



**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: [help]**

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:**

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.

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DEC 05 2014

KITTITAS COUNTY  
CDS

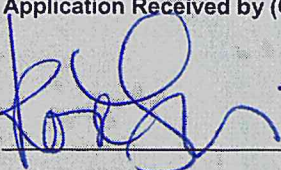
**APPLICATION FEES:**

490.00 Kittitas County Community Development Services (KCCDS)

70.00 Kittitas County Department of Public Works

**\$560.00 Total fees due for this application (One check made payable to KCCDS)**

**FOR STAFF USE ONLY**

<p>Application Received by (CDS Staff Signature):</p> 	<p>DATE:</p> <p>12/9/14</p>	<p>RECEIPT#</p> <p>Invoice PW</p> <p>SE-14-00012</p> <p>DATE STAMP IN BOX</p>
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COMMUNITY PLANNING • BUILDING INSPECTION • PLAN REVIEW • ADMINISTRATION • PERMIT SERVICES • CODE ENFORCEMENT

FORM LAST REVISED: 5-9-14

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**UPDATED 2014**

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**A. background** [\[help\]](#)

1. Name of proposed project, if applicable: Yakima River Canyon Scenic Byway Interpretive Center
2. Name of applicant: Kittitas County Public Works Department

3. Address and phone number of applicant and contact person: 411 North Ruby, Suite 1, Ellensburg WA 98926

4. Date checklist prepared: 12/2/2014

5. Agency requesting checklist: Kittitas County Public Works Department

6. Proposed timing or schedule (including phasing, if applicable): Construction is programmed to start 7/1/15 and be completed by 10/31/15.

7. Do you have any plans for future additions, expansion, or further activity related to or connected with this proposal? If yes, explain. This is the first of two phases. This first phase includes construction of the interpretive center building. The second phase may include (as resources allow) additional parking, picnic facilities, interpretive walking trails and signs, fishing pier, and other similar interpretive improvements.

8. List any environmental information you know about that has been prepared, or will be prepared, directly related to this proposal. Kittitas County Public Works Department is preparing an application for a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Section 404, Section 106 consultation, a Joint Aquatic Resources Permit application – Shoreline Substantial Development Permit, and Floodplain Permit.

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. No

10. List any government approvals or permits that will be needed for your proposal, if known. Kittitas County Public Works Department is preparing an application for a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Section 404, Section 106 consultation, a Joint Aquatic Resources Permit application – Shoreline Substantial Development Permit, Floodplain Permit, Conditional Use Permit, Boundary Line Adjustment, and Kittitas County building permit.

*Public Facilities Permit - All staff review 1/23/15*

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 will include construction of an interpretive center at the northern gateway to the Canyon Road/SR 821, a state designated scenic byway. It includes a new group A water system, heat pump coils placed in the pond for geothermal use, improved parking at the vacated residence, and a trail connecting the parking area and center. The interpretive center and associated decking will not exceed 4,000 square feet in size. The proposed use of this interpretive center is as a recreational resource for visitors and community members to provide nature and science education and foster appreciation of the natural and cultural identity of the Yakima River Canyon Scenic Byway.

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. This project is located in Kittitas County, south of the City of Ellensburg. The property is southeast of the intersection of Thrall Road and Canyon Road (SR 821) and includes tax parcels 090333, 620333, 060333, 940333. It is in Township 17 North, Range 19 East, Section 31.

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

### 1. Earth

a. General description of the site [\[help\]](#)

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

b. What is the steepest slope on the site (approximate percent slope)? The property is generally flat with slopes no more than 8.8%.

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 soil composition in the northern part of the property is mafic volcanic flow and the southern part is sandstone. Surface soils consist of a mixture of silt, sand, gravel, and cobbles exceeding ten feet in depth. This property does not contain agricultural land of long-term commercial significance. The site includes a man made borrow pit which is now a fishing pond surrounded by grasses, weeds, and some trees.

d. Are there surface indications or history of unstable soils in the immediate vicinity? If so, describe. None observed.

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. Excavation of material will be no more than 4,000 square feet from the building site and the building site will be restored to grade after construction. Some excavated material will be hauled off of site. Some fill material will be placed in the man made pond. This fill material will be limited to heat pump coils and anchorage for the coils. The purpose of this fill is to provide heat pump coils for geothermal heating of the building. The area affected by this fill will be less than 1,000 square feet. Additionally, the parking area and pathway will require excavation and replacement of approximately 8,000 square feet for parking and 1,000 square feet for a pathway connecting to the new structure. Finished elevations of parking and pathway areas will nearly match existing elevations. Much of the parking area will be a gravel surface.

- f. Could erosion occur as a result of clearing, construction, or use? If so, generally describe. It is highly unlikely any erosion will occur due to the flat porous nature of the project site surface.
- g. About what percent of the site will be covered with impervious surfaces after project construction (for example, asphalt or buildings)? New impervious surfaces, including the interpretive center building and ADA parking/pathway, will not exceed 6,500 square feet. There will be less than 0.5 percent impervious surfaces overall on the project property.
- h. Proposed measures to reduce or control erosion, or other impacts to the earth, if any: Erosion is not expected to occur.

## 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. Diesel engine exhaust may occur during construction. Painting or surface coating may generate outdoor air emissions. Dust from removal of vegetation in the construction site may also occur.
- b. Are there any off-site sources of emissions or odor that may affect your proposal? If so, generally describe. None observed.
- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control emissions or other impacts to air, if any: Minimize the time equipment is used that produces emissions. Water or stabilize soils to reduce dust.

## 3. Water

- a. Surface Water: [help]
- 1) Is there any surface water body on or in the immediate vicinity of the site (including year-round and seasonal streams, saltwater, lakes, ponds, wetlands)? If yes, describe type and provide names. If appropriate, state what stream or river it flows into. Yes. An unnamed man-made borrow pit which is a pond is near the building site. Wilson Creek is on the eastern boundary of the property, but it is more than 800 feet from the building site and will not be impacted. Water flows from this property into the Yakima River southwest of the property.
- 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. Fill will be added to the unnamed man-made pond, affecting an area less than 1,200 square feet. The fill material will be limited to heat pump coils and anchorage for the coils. The heat pump coils and associated anchorage will not be exposed at the water surface. Temporary excavation for piping to the coils will be backfilled and restored to existing conditions.

- 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 fill will be less than 25 cubic yards and the affected area will be less than 1,200 square feet. The fill material will be heat pump coils and anchorage for the coils, purchased from manufacturing companies and imported to the project site.
- 4) Will the proposal require surface water withdrawals or diversions? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known. None.
- 5) Does the proposal lie within a 100-year floodplain? If so, note location on the site plan. Yes, the property is within the 100-year floodplain as shown on the attached map.
- 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. All stormwater drainage will be disposed of on site in accordance with the Eastern Washington Stormwater Manual.

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. Yes, groundwater will be withdrawn using a newly drilled group A public water system. The location of the well will be approximately 200 feet south of the pond. A Group A water system is being used so that this facility has the capacity to serve groups of twenty-five people or more each day. Water will not be discharged to groundwater.
- 2) Describe waste material that will be discharged into the ground from septic tanks or other sources, if any (for example: Domestic sewage; industrial, containing the following chemicals. . . ; agricultural; etc.). Describe the general size of the system, the number of such systems, the number of houses to be served (if applicable), or the number of animals or humans the system(s) are expected to serve. The interpretive center's effluent will be discharged into the existing septic system that was used for the vacated single-family residential unit on the property. There will be two toilets flushing into this septic tank.

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. Roof and hard surface area runoff will be collected and retained on site in accordance with the Eastern Washington Stormwater Manual.
- 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. None.

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

#### 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? Grasses will be cleared for the interpretive center building and ADA parking/pathway, not to exceed 6,500 square feet of impervious surface. Total graded areas will be less than 20,000 square feet.

c. List threatened and endangered species known to be on or near the site. None known.

d. Proposed landscaping, use of native plants, or other measures to preserve or enhance vegetation on the site, if any: Landscaping will include native and on-site plant species.

e. List all noxious weeds and invasive species known to be on or near the site. Knapweed, thistle, and prickly lettuce.

#### 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  
fish: bass, salmon, trout, herring, shellfish, other \_\_\_\_\_

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

c. Is the site part of a migration route? If so, explain. None known.

- 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 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. Electricity will be used for energy needs.
- 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: Geo thermal heating and cooling will be used for this structure.

## 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. None anticipated.
- 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: None.
- b. **Noise**
- 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)? Indi-



cate what hours noise would come from the site. During the short term, noise related to construction equipment and activity may be created between approximately 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. During the long-term, minimal noise related to vehicular traffic arriving and leaving the site may occur.

3) Proposed measures to reduce or control noise impacts, if any: None.

## 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. The current use of the site is recreational with public fishing and environmental education activities taking place. This project will complement and promote the current use of the site. Adjacent properties include undeveloped land and storage facilities. The proposal will not affect the adjacent 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 is an abandoned single-family residential home, vault toilets, and a gravel parking area.
- d. Will any structures be demolished? If so, what? The abandoned single-family residential home and associated structures will be demolished.
- e. What is the current zoning classification of the site? Commercial Ag & Ag 20.
- f. What is the current comprehensive plan designation of the site? Commercial Ag & Rural Working.
- g. If applicable, what is the current shoreline master program designation of the site? Currently the project site has a rural shoreline designation.
- h. Has any part of the site been classified as a critical area by the city or county? If so, specify. The project is in the 100-year floodplain and there is a wetland on the property.  
*Conservancy - do staff review 1/23/15*
- i. Approximately how many people would reside or work in the completed project? No persons will reside at the project site and approximately 2 will work in the completed interpretive center during normal working hours.
- 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: Review by the Community Development Services Planning staff.
- m. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with nearby 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.
- b. Approximately how many units, if any, would be eliminated? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing. One abandoned single-family house will be eliminated.
- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control housing impacts, if any: None.

## 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 higher than 30 feet.
- b. What views in the immediate vicinity would be altered or obstructed? None.
- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control aesthetic impacts, if any: None.

## 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: None.

## 12. Recreation

- a. What designated and informal recreational opportunities are in the immediate vicinity? Fishing is available on site at the man-made pond. Interpretive walking paths are available on site. River recreational activities are available in the Yakima River including fishing and boating.
- b. Would the proposed project displace any existing recreational uses? If so, describe. This project will not displace any existing recreational uses, it is expected to enhance and promote the existing uses.

- 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. This project creates additional recreational 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 located on or near the site? 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. A Section 106 consultation is being conducted to evaluate whether these resources are potentially located at the project site.
- 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 Section 106 consultation will include excavations and examinations of material on site and research of existing information to assess potential impacts.
- 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. The Section 106 consultation will identify measures to be taken to protect any potential resources.

*Report submitted  
to CDS  
1/23/15  
JLL*

### 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. This project will have access directly onto SR 821, a state highway and national scenic byway.
- 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 approximate distance is 4.7 miles to the City of Ellensburg's closest Central Transit public transportation stop.
- c. How many additional parking spaces would the completed project or non-project proposal have? How many would the project or proposal eliminate? 20 additional parking spaces. This project does not eliminate any current 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.

- 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? Traffic will fluctuate greatly. Peak levels of traffic will take place when special activities occur at the interpretive center, during school environmental education workshops, and on holiday weekends during the summer. The Institute of Traffic Engineers Trip Generation Manual indicates that county parks of this size typically generate 149 average vehicle trip ends on a weekday and 795 average vehicle trip ends on a Saturday.
- 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, the transportation network adjacent to the proposed project is a state highway and has the capacity to handle increased traffic to the project site without interfering with the movement of agricultural and forest products.
- h. Proposed measures to reduce or control transportation impacts, if any: None.

**15. Public services**

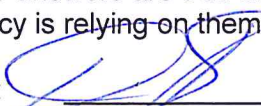
- a. Would the project result in an increased need for public services (for example: fire protection, police protection, public transit, health care, schools, other)? If so, generally describe. No.
- b. Proposed measures to reduce or control direct impacts on public services, if any. None.

**16. Utilities**

- a. Circle utilities currently available at the site: electricity, natural gas, water, refuse service, telephone, sanitary sewer, septic system  
other Cable is also available. Water and septic will be managed from on-site systems.
- 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 utilities needed for this project are currently provided, with the exception of water. This project includes the development of a new group A water system.

**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 Douglas D. Holt  
 Position and Agency/Organization County Engineer - KC PW

# Yakima River Canyon Scenic Byway Interpretive Center Vicinity, Floodplain, and Topography Map

