

# Vegetation Discipline Report Checklist

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Project Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Job Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Received: \_\_\_\_\_ Date Reviewed: \_\_\_\_\_ Reviewer: \_\_\_\_\_

(SAT = Satisfactory; INC = Incomplete; MIS = Missing; N/A = Not Applicable)

Answers are required for questions which have no N/A box.

A Vegetation Discipline Report can be highly detailed or extremely concise depending upon whether the level of impact or controversy is substantial or minimal. Project teams should take care to “right-size” the discipline report so it adequately addresses the impacts and controversy without over-analyzing or providing unnecessary information.

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## I. Project Description

SAT INC MIS N/A

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|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | A. Describe the overall purpose of the project, and provide a brief summary of the project objectives.  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |                          | B. Include information on proposed project-related construction activities and types of equipment, as available. Include sources of loud noise greater than ambient levels (e.g., pile driving and blasting). Include all phases or stages of the project and details about any structures altered or built as part of the proposed project.  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | C. Describe secondary project features (i.e., wetland mitigation construction, staging areas, detours, waste and stockpile sites, safety clearing, work trestles and temporary work bridges, and demolition).   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | D. Provide a chronology of activities, timing of construction, and phasing of construction. Provide hours of operation; specify day or night, time of year (months and year), and duration. If details are unavailable, identify a potential work window using the worst-case scenario.   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |                          | E. Describe proposed grading and filling or other earthwork; include potential best management practices (BMPs) for controlling erosion, sedimentation, stormwater, and spills.   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | F. Explain any expected changes to the operation of the facility (e.g., increased traffic, revised use patterns, or new maintenance needs).   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | G. Describe proposed in-water work or work below the ordinary high water mark (OHWM), work over water bodies, and potential for impacts on riparian vegetation (quantity and type). Include conditions and work windows as described in the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) hydraulic project approval (HPA). State clearly if the project includes no in-water or over-water work. |

SAT INC MIS N/A

- H. Follow steps B through G for each build alternative. Describe any differences in proposed activity between each build alternative.
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## II. Methods, Data Sources, and Graphics

SAT INC MIS N/A

- A. Provide date(s) of the site visit(s).
- B. Describe conditions at the time of the site visit(s) (e.g., normal precipitation or dry year).
- C. For any surveys completed, clearly specify the area of the survey (e.g., all areas within 10 feet of toe of fill or all rights-of-way). Indicate the protocols and field methods used for each survey, and clearly state the results. Also indicate whether the appropriate identification window was observed for completing surveys of flowering plants.
- D. Include simple plan sheets or an overview of the alignment showing the location of proposed work under each alternative relative to sensitive areas and/or habitat. Include a figure showing locations of water bodies potentially affected by the proposed in-water work. The figure must clearly show the existing conditions and proposed design.
- E. U.S. Geological Survey quadrangle map or National Wetlands Inventory map of project study area.
- F. Include photographs of the study area, clearly labeled.
- G. Aerial photograph (using an aerial photograph as background for site plan and mapping sensitive resources can be helpful for the reviewer).
- H. Existing local sensitive area maps should be consulted to identify protected areas and locations of special aquatic and natural resources sites.
- I. Washington Department of Natural Resources Natural Heritage Program data. Do not include the raw data in the report.
- J. Washington Department of Natural Resources rare plant list by county.
- K. County noxious weed list.
- L. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service species list by county.
- M. Washington State Gap Analysis, final report: Volumes 1 through 5 (Washington Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, University of Washington).
- N. Personal communications as appropriate: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife local area habitat biologist; tribal contacts, National Marine Fisheries Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, local chapter of National Audubon Society, local weed control officer, and/or other local experts.

**SAT INC MIS N/A**

- O. Additional available data as appropriate: U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT), county, local jurisdiction, university research, etc.
  - P. Other relevant discipline reports (wetlands, water quality, water resources, etc.).
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**III. Affected Environment**

**SAT INC MIS N/A**

- A. Describe the project setting. Include the physiographic region, general topography, dominant habitat and vegetation type(s), nearby water resources, mapped soils, and land use types.
- B. Provide the legal description (section, township, and range) of areas affected by the alternatives.
- C. Provide the name and number of the water resource inventory area.
- D. Provide the hydrologic unit code (HUC).
- E. Define the project study area (area of potential impacts, both indirect and direct). The study area should include all areas potentially affected by each alternative. The study area is usually larger than the project area (e.g., the river upstream and downstream of a bridge project, water bodies receiving stormwater runoff, detour routes or borrow pits for source material, wetland mitigation sites, or other mitigation sites resulting from project impacts). Include all areas, including mitigation areas and other areas outside the immediate project area that may be affected by the project activities.
- F. Describe the environmental baseline condition (condition before project implementation) of all vegetation communities in the project study area. The baseline description should include all pertinent habitat parameters. Identify dominant plant species in each vegetation community, including dominant species found in both terrestrial and aquatic plant communities.
- G. Summarize the findings of the wetland discipline report in table format as applicable. Include a list of wetland plants observed in the project study area.
- H. Identify any significant or unusual plants in the project study area (i.e., champion trees, rare plants, or special status plants).
- I. Indicate any state or federally listed species, proposed species, candidate species, species of concern, and designated or proposed critical habitat that is known to occur or has the potential to occur on the site or in the project study area.
- J. For listed and other special status plant species potentially occurring in the project study area, briefly describe their habitat requirements and ecology. Enough information should be provided to adequately explain the potential impacts. More detailed information may be incorporated into this synopsis by reference or may be included as an appendix to the report.

SAT INC MIS N/A

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|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |  | K. Describe any noxious weeds or invasive species observed or known to occur on the site or in the project study area. |
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#### IV. Impacts

*Note:* The analysis should be commensurate with the level of impact.

SAT INC MIS NA

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|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |                          | A. Describe how the environmental baseline condition (condition before project implementation) of the vegetation communities in the study area will be degraded, maintained, or improved (restored) by each alternative.  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |                          | B. Direct effects: Describe and analyze the effects of each alternative that would directly affect the vegetation communities and special status species. Include actions that would potentially remove, fragment, or destroy habitat; or displace or otherwise influence the species, either beneficially or adversely. Quantify the temporary and permanent impacts, if possible. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |                          | C. Describe the potential for impacts due to disturbance (e.g., dust, increased harvesting, or increased human activity) associated with construction and continuing operation.   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |                          | D. Indirect effects: Describe any potential indirect impacts (those that occur later in time) such as increased competition from invasive species and impacts due to increased long-term human access or project-induced growth.  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |                          | E. Cumulative effects: Identify the species or communities within the study area that are vulnerable to the cumulative effects of past, present, or future actions that are reasonably certain to occur, including the proposed project.  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |                          | F. Discuss water quality impacts on aquatic plant habitat (sedimentation and pollutants).   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |                          | G. Quantify the area of vegetation removal; include clearing and grubbing quantities, vegetation type, and replanting plans, if appropriate. For trees, include species and approximate size (height and diameter at breast height). Describe both temporary and permanent clearing for each alternative.   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | H. Discuss the quantity and significance of wetland and buffer impacts if applicable.   |

*Note:* A biological assessment may be required if the proposed project has federal involvement (i.e., funding or permits) and federally listed species are potentially present. The biological assessment should be prepared under separate cover.

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#### V. Proposed Mitigation Measures

SAT INC MIS N/A

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|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |  | A. As appropriate, provide recommendations that could help reduce or eliminate the adverse effects of the proposed activity on vegetation. Include avoidance, |
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minimization, and mitigation techniques, as appropriate. These could include such things as clearing limitations, avoidance of specific areas, preconstruction surveys, special construction techniques, and timing windows.

SAT INC MIS N/A

- B. Ensure that any mitigation measures discussed have been approved by the WSDOT project team.
- C. Include any monitoring requirements that are recommended for use before or after project implementation.
- D. Monitoring requirements should be clearly stated so they can be easily incorporated into the project design or contract.

## VI. Summary and Conclusions

SAT INC MIS N/A

- A. Summarize the analysis performed and the conclusions reached. The Summary and Conclusions should be written in “Plain Talk” language (see [www.governor.wa.gov/priorities/plaintalk/default.asp](http://www.governor.wa.gov/priorities/plaintalk/default.asp)) and include enough detail so that it can be included in the environmental impact statement with only minor modification.

The Summary and Conclusions should include the following:

- A. A statement defining the objectives of the project.
- B. A discussion of the impacts of all alternatives, including the no-build alternative.
- C. A synopsis of recommended mitigation.
- D. A comparison of alternatives based on impacts.

General Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
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