



## KITTITAS COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

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"Building Partnerships – Building Communities"

## 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:*** [\[help\]](#)

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)\*\*

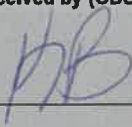
\$250.00 Kittitas County Department of Public Works\*\*

\$510.00 Kittitas County Public Health

**\$1,360.00 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

<b>Application Received by (CDS Staff Signature):</b> 	<b>DATE:</b> 11-12-20	<b>RECEIPT#</b>	<b>RECEIVED</b> NOV 12 2020 Kittitas County CDS DATE STAMP IN BOX
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**A. Background**

1. Name of proposed project, if applicable:

**Kittitas County Land Application of Biosolids**

2. Name of applicant:

**Kittitas County**

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

**Patti Johnson, Solid Waste  
Director  
Kittitas County  
925 Industrial Way,  
Ellensburg, WA8926  
(509) 962-7070  
patti.johnson@co.kittitas.wa.us**

4. Date checklist prepared:

**August, 2020**

5. Agency requesting checklist:

**Kittitas County, Washington**

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

**Land application of biosolids to occur once a year beginning in 2020.**

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.

**Kittitas County Ryegrass Facility General Land Application Plan, R.W. Beck, October 2015**

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.

**Not Applicable**

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

**Department of Ecology: Application for Coverage Under the Statewide General Permit for Biosolids Management.**

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 includes the land application of biosolids collected in Kittitas County's Liquid Waste Evaporation Lagoons located near Ryegrass Landfill. A detailed description of the project may be found in the General Land Application Plan prepared for Kittitas County (R.W. Beck 2015).**

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 land application site is Section 16, township 17N and 21E. Please refer to the attached map site.**

## 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)?

**The slopes at the site vary from 3 to 15 percent. Different land application methods will be used depending on the slope of the land. Please refer to the Land Application Plan.**

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.

**Primarily Argabak-Vantage Loam**

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.

**Not applicable**

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

**The land application process will cause little to no erosion. See General Land Application Plan (2015), under Site Selection Criteria for detailed description of site evaluation prior to project starting.**

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

**The land application would not result in additional impervious surfaces.**

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

**Land application by tilling biosolids into the soil will not be used on steep slopes (slopes greater than 6 percent).**

## 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.  
**Because the land application process will spread the biosolids over a larger area, there is a potential for increased odor.**

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

**Off-site sources of emissions will not affect the proposal.**

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

**The closest house is 2 miles from the site. The closest rest area is 3 to 5 miles from the site. Wild Horse Wind and Solar Facility is located approximately .6 miles from the closest application site, while the Wild Horse Renewable Energy Visitor's Center is 3.6 miles from the site and upwind from application areas. To ensure the biosolids will be absorbed into the soil, the project will not operate during periods of prolonged rainfall, snow or frozen ground. In addition, the biosolids are applied directly to the ground from tanker/spray trucks averaging no more than three feet above the ground.**

## 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.  
**There are no year-round surface water bodies on or in the immediate vicinity of the site. There are some gullies that may convey runoff during a storm event.**

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 will be a 100-foot buffer between the land application and any ephemeral streams.**

3) Estimate the amount of fill and dredge material that would be placed in or removed from surface water or wetlands and indicate the area of the site that would be affected. Indicate the source of fill material.

**No fill or dredge material will be placed in or removed from surface water or wetlands.**

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

**Surface water withdrawals or diversions will not be required.**

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

**The project does not lie within a 100-year 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 project does not involve discharges of waste materials to surface waters.**

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.

**The project does not involve groundwater withdrawals or discharges into ground water.**

- 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 project does not require the need for underground waste systems or involve waste or chemicals being discharged into the ground. Land application will not take place over tilled land and will be lime stabilized to reduce pathogens.**

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.

**Very little, if any surface water is generated at the site. Due to the small quantity of precipitation in the area each year, any precipitation that occurs is typically absorbed into the soil. Any runoff that may occur would drain towards the ravines in the southwest and northeast portions of the property.**

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

**It is possible that waste material could enter ground or surface water, but it is unlikely. As stated in 3c(1), not much, if any surface water is typically produced. In addition, the ground water table is several hundred feet below the surface.**

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

**No**

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

**Liquid septage will not be land applied to areas where the slope is greater than 6 percent.**

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

**Native grasses, wheat and sagebrush**

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

**None of the existing vegetation will be altered in 2020, although additional wheat seed (Triticale) will be sown.**

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

**There are no threatened or endangered plant species known to exist on site.**

- d. Proposed landscaping, use of native plants, or other measures to preserve or enhance vegetation on the site, if any:  
**Native grasses will be preserved on the site. As mentioned in 4b, additional wheat will be grown on the site to increase the nitrogen uptake to allow for continued biosolids application, per approved agronomic rate.**
- e. List all noxious weeds and invasive species known to be on or near the site.  
**None Known**

**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: **coyote**,  
**rabbit**  
fish: **None**

- b. List any threatened and endangered species known to be on or near the site.  
**None**

- c. Is the site part of a migration route? If so, explain.  
**No**

- d. Proposed measures to preserve or enhance wildlife, if any:  
**The land application site is entirely fenced-enclosed, limiting access to the site. Grazing lease holders are contacted prior to the application and animals will not be allowed to graze on the land for 30 days after the project is completed. Stabilizing the septage with lime reduces vector attraction. The land application will actually increase the vegetation available to the wildlife.**

- e. List any invasive animal species known to be on or near the site.  
**None**

**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.  
**Diesel fuels and gasoline will be required to power machinery during the land application.**
- b. Would your project affect the potential use of solar energy by adjacent properties?  
If so, generally describe.  
**The project would not interfere with the solar energy resource or energy resource on any of the adjacent properties.**
- 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:  
**As previously noted, the project will not require long-term use of energy sources. Diesel fuels and gasoline will be required to run equipment. The entire project takes on average one week from start to finish, once a year.**

## 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.

**Due to the lack of surface water, depth of ground water and control of site access, there are no significant environmental health risks associated with the project. Stabilizing the septage with lime reduces pathogens and will be applied at an agronomic rate approved by the Department of Ecology.**

- 1) Describe any known or possible contamination at the site from present or past uses.  
**There are no known past or present risks of contamination at the location where biosolids will be land applied.**
- 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.  
**There are no known or existing hazardous chemicals or conditions that will affect the proposed project. Land application will not take place over the closed landfill and will be applied to sites approved by the Department of Ecology.**
- 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.  
**Lime will be added to Ph stabilize the biosolids.**
- 4) Describe special emergency services that might be required.  
**See Site Specific Plan for Contingency Plan regarding project emergencies.**
- 5) Proposed measures to reduce or control environmental health hazards, if any:  
**As noted in 7(a), there are no significant environmental health risks associated with the project. See Site Specific Plan, Application Options for procedure details regarding erosion prevention and disruption of the soil and existing vegetation.**

### b. Noise

- 1) What types of noise exist in the area which may affect your project (for example: traffic, equipment, operation, other)?  
**Noise in the area will not affect the proposed 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.  
**On a short-term basis, the land application of the biosolids would generate noise from the application equipment. However, because land application will occur only once a year and the nearest house is about 2 miles away, the project would not generate any significant noise impact on a long-term basis.**
- 3) Proposed measures to reduce or control noise impacts, if any:  
**There should be no noise impact from this project.**

### c. 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.

**The application area is owned entirely by Kittitas County. The surrounding property is zoned rural working land. As mentioned, the designated application area is fenced and will be approved through the Department of Ecology prior to the project start date.**

- b. Has the project site been used as working farmlands or working forest lands? If so, describe. How much agricultural or forest land of long-term commercial significance will be converted to other uses as a result of the proposal, if any? If resource lands have not been designated, how many acres in farmland or forest land tax status will be converted to nonfarm or nonforest use?

**The site is not used for agriculture. Wheat that is seeded and grown after the land application will not be harvested. No surrounding agricultural or forest land of commercial significance will be converted for this project.**

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, the site is not surrounded by working farm or forest land.**

c. Describe any structures on the site.

**The Ryegrass Landfill and Liquid Waste Evaporation Ponds are located on the site.**

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

**No structures will be demolished as part of the land application.**

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

**The current zoning classification is forest and range land.**

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

**The current comprehensive plan designation is rural working land.**

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

**Not applicable**

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

**No**

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

**No one will reside or work full time at the site of the land application. Part time staffing of the site will occur during land application and monitoring. The Ryegrass Landfill is staffed by one employee full time Tuesday through Friday and one part time employee, employees are on-call Mondays and the weekends.**

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

**No persons will be displaced as a result of the project.**

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

**This project will not result in displacement impacts, therefore, mitigation is not necessary.**

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

**The proposal is compatible with the existing and projected land use.**



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

**Not applicable**

## 9. Housing

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

**Not applicable to this project.**

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

**Housing will not be eliminated as part of this project.**

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

**This project will not have any housing impacts.**

## 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?

**No structures are proposed as part of this project.**

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

**No views will be altered or obstructed as a result of this project.**

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

**Septage will be screened to remove unwanted materials when added to the lagoons before they are land applied.**

## 11. Light and Glare

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

**The proposed project will produce no light or glare.**

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

**Safety hazards as a result of light or glare are not expected as a result of the finished project.**

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

**The proposed project will not be affected by any off-site sources of light or glare.**

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

**The impacts of light and glare will be minimal, therefore, no measures to reduce light and glare have been developed.**

## 12. Recreation

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

**There are no designated and informal recreational opportunities identified in the vicinity of the project.**

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

**Recreational activities would not be displaced as a result of proposed project.**

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

**Impacts to recreation are not anticipated, therefore mitigation measures have not been developed.**

### 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.

**None**

- 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.

**There are no known cultural or historic resources on or near the proposed project site.**

- 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.

**Impacts to historic or cultural areas of significance are not anticipated, therefore mitigation measures have not been developed.**

### 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.

**The public streets and highways will not be used during land application, but are shown on the attached site plan.**

- 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, the site is not served by public transit. It is about ten miles to the nearest transit stop.**

- c. How many additional parking spaces would the completed project or non-project proposal have? How many would the project or proposal eliminate?

**The project would neither add or eliminate parking spaces.**

- 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 proposal will not require any new roads or improvements to existing roads.**

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

**No, the project will not use any form of transportation such as water, rail or air.**

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?

**The land application, once completed, will not generate new vehicle trips.**

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:

**No transportation impacts are anticipated, therefore, no measures are proposed.**

#### 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.

**It is not anticipated that the project will increase the need for public services.**

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

**There are no expected impacts on the public services, so no measures are proposed.**

#### 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.

**The proposed project will not require any direct utility services.**

#### C. Signature

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

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of signee \_\_\_\_\_

Position and Agency/Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Date Submitted: \_\_\_\_\_

*Patricia Johnson*  
*Patricia Johnson*  
*Director, Kittitas County Solid Waste*  
*11/12/20*

## **D. supplemental sheet for nonproject actions**

**(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.