



SE-19-00007
Public Works

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.

Instructions for applicants:

This environmental checklist asks you to describe some basic information about your proposal. Please answer each question accurately and carefully, to the best of your knowledge. You may need to consult with an agency specialist or private consultant for some questions. You may use "not applicable" or "does not apply" only when you can explain why it does not apply and not when the answer is unknown. You may also attach or incorporate by reference additional studies reports. Complete and accurate answers to these questions often avoid delays with the SEPA process as well as later in the decision-making process.

The checklist questions apply to all parts of your proposal, even if you plan to do them over a period of time or on different parcels of land. Attach any additional information that will help describe your proposal or its environmental effects. The agency to which you submit this checklist may ask you to explain your answers or provide additional information reasonably related to determining if there may be significant adverse impact.

Instructions for Lead Agencies:

Please adjust the format of this template as needed. Additional information may be necessary to evaluate the existing environment, all interrelated aspects of the proposal and an analysis of adverse impacts. The checklist is considered the first but not necessarily the only source of information needed to make an adequate threshold determination. Once a threshold determination is made, the lead agency is responsible for the completeness and accuracy of the checklist and other supporting documents.

Use of checklist for nonproject proposals:

For nonproject proposals (such as ordinances, regulations, plans and programs), complete the applicable parts of sections A and B plus the [SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET FOR NONPROJECT ACTIONS \(part D\)](#). Please completely answer all questions that apply and note that the words "project," "applicant," and "property or site" should be read as "proposal," "proponent," and "affected geographic area," respectively. The lead agency may exclude (for non-projects) questions in Part B - Environmental Elements—that do not contribute meaningfully to the analysis of the proposal.

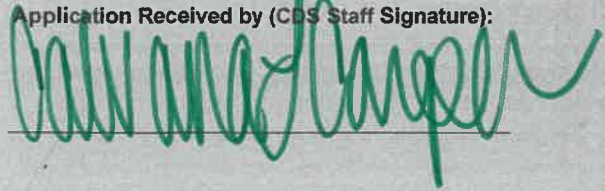
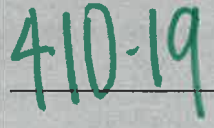
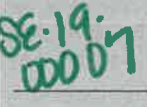
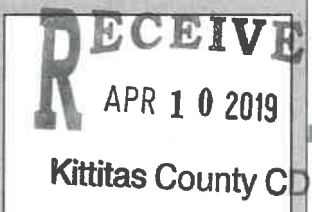
APPLICATION FEES:

\$600.00 Kittitas County Community Development Services (KCCDS)**
~~\$250.00 Kittitas County Department of Public Works**~~
\$415.00 Kittitas County Public Health

\$1,265.00 Total fees due for this application (One check made payable to KCCDS)

** Note: KCCDS and PW fees are waived if project is a VSP sponsored fish enhancement project.

FOR STAFF USE ONLY

Application Received by (CDS Staff Signature): 	DATE: 	RECEIPT# 	
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A. Background

1. Name of proposed project, if applicable:
Weihl Road Improvements Project
2. Name of applicant:
Kittitas County Public Works
3. Address and phone number of applicant and contact person:
Taylor Gustafson
Kittitas County Public Works
411 N Ruby ST, Suite 1
Ellensburg WA 98926
509-962-7523
509-962-7663 fax
Taylor.gustafson@co.kittitas.wa.us
4. Date checklist prepared:
4/09/2019
5. Agency requesting checklist:
Kittitas County
6. Proposed timing or schedule (including phasing, if applicable):
Design has been completed. Construction will begin in summer 2019.
7. Do you have any plans for future additions, expansion, or further activity related to or connected with this proposal? If yes, explain.
No.
8. List any environmental information you know about that has been prepared, or will be prepared, directly related to this proposal.
None known.
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.
None known.
10. List any government approvals or permits that will be needed for your proposal, if known.
None known.
11. Give 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.)

This project constructs improvements to Weihl Road from Red Bridge Road to Loping Lane. The project consists of regrading and paving Weihl Road and roadway approaches, constructing guardrail, structural earth walls, culverts, permanent signage, and other work. The roadway will be brought onto the Kittitas County public roadway system when completed.

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.

The project is located on Wehl Road from Red Bridge Road to Loping Lane. NW ¼ Section 26, T. 20 N., R. 16 E.W.M. Please find the survey and design map attached. The project length encompasses about 0.25 miles from MP 0 to MP 0.25.

B. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS

1. Earth

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)?

13%, design lowers the grade to 12%

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.

Silty clay. The proposed roadway improvements are contained exclusively within the current ROW limits.

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

No.

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.

2,700 cubic yards of cut, native material excavation supporting new roadbed and 3,092 cubic yards of fill, imported crushed rock material supporting new roadbed. Net removal of 392 cubic yards of material.

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

Yes, the proposed project actions would require limited amount of clearing and grading which has potential or causing erosion. However, the construction plans have temporary erosion control BMP incorporated that will be used to limit potential for erosion during construction.

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

Approximately 40% of the existing ROW will be covered with new asphalt pavement.

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

Roadside ditches will be lined with quarry spalls to minimize velocity and any erosive force post-construction. The construction plans have temporary erosion control Best Management Practices (BMPs) incorporated that will be used to limit potential for erosion during construction.

2. Air

- 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.

Temporary and minimal emissions would result from operation of diesel powered equipment during construction.

- b. Are there any off-site sources of emissions or odor that may affect your proposal? If so, generally describe.
No.

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

The current gravel road produces dust emissions. This project will actually pave the road and reduce the amount of dust from daily traffic. Additionally, all construction equipment shall include properly functioning muffler systems.

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.

The project will be adjacent to a Type 4 Non-fish waterway "unnamed seasonal stream" and construction will occur within an unlined, earthen ditch known as "Masterson Ditch." The unnamed seasonal stream is located, at its closest distance, 95 feet away from the project and flows into Masterson Ditch. Masterson Ditch is a defunct irrigation ditch that crosses the existing road in a 48" corrugated metal pipe and does not discharge into any streams or rivers. Masterson Ditch is currently mapped as a Type 2 waterway. Kittitas County Public Works has submitted a Water Type Modification Form to Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to retype the waterway from Type 4 to Non-type. Historically Masterson Ditch conveyed water from the Teanaway River to irrigated lands located near the terminus of the ditch. After flooding in 1996 damaged the diversion structure, a pump station with a fish screen was built further downstream and most of the ditch no longer conveys Teanaway River water. See Exhibit 1: Weihl Road Nearby Waterways and Exhibit 2: 90% Design.

- 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.

Yes, the project will require the replacement of an existing 48" corrugated metal pipe within Masterson Ditch, where the road crosses the ditch near the intersection with Red Bridge Road. Work will be adjacent to (95 feet away from) the Type 4 Non-fish waterway. See Exhibits 1 and 2.

- 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.
None.

- 4) Will the proposal require surface water withdrawals or diversions? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.
No.

- 5) Does the proposal lie within a 100-year floodplain? 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.

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.

- 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.

None.

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.

Roadside ditches collect stormwater runoff from the road, this water is ultimately routed to the Teanaway River (via Red Bridge Roadside ditches) if it is not infiltrated 100%. Post-construction runoff is contained in roadside ditches that are lined with quarry spalls to minimize erosion. The roadside ditches function as basic treatment for stormwater conveyance.

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

Not likely, the potential is greatly reduced by natural treatment associated with vegetation within ditches. Best Management Practices (BMPs) are deployed to minimize the risk to surface and ground water. Construction utilizes temporary erosion control Best Management Practices (BMPs) incorporated into the project that will be used to limit potential for erosion during construction.

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

The existing runoff patterns will be maintained post construction. The post construction condition is expected to reduce sediment loading to Red Bridge Road as the gravel roadway driving surface is replaced with asphalt pavement.

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

Erosion control Best Management Practices (BMPs) will be used to limit potential for runoff during construction. Current drainage patterns are maintained post improvement.

4. Plants

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
- other types of vegetation

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

The project will require approximately 35,000 square feet of ground disturbance, including roadside gravel and ditch areas. Most of the vegetation removed will be invasive roadside grasses. Removal of existing vegetation will be limited to the minimum needed for the project.

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

None within the project limits. Based on the Washington Natural Heritage Program, Suksdorf's monkeyflower (*Erythranthe suksdorfii*) occurs approximately 1.2 miles south of the project.

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

Disturbed roadside, new embankment areas, and location of existing channel, that are not rock will be seeded with a native roadside and erosion control mix and stabilized with mulch cover prior to project completion.

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

Cheatgrass, reed canarygrass, and thistles.

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, other:
mammals: deer, bear, elk, beaver, other:
fish: bass, salmon, trout, herring, shellfish, other _____

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

None are known to be at the site. Three historic spotted owl sittings occur within 4.5 miles of the project with the most recent breeding pair observed in 2017. The project lies approximately 2 miles south of the Teanaway gray wolf pack boundary.

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

No.

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

None.

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

None known.

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.

Gasoline/diesel powered equipment/tools will be utilized to complete this project. The completed project will have no energy need.

- b. Would your project affect the potential use of solar energy by adjacent properties?

If so, generally describe.

No

- 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:

None

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.

- 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.

None.

- 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.

Gasoline and diesel will be used onsite during construction.

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

None.

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

The contractor will have a Spill Prevention Plan approved and in place prior to any construction activities.

b. Noise

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

Traffic.

- 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.

Noise associated with construction equipment would be created from the project activities. The hours of construction would be limited to 7am to 5pm.

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

Equipment will not be allowed to idle for unnecessary long periods of time. Construction work hours will be compliant with the County's noise ordinance.

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.

Gravel road to access residential property. The adjacent land uses will not be impacted by the project.

- 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?

- 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:

No, work will be completed within the existing ROW of the roadway.

- c. Describe any structures on the site.

None.

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

No.

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

The Right Of Way does not have a land use designation. Surrounding properties are zoned Forest and Range.

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

Roadway right-of-way. Adjoining properties are zoned Forest and Range.

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

N/A

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

Yes, the project site is located adjacent (within 200 feet) of a Type 2 Fish stream. However, construction is entirely within the existing road prism.

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

None.

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

None.

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

None.

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

The road needs to be improved to satisfy land use requirements allowing permanent certificates of occupancy for already constructed homes.

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

This project improves access to zoned forest lands.

9. Housing

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

N/A

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

N/A

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

The project benefits existing housing by allowing permanent certificates of occupancy for homes currently carrying temporary certificates of occupancy.

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?

None.

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

None.

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

N/A

11. Light and Glare

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

None.

- 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?

None.

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

N/A

12. Recreation

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

Informal winter snowmobiling and summer hiking.

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

No, the project improves access to existing recreational uses.

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

The project improves access to recreation opportunities.

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 ? 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 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.

The Washington Information System for Architectural & Archaeological Records Data website was consulted for cultural and historic resources on or near the project site. None were found. The closest resource is a Washington Heritage Barn 1.75 miles away.

- 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.

Construction is entirely within the existing road right of way and existing road prism.

14. Transportation

- 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.

Red Bridge 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?
No.

- c. How many additional parking spaces would the completed project or non-project proposal have? How many would the project or proposal eliminate?
None.

- 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, the project improves the road.

- e. Will the project or proposal 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 or proposal? If known, indicate when peak volumes would occur and what percentage of the volume would be trucks (such as commercial and nonpassenger vehicles). What data or transportation models were used to make these estimates?

None.

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.

No.

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

N/A.

15. Public Services

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.

No.

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

None.

16. Utilities

a. Circle utilities currently available at the site: electricity natural gas, water, refuse service, telephone, sanitary sewer, septic system, other _____

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.

No additional. Existing power poles are relocated to the outside edge of the right of way improving safety for motorists.

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: Taylor Gustafson

Name of signee Taylor Gustafson

Position and Agency/Organization Environmental Transportation Planner, Kittitas

Date Submitted: 4/10/19

County Public Works

D. Supplemental sheet for nonproject actions [\[help\]](#)

(IT IS NOT NECESSARY to use this sheet for project actions)

Because these questions are very general, it may be helpful to read them in conjunction with the list of the elements of the environment.

When answering these questions, be aware of the extent the proposal, or the types of activities likely to result from the proposal, would affect the item at a greater intensity or at a faster rate than if the proposal were not implemented. Respond briefly and in general terms.

1. How would the proposal be likely to increase discharge to water; emissions to air; production, storage, or release of toxic or hazardous substances; or production of noise?

Proposed measures to avoid or reduce such increases are:

2. How would the proposal be likely to affect plants, animals, fish, or marine life?

Proposed measures to protect or conserve plants, animals, fish, or marine life are:

3. How would the proposal be likely to deplete energy or natural resources?

Proposed measures to protect or conserve energy and natural resources are:

4. How would the proposal be likely to use or affect environmentally sensitive areas or areas designated (or eligible or under study) for governmental protection; such as parks, wilderness, wild and scenic rivers, threatened or endangered species habitat, historic or cultural sites, wetlands, floodplains, or prime farmlands?

Proposed measures to protect such resources or to avoid or reduce impacts are:

5. How would the proposal be likely to affect land and shoreline use, including whether it would allow or encourage land or shoreline uses incompatible with existing plans?

Proposed measures to avoid or reduce shoreline and land use impacts are:

6. How would the proposal be likely to increase demands on transportation or public services and utilities?

Proposed measures to reduce or respond to such demand(s) are:

7. Identify, if possible, whether the proposal may conflict with local, state, or federal laws or requirements for the protection of the environment.