

Overview of Environmental Elements	
Environmental Element	Projects with Potential Impacts
Earth/Geological Hazards	Projects that cross or be adjacent to mapped steep slopes, landslide and avalanche risk areas, stream undercutting, and earthquake activity areas. (Suitability of soils to be assessed with project level environmental review and permitting.)
Air Quality	Conformity with National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) was analyzed on an area-wide basis. See the discussion under the Air Quality Analysis below.
Water and Wetlands	Projects that cross or will be in the immediate vicinity of rivers, streams or lakes, or in the immediate vicinity of identified wetlands, however the actual presence and location of wetlands must be field verified. (Groundwater issues, stormwater management, and any necessary mitigation for protection of aquifers will be evaluated and determined at the project level.) Floodplains Projects located within mapped floodplains.
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Plants and Animals	Projects adjacent to terrestrial (land) or aquatic (water) habitat areas for state or federally listed endangered, threatened, or candidate, sensitive, or other vulnerable or important species. (Where a project may affect an identified habitat area, more investigation is required to confirm the actual, current use of the identified area as habitat.)
Land Use and Housing	Projects that may have potential for direct disturbance of an existing land use, land use incompatibilities, or the need to relocate housing units. (Actual impacts will likely be fewer than identified where there is existing right-of-way to accommodate road expansion, or where there are intervening topography, buildings or vegetation.)
Shoreline Use	Projects that may be located within a shoreline jurisdiction area (i.e. within 200 feet of shorelines of the state) and therefore subject to the Washington State Shoreline Management Act (SMA). The SMA is implemented by the shoreline master program in effect in the local jurisdiction.
Noise	Projects located in proximity to residences, habitat areas, parks, schools, and hospitals, which are considered sensitive to noise. All widening and extension projects, and some other improvement or upgrade projects, will result in increased noise during construction.
Aesthetics/Light and Glare	Where changing visual conditions, or added light or glare due to road extension or increased capacity, may affect sensitive land uses and/or priority habitat areas.
Environmental Justice	Environmental justice is the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies. Projects in immediate proximity of concentrations of poor and/or minority populations, particularly in the vicinity of projects that may generate substantial noise, land use/housing disturbance, land use incompatibility, aesthetic impacts, light and glare, or impacts to recreational resources.
Recreation	Projects in the immediate vicinity of parks or recreational resources.
Historic and Cultural Resources	Projects in the immediate vicinity of state- or federally-designated historic properties (Washington Heritage Register or National Register of Historic Places). The potential for impacts to archaeological resources will be evaluated at the project level due to sensitive nature of the locations of archaeological resources.