air noise on a short-term (less than 3 days) basis; however, the level of noise will not greatly exceed ambient conditions.

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

Construction generated noise will not exceed County ordinance levels. Operation of construction equipment will be limited to daylight conditions.

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.

A run of the river hydroelectric facility is operated on the subject site. Adjacent land uses vary from undeveloped land to the west, rural residential development and BPA powerline corridors to the north.

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?

The project site is not used as working farmlands or forest lands.

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:

Not applicable to the project.

c. Describe any structures on the site.

The site is developed as a run of the river hydroelectric facility that includes a powerhouse, penstock, intake structures, fencing, access driveway, and storage buildings.

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

Not applicable.

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

Forestry (F)

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

Low Density Rural Residential (1DU/20 Acres)

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

The subject property is located within Rural Conservancy Environment and the waters of Woods Creek and the associated wetland onsite are designated as Aquatic Shoreline Environment.

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

Woods Creek is a Type S, shoreline of the state water that is located on the subject property. A Type F stream has also been identified on the east side of the site, flowing west and into East Fork Woods Creek. A large wetland complex has been previously delineated and recorded through a critical areas site plan on the subject site in association with Woods Creek.

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

No residential development is associated with this project. The property currently supports a run of the river hydroelectric project. While no staff work full time on-site, the operations and maintenance of the project necessitates staff visiting and working on the site on a regular basis.

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

Not applicable to the project.

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

Not applicable to the project.

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

Agricultural and forest lands of long-term commercial significance are not associated with the project site or within its immediate vicinity.

9. Housing

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

No housing is associated with the proposed project nor are there any housing units present on the site.

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

None; housing is not applicable to the project.

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

None; not applicable to the project.

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?

The proposed structure will be 17-feet tall and will not have closed walls.

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

No views will be altered or obstructed by the project action.

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

Not applicable to the project.

11. Light and Glare

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

No additional light or glare is anticipated from the proposed 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?

Not applicable to the project. No off-site sources of light or glare will affect the project proposal.

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

None; Not applicable to the project.

12. Recreation

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

No designated recreational opportunities have been identified in the immediate vicinity.

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

The project will not displace any existing recreational uses at the site or within its immediate vicinity.

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

No measures are proposed.

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.

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 are known.

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.

Work will be conducted under the District's Unanticipated Discovery Plan. If any evidence of historical or cultural features are uncovered during construction activities, work will be stopped and the District will contact the Washington State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation.

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.

No loss or disturbance to cultural or historic resources is anticipated.

14. Transportation

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

Site ingress and egress is from an existing driveway on Hand Road.

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?

The site is not currently served by public transit.

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

The proposed project will not create any new parking spaces at this time, however it will utilize the existing gravel area for parking. Additional parking may be permitted in the future under separate land use permitting application.

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).

No new or improvements to existing roads, streets, pedestrian, bicycle or state transportation facilities are proposed.

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

No.

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

The completed project is not anticipated to generate additional traffic. The site is already being used for educational purposes.

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

No measures proposed.

15. Public Services

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

The project will not require an increased need for public services.

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

None. The proposed project is limited to an open covered shelter and trail.

16. Utilities

a. Underline utilities currently available at the site: electricity, natural gas, water, refuse service, telephone, sanitary sewer, septic system, storm sewer, cable TV.

The site is a hydroelectric facility with electricity and water utilities on-site. A septic system is present on the property, associated with the past residence.

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.

Utilities exist on-site. No new service installations are proposed with this project.

C. SIGNATURE

The above answers are true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that the lead agency is relying on them to make its decision.

Signature: 

Name of signee: Jerome Drescher

Position and Agency/Organization: Facilities Engineer, Snohomish County PUD

Date Submitted: 8/28/2024