



KITITITAS 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.

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)**
- \$950.00* Kittitas County Department of Public Works**
- \$260.00 Kittitas County Public Health

\$1,810.00 Total fees due for this application (One check made payable to KCCDS)

*2 hours of review included in Public Works Fee. Additional review hours will be billed at \$243 per hour.

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

FOR STAFF USE ONLY

<p>Application Received by (CDS Staff Signature):</p> <p><i>Sail Weyand</i></p>	<p>DATE:</p> <p><i>3-30-23</i></p>	<p>RECEIPT#</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <p>R E C E I V E</p> <p>MAR 29 2023</p> <p>Kittitas County CDS</p> <p>DATE STAMP IN BOX</p> </div>
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A. Background [Find help answering background questions](#)

1. Name of proposed project, if applicable:

Wetland and Stream Mitigation Project

2. Name of applicant:

Kittitas County (Kittitas County Airport)

3. Address, e-mail and phone number of applicant and contact person:

David Ohl, 3110 N. Airport Rd., Suite 1, Ellensburg, WA.98926
david.ohl@co.kittitas.wa.us, 509-933-8221

4. Date checklist prepared:

March 15, 2023

5. Agency requesting checklist:

Kittitas County

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

Design: March 2023, Bid: April 2023, Construct: Sept - Nov 2023

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

The project provides for mitigation of wetlands and streams expected to be impacted by future airport improvements.

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

This project is among the proposed improvements included in an FAA funded environmental assessment. The FAA issued a finding of no significant impact on May 31, 2022.

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.

The project necessitates a hydraulic project approval (HPA) permit from the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife. The permit will be awarded prior to the start of construction.

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

Grading Permit from Kittitas County. Also, USACE (the Corps) has indicated that the proposed mitigation is acceptable. Permitting is covered through the JARPA related to the upcoming airport improvement projects that impact wetlands and streams.

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.

With this project, Kittitas County will establish wetlands on-Airport property. The project involves the removal of historic fill and 1.1 acres of deteriorated asphalt in the northwest corner of the Airport. Once the deteriorated asphalt is removed, the surface will be regraded to native ground levels and planted with select plant species. Additionally, to mitigate for future wetland buffer and stream buffer impacts, 3.15 acres of invasive species, will be removed in the project area and that area will be replanted with select naturally occurring species.

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 will be located on the south side of Hungry Junction Road, west of Runway 11-29. Exhibits showing the project area, have been attached.

B. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS [\[help\]](#)

1. Earth [Find help answering earth questions](#)

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)?

4% at shoulders of old taxilane, but generally closer to 0% to 1%.

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.

The site is predominately underlain by Brysill ashy loam. The project will involve very limited excavation existing soil. A majority of the material to be removed under the existing taxilane will be underlying aggregate base. There is no long-term commercial significance to the land.

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.

The project is expected to be a cut job, generating approximately 1,700 CY of excess soil material to be off-hauled from the site, by the Contractor.

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

Erosion and sediment control best management practices will be utilized during construction, to avoid erosion.

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

0%

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

Silt fencing and bio-bags.

2. Air [Find help answering air questions](#)

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.

The project construction would involve limited emissions from the development and it is not expected that the construction activity would cause emissions that exceed the de minimis levels. The project would not have a significant impact on air quality.

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:

Not Applicable

3. Water [Find help answering water questions](#)

a. Surface Water: [Find help answering surface water questions](#)

- 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.

Whiskey Creek is in the project vicinity but will not be impacted by this project. Care will be taken during construction to assure that construction activities/impacts do not expand beyond the intended project limits.

- 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, Whiskey Creek is adjacent to (within 200 feet of) the proposed project. Work will not occur within the creek however. Whiskey Creek's alignment in the project vicinity has been depicted in Figure 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.

The project does not impact (including fill or excavation) surface waters or wetlands.

- 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.

As assessed and described in the EA, this project would occur within the 100-yr floodplain of Whiskey Creek (Zone A), however because of the nature of the project and the higher elevations of regrading an area of historic fill, this project would not impact flood storage capacity. The limits of the floodplain are depicted in Figure 2.

- 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: [Find help answering ground water questions](#)

- 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.

Not Applicable

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.

As part of the existing conditions, storm water generally runs southwest across the site, either above ground or through a network of ditches. This general direction of flow will be maintained. There is no nor will there be any storm collection system in the project area.

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

No

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

No. Existing drainage patterns in the project area will be maintained.

- 4) Proposed measures to reduce or control surface, ground, and runoff water, and drainage pattern impacts, if any:

Minimized cross slopes of future grade, and planting/temporary irrigation in all areas of disturbed soil.

4. Plants [Find help answering plants questions](#)

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?

To mitigate for wetland buffer and stream buffer impacts, 3.15 acres of invasive species, will be removed in the project area and that area will be replanted with select naturally occurring species.

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

None.

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

The project includes 4.65 areas of wetland planting (1.1 in area of deteriorated taxilane removal and 3.15 acres of buffer mitigation, as previously described).

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

Canada thistle (*Cirsium arvense*), Bull thistle (*Cirsium vulgare*), Rush skeletonweed (*Chondrilla juncea*), Wild carrot (*Daucus carota*), Common teasel (*Dipsacus fullonum*), Russian olive (*Eleagnus angustifolia*), Reed canarygrass (*Phalaris arundinacea*), and Common reed (*Phragmites australis*)

5. **Animals** [Find help answering animal questions](#)

- 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.

Per the recent EA, agency database research suggests that the following list of threatened and endangered species are identified to potentially occur within 1 mile of the project area: Canada Lynx, Gray Wolf, Marbled Murrelet, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Bull Trout, and Steelhead Trout. None of these species have been observed in the the vicinity of the proposed project.

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

No

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

Not applicable

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

None

6. **Energy and Natural Resources** [Find help answering energy and natural resource questions](#)

- 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.

In the short-term, the proposed project will require the consumption of fuel and electricity to power construction equipment. Materials for construction, such as water, and other related resources will be consumed by construction activities. The new plants would be irrigated by a temporary irrigation system for approximately 1 years after construction, to allow for the establishment of the new plantings.

- 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:

Existing/available materials will be reused for construction to the greatest extent possible.

7. **Environmental Health** [Find help with answering environmental health questions](#)

- a. Are there any environmental health hazards, including exposure to toxic chemicals, risk of fire and explosion, spill, or hazardous waste, that could occur because of this proposal? If so, describe.

No

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

None

- 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.

None

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

None

- 5) Proposed measures to reduce or control environmental health hazards, if any: [\[help\]](#)

Not applicable

b. Noise [\[help\]](#)

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

None

- 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.

The proposed project would not result in an increase in nighttime aviation operations at the airport, or change aircraft fleet mix (i.e. larger aircraft) or flight patterns. Airport noise levels would not be increased as a result of the project. There will be temporary noise impacts during construction operations, which are expected to occur during hours of daylight, Monday through Friday. These noise levels will be temporary and relatively low

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

Not applicable.

8. Land and Shoreline Use [Find help answering land and shoreline use questions](#)

- 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 was formally used for aviation related activities but has been out of use for decades, due to the distance from and lack of connectivity to more active parts of the Airport. The project would not affect current land uses on nearby properties.

- 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?

No

- 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

c. Describe any structures on the site.

There are no structures in the project vicinity. The closest structures would be aviation hangars approximately one mile to the south.

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

No.

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

The Kittitas County Comprehensive Plan designates zoning of the Airport/project site as "I-L - Light Industrial." I-L. " I-L zoning is included among several implementing zones identified for "Urban" land use designations in the comprehensive plan.

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

The Kittitas County Comprehensive Plan designates zoning of the Airport/project site as "I-L - Light Industrial." I-L. " I-L zoning is included among several implementing zones identified for "Urban" land use designations in the comprehensive plan.

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?

None

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

None

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

Not applicable.

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

Not applicable.

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

Not applicable.

9. Housing [Find help answering housing questions](#)

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

It is expected that there would be several aviation use hangar structures built after construction of the proposed taxiway. No housing units would be built though.

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

No housing units would be eliminated.

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

Not applicable.

10. Aesthetics [Find help answering aesthetics questions](#)

- 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 project involves no structures.

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

The proposed project would not alter or obstruct any views.

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

Not applicable.

11. Light and Glare [Find help answering light and glare questions](#)

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

The proposed project would not produce light or glare.

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

Not applicable.

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

Not applicable.

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

Not applicable.

12. Recreation [Find help answering recreation questions](#)

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

The Airport itself is open to recreational use, but the immediate vicinity is otherwise zoned for industrial, aviation, and residential uses.

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

No

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

Not applicable.

13. Historic and cultural preservation [Find help answering historic and cultural preservation questions](#)

- 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.

No

- 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.

As part of the recent EA, a cultural resource surveys of the project area were conducted in April 2018 and March 2021. A historic property inventory of NRHP listing of all historic buildings was conducted. Based on the results of this investigation, the FAA determined that no historic properties would be affected by the proposed project. DAHP agreed with this finding, and no responses were received from the consulted Tribes.

- 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.

Not applicable.

14. Transportation [Find help with answering transportation questions](#)

- 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 project will be accessed through existing Hungry Junction Rd access gate. Hungry Junction Rd is the public street used to access the site.

- 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. 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

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

No

- e. 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

f. 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

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

Not applicable.

15. Public Services [Find help answering public service questions](#)

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.

Not applicable.

16. Utilities [Find help answering utilities questions](#)

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 project includes the installation of a temporary irrigation system. No other utilities would be needed.

C. Signature [Find help about who should sign](#)

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: David Ohl

Name of signee David Ohl

Position and Agency/Organization Airport Director, Kittitas County

Date Submitted: 3/17/2023

D. supplemental sheet for nonproject actions [Find help for the nonproject actions worksheet](#)

(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.