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.

A. Background

1. Name of proposed project, if applicable:

Kittitas County General Permit Application

2. Name of applicant:

Kittitas County

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

Address: 205 W 5th Avenue Ellensburg, WA 98926
Contact : Holly Myers 509 962 7005

4. Date checklist prepared:

03/15/2016

5. Agency requesting checklist:

Washington State Department of Ecology

6. Proposed timing or schedule (including phasing, if applicable):
Under this application, the County is requesting a 10-year development schedule, after which the County would return to Ecology for new review and authorization for additional mitigation quantities if appropriate.

7. Do you have any plans for future additions, expansion, or further activity related to or connected with this proposal? If yes, explain.
YES, Kittitas County will be involved in future water rights acquisitions. They will be subject to future SEPA review.

8. List any environmental information you know about that has been prepared, or will be prepared, directly related to this proposal.
SEPA checklists and threshold determinations for the establilshment of these water rights have been filed in the past. Specifically, SC Aggregate through president Steve Lathrop presented a checklist in December of 2013 and threshold Mitigative Determination of Non-Significance was issued in July, 2015 by the Department of Ecology. A checklist for establishment of Amerivest Development and Allwest LLC was submitted by Mitchell Williams on December 10, 2010 and a Determination of Non-Significance was issued by the Kittitas County Water Conservancy Board on December 22, 2010. Mitigations and threshold determinations are relevant to this particular proposal.

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.

Approval for a Groundwater Permit from the Washington State Department of Ecology

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.)

The County is seeking to obtain general permits to provide water budget neutral water right permits to building permit applicants that do not meet the domestic use exemption under RCW 90.44.050. The permitted use will authorize up to 149.5 ac-ft/year of water (52.2 ac-ft/year consumptive)from the County's interest in the Amerivest, Williams, Roth, and Clennon Water Banks.
Kittitas County will offer two application packages, Package A and Package B, that mirror those in the exempt-portion of the County's Water Banks. Package A would provide 275 gpd per unit and incidental outdoor water use for up to 262 units. Package B would provide up to 300 gpd per unit, which includes 275 gpd for indoor water use and 25 gpd for outdoor irrigation. Package B would be required for any unit without access to outdoor irrigation water, and would serve up to 205 connections.

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.

Existing “green zones” of the Williams, Amerivest, Roth, and Clennon Water Banks. This includes land located within the following Townships:

Township & Range	Sections (all Willamette Meridian)
16-20	3-6,8-10,14-16,22-23
17-17	1,2,11-14
17-18	1-18,21-26
17-19	1-32,36
17-20	2-11,14-23,28-34
18-17	1-3,11-14,24-27,34-36
18-18	All Sections
18-19	2,3,5-11,13-36
18-20	17-21,28-34
19-14	1,2
19-15	1-6
19-16	2-6,8-11,13,14,24
19-17	15,16,19-23,25-28,33-36
19-18	26-36
20-13	1,11-14,24
20-14	7,16-23,25-29,34-36
20-15	25-28,31-36
20-16	**28-34**

B. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS

1. Earth

a. General description of the site:
See attached maps of Kittitas County Water Bank green zones
(circle one): Flat, rolling, hilly, steep slopes, mountainous, other

b. What is the steepest slope on the site (approximate percent slope)?
NA

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.
NA

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

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.

NA

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

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

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

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.
NA

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

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

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.

Surface water exists throughout the serviced area

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.
No

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.
NA

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.

One-hundred year floodplains exist throughout the area being served with the establishment of the process

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.

The requested permit is to authorize new domestic groundwater uses for building permit applicants in Kittitas County who, in addition to mitigation for their consumptive use of water, also need a groundwater permit because they are not eligible for an exempt groundwater use under RCW 90.44.050.

Kittitas County will offer two application packages, Package A and Package B, that mirror those in the exempt-portion of the County's Water Banks. Package A would provide 275 gpd per unit and incidental outdoor water use for up to 262 units. Package B would provide up to 300 gpd per unit, which includes 275 gpd for indoor water use and 25 gpd for outdoor irrigation. Package B would be required for any unit without access to outdoor irrigation water, and would serve up to 205 connections.

The County amended the intial application to accommodate three separate bodies of groundwater administered by Ecology in the proposed area: Roslyn basin sedimentary, Kittitas basin sedimentary, and Kittitas basin bedrock. Per RCW 90.44.100(2), Ecology must consider each body of groundwater separately. RCW 90.44.100(2) is premised on a groundwater regulation scheme that begins with identification of a body of public groundwater. In the context of the proposed application, and the trust water rights that would serve as the Total Water Supply Available (TWSA) offset to be water budget neutral, Ecology agreed it is

appropriate to divide the single application into applications G4-35799(A), G4-35799(B), and G4-35799(C).

- Portion (A) represents the aquifer systems of the Upper Kittitas Basin. The Upper Kittitas Basin consists of unconsolidated aquifers that are predominately of alluvial, lacustrine, and glacial deposits interspersed with consolidated metamorphics, sandstone, and volcanics. The upper basin is located above the confluence of Swauk Creek and the Yakima River.

- Portion (B) represents the unconsolidated and consolidated aquifer systems of the Lower Kittitas Basin. These sediments are located above the Columbia River Basalt Group (CRBG). The aquifer is composed of alluvial, loess, glacial, sedimentary, and Ellensburg Formation deposits. The lower basin is located below the confluence of Swauk Creek and the Yakima River.

- Portion (C) represent the bedrock aquifers of the Lower Kittitas Basin. This aquifer is composed of CRBGs and associated sedimentary interbeds. The lower basin is located below the confluence of Swauk Creek and the Yakima River.

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.

NA

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.

NA

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

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

NA

4. **Plants**

a. Check the types of vegetation found on the site:

All types of these plants exist throughout the area involved in this proposal

____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?

None

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

The proposal will have no impact upon identified threatened or endangered species and therefore is irrelevant.

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

NA

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

NA

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.

NA

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.

salmon and bull trout

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

NA

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

The County's mitigation via trust water right holdings in the County water bank offsets these impacts. Measuring water use will permit us to determine when water use will need to be limited.

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

NA

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.

NA

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:

NA

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.

NA

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

NA

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.

NA

1) 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.

NA

2) Describe special emergency services that might be required.
NA

3) Proposed measures to reduce or control environmental health hazards, if any:
NA

b. Noise

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

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.
NA

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

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.

Residential, agricultural, ground extraction, and minor industrial activity exists throughout the area that will be served by the proposal.

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 proposal will not affect any agricultural uses.

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.
NA

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

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

The site being serviced by the proposal contains all of the land use zones within the County.

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

The site being serviced by the proposal contains all of the land use plan classifications within the County.

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

The site being serviced by the proposal contains all shoreline designations in the County's Shoreline Master Program.

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

Various areas throughout the area affected by the proposal have lands considered as "critical" within the County's Critical Areas Ordinance, KCC Title 17A

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

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

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

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

M. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with nearby agricultural and forest lands of long-term commercial significance, if any:
NA

9. **Housing**

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

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

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

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?
NA

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

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

11. **Light and Glare**

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

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

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

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

12. **Recreation**

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

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

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

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.
NA

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
NA

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.
NA

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.
NA

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.
NA

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?
NA

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

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).
NA

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

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?
NA

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:
NA

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.

The proposal will not increase need for any additional public services.

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

16. **Utilities**

a. Circle utilities currently available at the site:

electricity, natural gas, water, refuse service, telephone, sanitary sewer, septic system, other _____

NA

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.
NA

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: _____

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?

The proposal will not result in any production, storage, or release/discharge of toxic or hazardous substances or production of noise since it only involves the establishment of a water permitting process of already existing water banks.

Proposed measures to avoid or reduce such increases are:

NA

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

The proposal will not affect an plants, animals, fish or marine life since it only involves the establishment of a water permitting process which involves already existing water bank systems.

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

NA

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

The proposal will not deplete energy or natural resources such as water since this proposal is restricted to the establishment of a permitting process which involves already existing trust water right agreements for each water bank. All water use is mitigated with regard to local impacts in tributary streams and creeks to be water budget neutral.

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

NA

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?

The proposal will not have any impacts upon environmental sensitive areas or parks, rivers, threatened or dendagered species or historic areas since any future project action would still be subject to existing resource regulations. The proposal only involves the establishment of a water permitting process which involves already existing water banks.

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

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?

Existing County regulations require that all new water use be mitigated. Land and shoreline development will not occur without water budget neutral mitigation.

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

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

The proposal will not increase any demands on transportation or other public services. The proposal will improve an existing public service by allowing permitted water use through an existing county water bank.

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

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

The proposal will meet all requirements of RCW Title 90 relating to water rights, and fulfill the county's commitment to measure and protect surface and ground water quality and quantity as written in the Settlement Agreement with Washington State Department of Ecology.