

# **SEPA ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST**

## ***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.

## **A. Background** [\[HELP\]](#)

### **1. Name of proposed project, if applicable:**

Bowman Bay Float Replacement, Boat Ramp Removal and Shoreline Restoration

### **2. Name of applicant:**

Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission (State Parks)

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

John Clark, Environmental Planner  
220 N Walnut Street, Burlington, WA 98233-1138. Telephone: 360-899-0142.  
Email: john.clark@parks.wa.gov

### **4. Date checklist prepared:** March 2025 – April 2025

### **5. Agency requesting checklist:** State Parks

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

The project schedule is anticipated during the in-water work fish window, July 16, thru February 15 of any year the permits are valid.

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

There are no other plans for future phases or activity related to this proposal.

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

- Macrovegetation Survey, prepared by PND Engineers, February 13, 2019
- JARPA Form for Floating Dock Replacement & Shoreline Restoration, prepared by Moffat & Nichol, March 2025
- Bowman Bay Condition Assessment Report, prepared by Moffatt & Nichol, March 2025

**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.**

There are no pending applications or governmental approvals of other proposals directly affecting the property covered by this proposal.

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

Federal:

- US Army Corps of Engineers Section 10 and/or 404 Permit
- Section 106 National Historic Preservation Act

State of Washington:

- WDFW Hydraulic Project Approval
- Washington State SEPA Review and Determination
- Washington Department of Natural Resources Aquatic Use Authorization

Skagit County

- Shoreline Exemption
- Flood 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. (Lead agencies may modify this form to include additional specific information on project description.)**

**Purpose and Need**

State Parks proposes replacing the aging floating dock and restore a portion of the shoreline at Bowman Bay, Deception Pass State Park in Skagit County, Washington. The existing floating dock has reached the end of its useful life and needs replacement to upgrade to a more environmentally friendly design and materials that will allow for increased light penetration. The existing boat ramp surface was damaged by storms in winter 2023-24 and is currently not suitable for launching and will be removed as a part of the shoreline restoration aspect of this project.

The purpose of the project is to replace the existing aging float to allow for continued use of public mooring while also improving habitat conditions in the nearshore area of Bowman Bay. The island float moorage provides day and overnight moorage to the public and is often utilized as a place to wait for favorable conditions necessary to travel through Deception Pass.

**Detailed Project Description**

State Parks proposes replacing the aging floating dock and restoring a portion of the shoreline at Bowman Bay, Deception Pass State Park in Skagit County, Washington. The existing floating dock has reached the end of its design life and needs replacement to upgrade to a more environmentally friendly design and materials that will allow for increased light penetration. The existing boat ramp surface was damaged by storms in winter 2023-24 and is currently not suitable for launching.

The existing float is timber-framed with a solid and mixed-grated (not functionally grated) surface; the replacement float will be steel-framed floats with grated decking throughout. The float will be replaced within the existing footprint with floats containing unobstructed grating on at least fifty (50) percent of the float's surface area, and grating material will have at least sixty (60) percent functional open space or forty (40) percent or greater multi-directional open space. These proposed actions will reduce the overwater shading of the float compared to the existing structure. Existing steel guide piles will remain in place to be reused with the new float. The existing

concrete boat ramp to be removed is broken and undercut in areas where the material underneath has eroded from tide and wave action.

The existing float structure is located entirely waterward of MHW and will be replaced (within the same footprint) by prefabricated, grated floats that will be installed using the existing steel guide piles that will remain in place. The existing float will be removed and will be towed by a vessel to the boat ramp at Cornet Bay to be removed from the water for upland disposal. The replacement floats will occupy approximately the same footprint as the existing float and will be used for the same purpose: public moorage. The new float will not include picnic tables that are present on the existing structure.

The floats are located on state-owned aquatic lands that have been withdrawn from the general lease program and made available for public use in conjunction with the Deception Pass State Park by Commissioner's Order dated June 7th, 1971. The project will be coordinated with Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) by State Parks; however, no specific DNR requirements are anticipated.

The existing concrete ramp will be removed. Once removed, any divots or depressions will be smoothed to avoid fish stranding. Above the high tide line (HTL) gravel/cobble will be added that is sized to match the current grain size found on the beach. Placement of gravel/cobble will provide a hand-launch boat ramp that also provides access to the adjacent parking lot. Riprap and/or rubble present to the north and south of the existing ramp will be removed and that portion of the shore returned to more natural beach conditions. Beach nourishment material, large woody debris, and native shoreline plantings will be placed above MHHW and above the ordinary high-water mark/high tide line (OHWM/HTL) as part of the restoration of the shoreline.

The shoreline restoration components will be completed to improve the habitat conditions along that portion of shoreline. The existing concrete boat ramp to be removed is broken and undercut in areas where the material underneath has eroded from tide and wave action. As-built drawings are not available for the existing concrete boat ramp and estimated dimensions are based on field observations. The portion of the existing concrete boat ramp to be removed measures approximately 120 feet long by 21-feet wide with a nominal thickness of 5-inches. The boat ramp has sloped-concrete shoulders measuring 2 feet wide beyond the nominal width. The total length of the existing boat ramp is unknown, as the portion beyond the area to be removed is constructed with individual 12-inch-wide planks which are covered with 6-inches or more of sand and sediment. The project also includes removal of a 15-foot wide by 10-foot-long section of asphalt paving connecting the existing boat ramp to the adjacent asphalt parking lot. The existing asphalt section is assumed to be 6-inches thick. The restoration also includes removal of concrete debris and angular rock. The shoreline will be restored to a natural beach matching existing beach slopes with addition of suitable beach nourishment material. The project will result in a net decrease in impervious surface coverage within the Upper Shore and Riparian Nearshore Zones defined in the Salish Sea Nearshore Habitat Calculator User Guide, Version 1.6 February 2024.

This project also includes maintaining a kayak and hand launch site in the location of the removed boat ramp. Maintenance activities include the relocation of large woody debris as needed to allow for pedestrian access and recreation access.

## **Planting Plan**

Two planting zones will be established: dune grass community beginning at +11 MLLW to +14.3 feet MLLW and a backshore community beginning at +14.3 MLLW extending landward to the edge of the new trail. Site preparation above +14.3 feet MLLW could include an application of a weed-free topsoil mix to a 6-inch depth, placed on disturbed areas to match adjacent grade. Please refer to the attached planting plan. The dune grass community will include native grasses, such as dune wild rye (*Leymus mollis*), spaced at 3-foot centers. Planting will occur in the spring, after plants emerge from dormancy, and construction is completed. The backshore community will include low-growing native herbaceous species and shrubs. Shrubs would be spaced approximately 1 stem per 9 to 16 square feet and take into consideration view corridors and travel routes. Spacing of herbaceous plants will be designated in the field, and planting will take place in the fall after construction is completed.

Table 6e-7 Planting plan with community and species palette.

Community/zone	Common name <i>Scientific Name</i>	Spacing	Comments
Dune Grass	dune wild rye <i>Leymus mollis</i>	3' O.C.	Bare-root plugs will be planted in spring when grasses emerge from dormancy. Seeds, if available, could be broadcast in the fall.
	beach lupine <i>Lupinus littoralis</i>	3-4' O.C	Planted in spring. Plants will be transplanted from pots.
	sea plantain <i>Plantago maritima</i>	Determined at time of planting	Planted in spring. Seeding in fall, if seeds are available.
Backshore herbaceous/shrub	coastal strawberry <i>Fragaria chiloensis</i>	Determined on site at time of planting.	Soils may be amended with topsoil, topped with mulch. Plants will be transplanted from pots. Size will be dependent upon availability. Planting will be in spring as plants are emerge from dormancy.
	beach pea <i>Lathyrus maritimus</i>		
	sea plantain <i>Plantago maritima</i>		
	Nootka rose <i>Rosa nutkana</i>	3'4' O.C.	
	oceanspray <i>Holodiscus bicolor</i>	3'4' O.C.	
	tall Oregon grape <i>Mahonia aquifolium</i>	3'4' O.C.	

Plantings will be maintained for survival. Temporary fencing may be erected to protect plantings.

## **EQUIPMENT**

Equipment and supplies will be delivered to the project using existing upland access routes and overwater by barge. The proposed island float replacement includes overwater work and work from the upland area adjacent to the boat ramp.

The following equipment is anticipated for use during the project:

- Tug
- Closed clamshell bucket or bucket with “thumb”
- Supporting work vessel, e.g., work skiff
- A small excavator
- Hand tools (e.g., shovels, drills, hammers)

## **SCHEDULE AND SEQUENCE**

The project is anticipated to begin after all permits and approvals are secured. Overwater construction activities are expected to take approximately 4 weeks to complete.

The project construction activities will follow the sequence below:

1. Mobilize to site
2. Install BMPs (e.g., turbidity curtain, tarps)
3. Stage materials at an approved upland location
4. Install float

5. Remove existing concrete boat Ramp
6. Smooth out beach gravel to prevent divots
7. Remove Rip Rap
8. Remove Picnic Tables and Grills
9. Plant Restoration Vegetation
10. Remove BMPs

**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 occurs 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.**

The project is located in Deception Pass State Park, Bowman Bay, Skagit County, Washington, Section 23, Township 34, Range 01 at 48.415461 N latitude and -122.650661 W longitude. The project is within the U.S. Geological Survey Hydrological Unit Code (HUC) 17110019 and Water Resource Inventory Area Number (WRIA) 3 Lower Skagit/Samish.

Directions:

1. From I-5 N take exit 230 for WA-20 toward Burlington/Anacortes/Skagit Airport
2. Turn right onto Rosario Rd
3. Turn left onto Bowman Bay Rd
4. Turn right to stay on Bowman Bay Rd
5. Continue until reaching the parking lot at Bowman Bay

## **B. Environmental Elements** [\[HELP\]](#)

### **1. Earth** [\[help\]](#)

#### **a. General description of the site:**

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

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

Beach slope is 5:1 to 6:1; H:V (CGS 2014).

#### **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.**

Nearshore consists of sand and gravel. The upland is characterized as fill material orange-brown, silty sand with few pebbles and small cobble (Coastal Geologic 2014).

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

The area is subject to tidal activity and there is evidence of erosion along the beach from storms in 2021. No unstable soils are evident in the adjacent upland area.

**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.**

Approximately 90 linear feet and 21 cubic yards (cy) of concrete debris and riprap would be removed above OHWM in the vicinity of boat ramp to re-establish natural shoreline processes. Approximately 40 cy total (31 cy below OHWM) of concrete will be removed in association with the boat ramp removal. Approximately 106 cubic yards of beach nourishment material will be placed above OHWM/HTL to restore existing grade. Approximately 31 cy of gravel will be placed 120 linear feet above OHWM/HTL for the shoreline trail extension. Imported material will not contain silty or clay type soils and shall not be angular rock. Fill to be used will be from an approved offsite facility and match existing beach gravels.

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

The beach habitat is highly dynamic and naturally experiences beach erosion during severe storm surges when wave energy is stronger and tides higher. Removal of the riprap from the shore would restore the natural processes. Although some erosion could occur during storms, it is expected normal conditions would deposit sands on the beach, as well. Removal of riprap would be considered a beneficial effect by returning the Bowman Bay beach processes to normal, highly dynamic conditions.

During extreme high tides and winter storms, waters may overflow the bank into the uplands. Regrading the trail, the placement of large woody debris and revegetating the top of the bank would minimize erosion of the upland.

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

There will be no increase in impervious surfaces of the project site after project construction. There will be a net reduction of impervious surfaces of approximately 945 sf from the ramp and concrete approach removal.

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

**Land/Waterbased Construction Measures**

- All work areas will be clearly marked and delineated to establish the work limits associated with access, staging, and construction.
- The staging area (used for activities such as equipment storage, vehicle storage, fueling, servicing, and hazardous material storage) will be established in a location and manner that will prevent contaminants like petroleum products, hydraulic fluid, fresh concrete, sediments, sediment-laden water, chemicals, or any other toxic or harmful materials from entering waters of the state.
- The contractor will not stage materials waterward of the HTL or OHWM except for over water work from the barge with applicable BMPs.
- The contractor will check equipment daily for leaks and complete any required repairs before using the equipment in or near water.
- The contractor will implement erosion and sediment control best management practices. Erosion control materials will be composed of 100% biodegradable materials.

- Erosion control materials will be certified free of noxious weeds and their seeds.
- The contractor and staff will not allow trash to accumulate at the project site and will dispose of all trash at an appropriate upland disposal location.
- A debris boom or other methods will be used to prevent sawdust, trimmings, drill shaving and other debris from contacting waters of the state and prevent contamination of soil and habitat.
- In-water work will be conducted during the approved WDFW and USACE in-water work window for marine waters of Bowman Bay: anticipated July 16 to February 15 to avoid adverse effects to listed fish species.
- WDFW will require a forage fish spawning survey prior to construction.
- Ramp and riprap removal will be conducted in the dry during low tide.
- If work waterward of the HTL or OHWM requires moving natural habitat features such as logs or large rocks, these habitat features will be returned near the same location after project completion.
- The floating dock will be constructed with grating material with a minimum 60-percent open area to avoid shading the underlying marine substrate.
- There would be 7 ft maintained between the float and the sea bottom. The float will be designed to avoid eelgrass habitat to the maximum extent practicable.
- Riprap removal equipment will include a closed clamshell bucket or similar for clean extraction and to prevent fall back to the extent practicable. Equipment will be based landward of the HTL and OHWM; no construction equipment would be allowed to access the beach or operate below HTL or OHWM.

## 2. Air [\[help\]](#)

### 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.

Emission from generators and other construction equipment would be the primary sources during construction. These sources of emissions would be temporary. After construction, no additional sources of emissions are anticipated.

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

There are no off-site sources of emissions that would affect the proposed project.

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

- 1) Operate all equipment in accordance with manufacturers' recommendations to minimize emissions.
- 2) Shut down idling vehicles and heavy equipment when not in use.

## 3. Water [\[help\]](#)

### 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.**

The project would be constructed over and near Bowman Bay, a bay in the Salish Sea off the coast of Fidalgo Island. According to the National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) There is an unnamed 1.9 acres Freshwater Forested/Shrub wetland approximately 900 ft south of the pier.

**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.**

There would be no work within 200 ft of the unnamed wetland. The project requires the following work in and adjacent to Bowman Bay (within 200 feet).

Within 200 feet of water, the project requires the following work:

- Mobilizing to site and staging of materials in the parking lot
- Installing upland erosion and sediment control best management practices (BMPs)
- Staging of backhoe and other similar equipment to access the boat ramp
- Removing the concrete approach area and the boat ramp, regrading the approach, constructing the new trail section and accessing the restoration planting site
- Removing shoreline debris
- Revegetating areas
- Demobilizing

The project requires the following general activities over-water and in-water work generally +9.07 MLLW to -35 MLLW:

- Mobilizing to work area with a tug, and support vessel
- Installing BMPs (e.g., turbidity curtain)
- Removing BMPs
- Demobilizing from over-water work area

**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 dredge or fill will be placed in or removed from surface waters or wetlands during this project. All proposed fill will be placed landward of OHWM/HTL

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

The proposed project includes removal of riprap from Bowman Beach above the HTL and OHWM. Removal of the riprap will occur during low tide to the extent practicable to avoid surface water inundation and diversion. It is possible that removal of the riprap may expose small pools of seawater under the riprap near the surface; however, this likely would not require withdrawals or diversions. The proposed project does not anticipate surface water withdrawals or diversions.

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



The project area is within the 100-year floodplain, and the area is mapped as Zone V4, denoting a special flood hazard area that is high risk (there is at least a 1 in 4 chance of flooding during a 30-year mortgage) for coastal flooding on the DFIRM map. The unnamed wetland to the south of the project is also within the floodplain.

**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.**

The proposal does not involve discharges of waste materials to surface waters.

**b. Ground Water:** [\[help\]](#)

**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.**

The proposal does not require groundwater to be withdrawn from a well for drinking water or other purposes; water will not be discharged to groundwater.

**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.**

The proposal will not discharge waste material into the ground from septic tanks or other sources. A septic system is not part of this proposal.

**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.**

There will be no additional runoff during or as a result of the project.

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

Waste materials could enter surface waters during construction. These include sediments and petroleum-based lubricants used during construction.

The following BMPs will be installed prior to construction to prevent waste materials from entering ground or surface waters:

- The contractor will implement all permit conditions to prevent waste materials from entering ground or surface waters.
- The contractor will comply with Washington State Water Quality Standards (Washington Administrative Code [WAC ]173-201A), including but not limited to:
  - Petroleum products, fresh cement, lime, concrete, chemicals, or other toxic or deleterious materials will not be allowed to enter surface waters.

- No oil, fuels, or chemicals may be discharged to surface waters, or onto land where there is a potential for reentry into surface waters.
- Fuel hoses, oil drums, oil or fuel transfer valves, fittings, etc., will be checked regularly for leaks, and materials will be maintained and stored properly to prevent spills.
- Contractor will check equipment for leaks and other problems that could result in the discharge of petroleum-based products or other material into the waters of Bowman Bay before staging and using equipment in or near water.
- The contractor will prepare and implement a spill prevention, control, and countermeasures (SPCC) plan during all demolition and construction operations. A copy of the plan with any updates will be maintained at the work site.
  - The SPCC plan will outline BMPs, responsive actions in the event of a spill or release, and notification and reporting procedures. The plan will also outline management elements, such as personnel responsibilities, project site security, site inspections, and training.
  - The SPCC plan will outline the measures to prevent the release or spread of hazardous materials found onsite or encountered during construction but not identified in contract documents. This includes any hazardous materials that are stored, used, or generated on site during construction activities. These items include but are not limited to gasoline, diesel fuel, oils, and chemicals.
  - Applicable spill response equipment and material designated in the SPCC plan will be maintained at the job site.
  - Corrective actions will be taken in the event of any discharge of oil, fuel, or chemicals into the water, including:
    - Containment and cleanup efforts will begin immediately upon discovery of the spill and be completed in an expeditious manner in accordance with all local, state, and federal regulations. Spill response will take precedence over normal work. Cleanup will include proper disposal of any spilled material and used cleanup material.
    - Oil-absorbent materials will be present on site for use in the event of a spill or if any oil product is observed in the water.
    - The cause of the spill will be ascertained and appropriate actions taken to prevent further incidents or environmental damage.
    - Spills will be reported to the Washington State Department of Ecology's (Ecology) Northwest Regional Spill Response Office at (206) 594-0000.
    - Waste materials will be disposed of in an appropriate manner consistent with applicable local, state, and federal regulations.
    - Demolition and construction materials will not be stored where wave action or upland runoff can cause materials to enter surface waters.
- The staging area (used for activities such as equipment storage, vehicle storage, fueling, servicing, and hazardous material storage) will be established in a location and manner that will prevent contaminants like petroleum products, hydraulic fluid, fresh concrete, sediments, sediment-laden water, chemicals, or any other toxic or harmful materials from entering waters of the state.
- The contractor will not stage materials waterward of the HTL or OHWM, except for over water work from the barge, with applicable BMPs.
- The contractor will check equipment daily for leaks and complete any required repairs before using the equipment in or near water.

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

The float replacement component of the project will not alter drainage patterns in the vicinity of the site. The ramp removal and shoreline restoration component of the project has the potential of altering stormwater drainage patterns in the vicinity of the site. The removal of the boat ramp and the installation of the restoration planting could alter stormwater runoff by changing drainage patterns by decreasing and or slowing runoff from the parking lot.

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

Project would comply with all permit requirements and implement the following stormwater, erosion, and sediment control practices during construction. The following measures, in addition to the land-based measures above, will be implemented:

- In-water work will be conducted only during the approved in-water work window for marine waters of Bowman Bay. The anticipated construction window for in-water work in Bowman Bay is July 16 to February 15 to protect salmon and bull trout. Following WDFW requirements, a forage fish spawning survey will be required prior to construction.
- The contractor will install a floating boom with a two-foot skirt around the construction site to catch debris and prevent it from falling into the water.
- Comply with BMPs provided above in Section 3.c.2.
- All debris will be retrieved and disposed of properly by the contractor. Coordination with WDFW to determine if a forage fish spawning survey is required. The forage fish spawning survey will be completed by a qualified biologist approved by WDFW prior to construction in coordination with WDFW area habitat biologist.
- Existing abutment and riprap removal will be conducted in the dry during low tide.

**4. Plants** [\[help\]](#)

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

- ☒ deciduous tree: alder, maple, aspen, other  
☒ evergreen tree: **fir**, cedar, **pine**, other  
☒ shrubs  
☒ grass  
☐ pasture  
☐ 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 **macroalgae**  
☐ other types of vegetation

**b. What kind and amount of vegetation will be removed or altered?**

No vegetation will be removed or altered.

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

No threatened or endangered plant species are known to be present on or near the site.

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

The 525 sf asphalt approach to the boat ramp and 420 sf of the removed boat ramp will be replanted along with additional upland areas totaling 2,880 sf of restoration planting.

**Planting Plan**

Planting will be consistent with the 2015 Bowman Bay Bulkhead Removal and Nearshore Enhancement Project specifications. Two planting zones will be established: dune grass community beginning at +11 MLLW to +14.3 feet MLLW and a backshore community beginning at +14.3 MLLW extending landward to the edge of the new trail. Site preparation above +14.3 feet MLLW could include an application of a weed-free topsoil mix to a 6-inch depth, placed on disturbed areas to match adjacent grade. Plant selection will be dependent on availability and State Parks Representative site-specific knowledge.

The dune grass community will include native grasses, such as dune wild rye (*Leymus mollis*), spaced at 3-feet centers (on center (O.C.). Planting will occur in the spring, after plants emerge from dormancy, and construction is completed. The backshore community will include low-growing native herbaceous species and shrubs. Shrubs would be spaced approximately 1 stem per 9 to 16 square feet and take into consideration view corridors and travel routes. Spacing of herbaceous plants will be designated in the field, and planting will take place in the fall after construction is completed.

*Table 6e-7 Planting plan with community and species palette.*

Community/zone	Common name <i>Scientific Name</i>	Spacing	Comments
Dune Grass	dune wild rye <i>Leymus mollis</i>	3' O.C.	Bare-root plugs will be planted in spring when grasses emerge from dormancy. Seeds, if available, could be broadcast in the fall.
	beach lupine <i>Lupinus littoralis</i>	3-4' O.C	Planted in spring. Plants will be transplanted from pots.
	sea plantain <i>Plantago maritima</i>	Determined at time of planting	Planted in spring. Seeding in fall, if seeds are available.
Backshore herbaceous/shrub	coastal strawberry <i>Fragaria chiloensis</i>	Determined on site at time of planting.	Soils may be amended with topsoil, topped with mulch. Plants will be transplanted from pots. Size will be dependent upon availability. Planting will be in spring as plants are emerge from dormancy.
	beach pea <i>Lathyrus maritimus</i>		
	sea plantain <i>Plantago maritima</i>		
	Nootka rose <i>Rosa nutkana</i>	3'4' O.C.	
	oceanspray <i>Holodiscus bicolor</i>	3'4' O.C.	
	tall Oregon grape <i>Mahonia aquifolium</i>	3'4' O.C.	

Plantings will be maintained by State Parks for survival. Temporary fencing may be erected to protect plantings.

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

The following noxious weeds or invasive species are known to be on or near the site: tansy ragwort (*Jacobaea vulgaris*), blackberry (*Rubus armeniacus*, *Rubus laciniatus*), poison hemlock (*Conium maculatum*), and herb Robert (*Geranium robertianum*).

**5. Animals** [\[help\]](#)

**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.**

birds: **hawk, heron, eagle, songbirds**, other: **marbled murrelet, cormorant spp., common murre**

mammals: **deer**, bear, elk, beaver, other: **harbor seal**

fish: bass, **salmon**, trout, herring, **shellfish**, other **char, surf smelt**

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

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's (WDFW) online Priority Habitats and Species mapper (accessed in April 2025) indicates a saltwater estuarine environment and freshwater Forested/Shrub wetland habitats in the project area. Species occurrences include: Marbled murrelet (*Brachyramphus marmoratus*), bull trout (*Salvelinus confluentus*), Puget Sound Chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*), Puget Sound steelhead (*O. mykiss*), bocaccio (*Sebastes paucispinis*), yelloweye rockfish (*S. ruberrimus*), southern resident killer whale (*Orcinus orca*), humpback whale (*Megaptera novaeangliae*).

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

Bowman Bay provides nearshore migratory habitat for salmon species, bull trout and other fish species. Birds use marine and terrestrial habitats during migration, and the site is part of the Pacific Flyway used by migratory birds.

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

The project includes the following measures to preserve or enhance wildlife:

1. The proposed float will be surfaced entirely with grating material which would reduce overwater coverage and increase light penetration. The structure will have a minimum of functional grading (50% net open area for light penetration).
2. Approximately 90 linear feet (21 cubic yards), of rip rap and concrete debris will be removed along the near shore restoring nearshore processes and connecting two previously restored shoreline areas.
3. The new design was sited to avoid impacts to eelgrass and macroalgae to the maximum extent practicable.
4. A forage fish spawning survey will be conducted prior to construction, as applicable.
5. All work below the HTL or OWHM will be conducted during WDFW approved in water work windows.

Additionally, Best Management Practices (BMPs) included in the project to avoid or minimize impact to wildlife include:

1. A turbidity curtain would be installed to contain sediments and turbidity.
2. All support boats will avoid eelgrass and macroalgae. No anchoring or spudding in eelgrass and macroalgae.
3. There will be no grounding out of marine construction equipment or anchoring in eelgrass.
4. Upland work areas will be clearly delineated and staging areas restricted to parking or previously disturbed areas.
5. Work will be limited to daytime hours.
6. Construction limits will be clearly marked.
7. The contractor will adhere to all permit conditions.

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

There are no known invasive animal species on or near the site.

**6. Energy and Natural Resources** [\[help\]](#)

**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.**

There are no anticipated energy needs for the project.

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

No, the project is not anticipated to affect the use of solar energy by adjacent properties. The project is within the boundary of a State Park.

**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:**

The following energy conservation features are included during the construction of the project:

1. Operate all equipment in accordance with manufacturer's recommendations to minimize energy consumption.
2. Shut down idling vehicles and heavy equipment when not in use to minimize energy consumption.

**7. Environmental Health** [\[help\]](#)

**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.**

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

According to the Department of Ecology Clean-Up Site List (accessed April 2025) the nearest Department of Ecology cleanup site (Record No. 15065) is the Deception Pass Bridge located approximately 0.5 miles south of the project.

**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.**

Best management practices would be implemented to minimize disturbance of sediments during float replacement process. An on-site septic system is located in the lawn area landward of the OHWM that serves the park restroom. The setback of the septic system is approximately 150 ft from the OHWM. The project will avoid the area within 100 feet of the septic drain field.

**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.**

Construction equipment using petroleum-based fuels and lubricants may spill on land and in waters. Please refer to Water section, 6, c. Water runoff (including stormwater), 2) and 3) on pages 6 and 7.

**4) Describe special emergency services that might be required.**

In the event that a spill does occur, the contractor will follow and implement the spill prevention, control, and countermeasures (SPCC) plan, and the Washington State Department of Ecology's (Ecology) Northwest Regional Spill Response Office at (206) 594-0000 will be contacted.

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

- Contractor will comply with Washington State Water Quality Standards (Washington Administrative Code [WAC] 173-201A)
- Contractor will prepare and implement a spill prevention, control, and countermeasures (SPCC) plan during all demolition and construction operations.
- Contractor will check equipment prior to staging on-site and then daily for leaks and other problems that could result in the discharge of petroleum-based products or other material into the waters of Bowman Bay before using equipment in or near water.
- Oil-absorbent materials will be present on site for use in the event of a spill or if any oil product is observed in the water.
- Waste materials will be disposed of in an appropriate manner consistent with applicable local, state, and federal regulations.

**b. Noise**

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

The project is within a state park. Existing noise is generated from public visitors (automobiles in parking areas and general recreational noise such as voices), motorized boats, wave action, and winds. In addition, the U.S. Navy flies aircraft over the project area during training exercises. None of these types of noises would affect the project.

**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.**

In air noise sources would include the operation of a backhoe or similar equipment to remove the ramp, asphalt approach and the riprap/debris from the beach; dump trucks delivering fill, crew trucks and hand tools. Some of the associated noise levels are listed below:

1. Construction equipment (e.g., generators, vehicles, , hand tools, and an excavator) excavator or similar, 87  $L_{max}$ ; pickup truck 75  $L_{max}$  and generator, 68  $L_{max}$ .

All associated noise is temporary in nature and only occur during construction.

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

1. All equipment would be operated in accordance with manufacturer's recommendations to minimize noise.
2. Idling vehicles and heavy equipment would be shut down when not in use.

## **8. Land and Shoreline Use** [\[help\]](#)

### **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 site is a public state park: Bowman Bay Deception Pass State Park. The site includes trails, a boat ramp, buoys for boats, a pier, camping, kayaking, and fishing.

### **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 non-forest use?**

No, the project site has not been 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:**

The area surrounding the project is a public state park open to recreation. There are no working farms or forest land in the project vicinity.

### **c. Describe any structures on the site.**

The project site includes a derelict timber pier, dock and gangway. A restroom building is in the parking lot east of the pier. There are picnic shelters and other buildings in the area. In addition to these structures, there is a buried concrete cylinder near the existing abutment, a fence, rip rap on the beach, and a small interpretive sign near the existing abutment that will be moved along with the realignment of the fence and trail.

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



The boat ramp and associated asphalt approach will be demolished and disposed of at an approved upland facility. Riprap will be removed from the beach above OHWM. The picnic tables and grill will be relocated elsewhere in the park.

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

The current zoning classification of the site is Public Open Space of Regional/Statewide Importance (OSRI), Skagit County Comprehensive Plan.

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

The current comprehensive plan designations is Public Open Space of Regional/Statewide Importance (OSRI), Skagit County Comprehensive Plan.

State Parks classification of the upland area of the project is Heritage in the Deception Pass Management Plan Summary document.

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

The current shoreline master program designation for the site is Rural Conservancy.

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

The site is identified as a potential seawater intrusion area, Category 1 aquifers.

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

The project is not designed for people to reside or work in the completed project.

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

The project does not displace people.

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

The project does not result in displacement; therefore, no measures to avoid or reduce displacement impacts are necessary.

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

The project is the replacement of existing recreational structures and natural process restoration within a State Park; it meets and is compatible with State Parks and Skagit County existing and projected land use plans.

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

This project does not affect agricultural and forest lands of long-term commercial significance; therefore, no measures are needed.

**9. Housing** [\[help\]](#)

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

The project does not provide housing units

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

The project does not eliminate housing units will be eliminated;

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

There are no proposed measures to reduce or control housing impacts because there are no housing impacts.

## **10. Aesthetics** [\[help\]](#)

- 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 stainless steel replacement float has a height above water of approximately 18inches.

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

The existing views would not be altered significantly from existing conditions.

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

There are no proposed measures since there are no impacts.

## **11. Light and Glare** [\[help\]](#)

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

None. The proposal will not produce light or glare.

- b. Could light or glare from the finished project be a safety hazard or interfere with views?**

No. No light or glare will be produced.

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

There are no existing off-site sources of light or glare that would affect the proposal.

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

There are no proposed measures to reduce or control light and glare impacts.

## **12. Recreation** [\[help\]](#)

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

The project is within Bowman Bay Deception Pass State Park. The park includes hiking, nature viewing, kayaking, boating, RC boating, crabbing and fishing.

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

Existing recreational uses may be temporarily displaced during project construction. Parking would be reduced to accommodate construction staging. Normally boat ramp removal would displace launching of recreational boats; however the ramp has been damaged beyond normal use for some time.

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

Parks would notify the public in advance on Park's website. Signage would be installed on site to inform and direct park visitors to trail detours.

**13. Historic and cultural preservation** [\[help\]](#)

**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 ? If so, specifically describe.**

There are no buildings, structures, or sites located on the site that are over 45 years old listed in or eligible for listing. However, there is the Bowman Bay Pier 420 feet south of the shoreline restoration project area. The pier was constructed in 1947 to serve the hatchery operation in Bowman Bay. It is typical of piers constructed in the Puget Sound region throughout the 20<sup>th</sup> century, with creosoted pile bents with large timber caps supporting a timber deck structure. Wood railings complete the assembly. The pier has been modified over its life, with changes including the removal of the pump house at the seaward end, the rearrangement of the same end when the current float and gangway were installed, and material replacements throughout the life of the structure. The existing railings may or may not resemble the original design, those details are unknown. They do appear to be replacements based on their materials and assembly techniques. More recently in February 2022, approximately 60 feet of the pier deck and associated substructure at the landward end of the pier was removed due to storm damage and concern regarding public safety.

The Department of Archaeology & Historic Preservation (DAHP) determined that the Bowman Bay Pier is not eligible for listing in the National Historic Places in letter correspondence to State Parks on January 3, 2022.

**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.**

There are both prehistoric and historic-era archaeological sites, and evidence of historic use, very close to the project area.

References:

Arthur, Ed  
*2015 Archaeological Testing and Evaluation of the Proposed Bowman Bay Nearshore Restoration Project, Deception Pass State Park, Fidalgo Island.* Report Prepared for Coastal Geologic Services, Inc., Bellingham, Washington. Prepared by Caldera Archaeology, Bellingham, Washington. On file at the Department of

Archaeology and Historic Preservation, Olympia, WA.

Baldwin, Garth L.

2009 *Archaeological Assessment of the Deception Pass State Park Beach Riprap Replacement Project, Bowman Bay, Skagit County, Washington*. Letter report submitted to Tom Murley, Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission, Burlington, WA by Garth Baldwin, Drayton Archaeological Research, Blaine, WA. On file at the Washington State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, Olympia, WA.

Kelley, Lisa

2013 *A Cultural Resource Assessment of the Proposed Pressurized Drain Field System Project at Deception Pass State Park*. On file at the Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, Olympia, WA..

Lewarch, Dennis

1981 *Archaeological Assesment of the Proposed Bowman Bay Boat Ramp*. Office of Public Archaeology, Institute for Environmental Studies, University of Washington, Seattle, Washington. Submitted to Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission, Olympia. On file at the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission, Olympia, WA.

Miller-Atkins, Galen

2022 *Archaeological Monitoring for the Bowman Bay Pier Emergency Stabilization Project, Skagit County, Washington*. Statistical Research, Inc. Submitted to Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission, Olympia. On file at the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission, Olympia, WA.

Silverman, Shari Maria

2021 *Archaeological Monitoring Report for Bowman Bay Pier Geotechnical Bores within Deception Pass State Park*. Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission, Olympia, WA. On file at the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission, Olympia, WA.

**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.**

A review of existing archaeological and ethnographic records on file at DAHP and State Parks was performed and will be again for this future phase. An examination of the ethnographic material, the landform, the archaeology in the general area, historic maps, historic land survey notes, and the nearby historic district nomination form, indicated that potential for impacts may be high due to the shoreline and other factors. This project is will likely subject to Section 106 (Section 106) of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (as amended). It is also subject to the Governor's Executive Order 21-02 on Cultural Resources until Section 106 is instigated.

**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.**

Dependent on DAHP and tribal consultation through GEO 21-02, cultural resources assessment for the project will likely be completed due to State Parks recommendation. Consultation may cause in another path. Results, recommendations, and consultation of a cultural resources assessment will influence the specific treatments needed to ensure archaeological resources are protected during construction. It should be noted that these consultations will likely transfer to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as the lead agency under Section 106 due to

a pending JARPA.

#### **14. Transportation** [\[help\]](#)

- 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.**

From land, the site would be accessed from Interstate 5 and Hwy 20, Rosario Road before entering the Park from Bowman Bay 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 additional parking spaces would the completed project or non-project proposal have? How many would the project or proposal eliminate?**

There will be no changes to or additional parking spaces as a result of the proposed project.

- 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).**

The proposal will not require new or improvements to existing roads, streets, pedestrian, bicycle or state transportation facilities

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

<https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/Checklist-guidance> The project will be accessed by support vessels to tow and place the new float from Deception Pass,

- 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 non-passenger vehicles). What data or transportation models were used to make these estimates?**

The project will not result in changes in vehicular trips per day.

- 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.**

The proposal is not anticipated to interfere with, affect or be affected by the movement of agricultural and forest products on roads or streets in the area. Mobilization by land of construction equipment (e.g., crane and trailer) may cause some delays on roadways but this would be of short duration and temporary.

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

State Parks will inform the public of the project schedule. The contractor will provide personnel for traffic control (direct traffic), if necessary.

**15. Public Services** [\[help\]](#)

- 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.**

The project will not result in an increased need for public services.

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

There are no proposed measures to reduce or control direct impacts on public services because no impacts are anticipated. Please refer to Transportation, h. for traffic controls and schedule.

**16. Utilities** [\[help\]](#)

- a. **Circle utilities currently available at the site: In BOLD electricity, natural gas, water, refuse service, telephone, sanitary sewer, septic system, other \_\_\_\_\_**

There are no utilities at the float or at the shoreline restoration site. . However, the following utilities are currently available at the park: septic system and drain field, water for the restroom, refuse service, and a private residence with electricity, water and telephone services.

- 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.**

There are no utilities proposed for the project. General construction activities would not require or affect public utilities.

**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:** John Clark

**Name of signee:** John Clark

**Position and Agency/Organization:** Environmental Planner, WA State Parks and Recreation  
Commission

**Date Submitted:** May 15, 2025