

SE-20-00083



# 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:**

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

ck# 103254

**\$1,360.00 Total fees due for this application (One check made payable to KCCDS)**

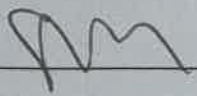
\*\* Note:KCCDS and PW fees are waived if project is a VSP sponsored fish enhancement project.

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JUN 12 2020

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JUN 11 2020

DEPT OF PUBLIC WORKS

FOR STAFF USE ONLY

<p>Application Received by (CDS Staff Signature):</p> 	<p>DATE:</p> <p>6/12/2020</p>	<p>RECEIPT#</p> <p>CD 20-0135</p> <p><b>RECEIVED</b> JUN 12 2020 Kittitas County CDS DATE STAMP IN BOX</p>
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**A. Background**

1. Name of proposed project, if applicable: **Brown & Jackson Storage Ponds**
2. Name of applicant: **Brown & Jackson, Inc.**
3. Address and phone number of applicant and contact person:  
**Brown & Jackson, Inc. Attn: Rikki Schmitt**  
**107 N Main St**  
**Ellensburg, WA 98926**  
**Office: 509-925-1564**  
**Cell: 509-929-4785**  
**Email: rikkischmitt1@gmail.com**
4. Date checklist prepared: **June 2020**
5. Agency requesting checklist: **Kittitas County Public Works**
6. Proposed timing or schedule (including phasing, if applicable): **Construction to begin immediately upon approval. Winter months may affect construction season.**
7. Do you have any plans for future additions, expansion, or further activity related to or connected with this proposal? If yes, explain.  
**Construction of both ponds will be taking place during the construction of this site, and currently Brown & Jackson has no plans for a future addition or expansion.**
8. List any environmental information you know about that has been prepared, or will be prepared, directly related to this proposal.  
**None Known.**
9. Do you know whether applications are pending for governmental approvals of other proposals directly affecting the property covered by your proposal? If yes, explain.  
**Brown & Jackson is also submitting an 'Application for Coverage Under the General Permit for Biosolids Management' through the Washington State Department of Ecology. The proposed ponds are to be used as septage storage until the wastewater can be land applied for irrigation.**

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

**Grading Permit - Kittitas County**

**State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) Check List - Kittitas County**

**Coverage under the General Permit for Biosolids Management – WA 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.)

**Brown & Jackson plans on constructing two storage ponds to hold the septage that they pump from a variety of commercial and residential sources around the greater Ellensburg and Kittitas area. These ponds will store the biosolids until they are land applied to the designated farmland contained within Kittitas County Tax Parcel No. 295134. The total area of the site is just under 198 acres, with approximately 25 Acres being disturbed for the construction of the ponds. The land application will take place late summer/early fall and the septage will be applied using trucks, and then disked in to the land before planting various crops such as winter wheat.**

12. Location of the proposal. Give sufficient information for a person to understand the precise location of your proposed project, including a street address, if any, and section, township, and range, if known. If a proposal would occur over a range of area, provide the range or boundaries of the site(s). Provide a legal description, site plan, vicinity map, and topographic map, if reasonably available. While you should submit any plans required by the agency, you are not required to duplicate maps or detailed plans submitted with any permit applications related to this checklist.

**The project is located on Kittitas County Tax Parcel No. 295134, located in the western half of Section 34, Township 18 North, Range 20 East, W.M. The site can be accessed on the north portion of the property, near the intersection of Parke Creek Road and Christensen Road. The entrance to the site is just past the Washington State DSHS building. A site plan is attached.**

## **B. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS**

### **1. Earth**

a. General description of the site:

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

**The topography of the site is rolling, with regional topography sloping down towards the southwest. Based on the Colockum Pass SE Quadrangle 7.5-minute series map published by USGS, the Topography elevations of the site vary from approximately 2040 to 2180 feet.**

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

**Based on the USDA Custom Soil Report for Kittitas County, the site has maximum slopes of approximately 15 to 30 percent.**

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 generally has a mix of gravely loams and silt loams, as outlined in the Custom Soil Resource Report for Kittitas County, Washington published by the USDA.**

- d. Are there surface indications or history of unstable soils in the immediate vicinity? If so, describe.  
**There has been no observation or indication of any unstable slopes located within the project area.**
- 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 and grading would be associated with the construction of two wastewater storage ponds and their corresponding gravel access road. The total amount of ground disturbance is estimated to be less than 25 acres.**
- f. Could erosion occur as a result of clearing, construction, or use? If so, generally describe.  
**Small amounts of erosion could occur during construction; however, it is anticipated that all stormwater and erosion will remain on site. The location of the ponds is well outside of the protection area for both Park Creek and the seasonal creek. Erosion will be mitigated and maintained at minimal levels through the use of the Stormwater Management Manual for Eastern Washington. During construction, a silt fence will be installed on the eastern side of the seasonal waterway.**
- g. About what percent of the site will be covered with impervious surfaces after project construction (for example, asphalt or buildings)?  
**Currently there are no impervious surfaces proposed for this site other than the two storage ponds that take up less than 10% of the total site's area. The ponds will be lined and the contents will be stored until they are land applied.**
- h. Proposed measures to reduce or control erosion, or other impacts to the earth, if any:  
**Top soil will be restored as necessary for slope stabilization.**

## 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.  
**During construction various equipment and trucks will result in exhaust emissions and dust generated during site preparation. Post construction the only expected emissions would be from the trucks hauling the septate to the ponds and land application areas. Additionally, the stored septage can give an odor.**
- b. Are there any off-site sources of emissions or odor that may affect your proposal? If so, generally describe.  
**There are no known off-site sources of emissions or odor that may affect the proposal.**
- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control emissions or other impacts to air, if any:  
**To the greatest extent possible, dust suppression utilizing water suppression, covering, non-disturbance techniques should be utilized during construction. The Biosolids will be incorporated into the ground to help control the odor and the pond will be kept aerobic to further reduce the odor. The stored septage will be contained and not mixed, to minimize odor. Additionally, the septage will be land applied via trucks and disked into the land only once a year. This method of land application will minimize the odors from the site.**

### 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.

**Park Creek runs diagonally through the site, from the northeast to the southwest. The proposed ponds are located more than 300 feet east of the creek, near the northern portion of the site. Additionally, the North Branch Irrigation Canal borders the southeast corner of the site.**

- 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.

**All planned work is located more than 200 feet from the nearby waterways.**

- 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 and/or dredge material is expected to be placed or removed from surface waters or wetlands as a result of this proposal.**

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

**No, this proposal is not expected to require surface water withdrawals or diversions.**

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

**This proposal lies within Zone C of the FEMA FIRM mapping system. Zone C is defined as areas with "minimal flooding".**

- 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, waste materials are expected to be discharged to surface waters as a result of this proposal.**

#### 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.

**This proposal does not include the additional withdrawal of water from the ground, or the withdrawal of 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.

**Biosolids from septic tanks, grease traps, and portable toilets will be pumped from the ponds and incorporated into the ground at application rates approved by the Department of Ecology.**

#### 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.

**This area receives less than 9" of rainfall per year, therefore storm water will infiltrate naturally.**

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

**It is not expected that waste materials will enter ground or surface waters.**

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

**None Known.**

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

**Biosolids will be stored in the ponds and once a year be incorporated into the soil to prevent runoff.**

#### 4. Plants

- a. Check the types of vegetation found on the site: [\[help\]](#)

deciduous tree: alder, maple, aspen, other

evergreen tree: fir, cedar, pine, other

shrubs

grass

pasture

crop or grain

Orchards, vineyards or other permanent crops.

wet soil plants: cattail, buttercup, bullrush, skunk cabbage, other

water plants: water lily, eelgrass, milfoil, other

other types of vegetation

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

**The area in which the ponds are being constructed is pasture with a mix of native dry grasses.**

- 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:

**Incorporate nutrients in the form of biosolids from the storage ponds in to the land to enhance the soil quality and result in a better crop production.**

- 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:

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

## 6. Energy and Natural Resources

- a. What kinds of energy (electric, natural gas, oil, wood stove, solar) will be used to meet the completed project's energy needs? Describe whether it will be used for heating, manufacturing, etc.  
**None at this time.**
- 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:  
**Not Applicable.**

## 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.  
**There is potential for septage spilling in route to the ponds and biosolids land application areas. See the Spill Response Plan for more Details.**
  - 1) Describe any known or possible contamination at the site from present or past uses.  
**See Spill Response Plan**
  - 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 Known.**
  - 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.  
**Storage ponds are designed to hold biosolids.**
  - 4) Describe special emergency services that might be required.  
**See Spill Response Plan**
  - 5) Proposed measures to reduce or control environmental health hazards, if any:  
**Land application will occur at a rate permitted by the Department of Ecology.**
- b. Noise
  - 1) What types of noise exist in the area which may affect your project (for example: traffic, equipment, operation, other)?  
**Minimal farm equipment and truck traffic.**

- 2) What types and levels of noise would be created by or associated with the project on a short-term or a long-term basis (for example: traffic, construction, operation, other)? Indicate what hours noise would come from the site.

**General vehicle operation noise from approximately and most commonly 8 am to 5 pm**

- 3) Proposed measures to reduce or control noise impacts, if any:  
**Operate Equipment between daylight hours**

## 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.

**Most of the surrounding area is either vacant or used for agricultural purposes, with the exception to the State DSHS facility to the north.**

- 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?

**In the last 30 years the site has been used as general pasture, it is believed that it has been 30+ years since the land was actively farmed.**

- 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 not structures currently on the project site.**

- d. Will any structures be demolished? If so, what? **No.**

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

**Kittitas County currently has the site classified as Agriculture 20 (A-20). Per County Code Chapter 17.29 "The agriculture (A-20) zone is an area wherein farming, ranching and rural life styles are dominant characteristics. The intent of this zoning classification is to preserve fertile farmland from encroachment by nonagricultural land uses; and protect the rights and traditions of those engaged in agriculture."**

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

**Agriculture 20 (A-20)**

- 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?

**0 – 2 workers, depending on the season.**



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:

**Go through the County Grading Permit Process.**

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.

**None.**

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

**None.**

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

**Not Applicable.**

## **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?

**The ponds are the only planned structures for this site. The tallest amount of fill is approximately 9.5 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?

**Headlights from trucks and farming equipment from 8 am to 5 pm.**

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?

**None.**

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:

**None.**

## 13. Historic and cultural preservation

a. Are there any buildings, structures, or sites, located on or near the site that are over 45 years old listed in or eligible for listing in national, state, or local preservation registers? If so, specifically describe.

**No.**

b. Are there any landmarks, features, or other evidence of Indian or historic use or occupation? This may include human burials or old cemeteries. Are there any material evidence, artifacts, or areas of cultural importance on or near the site? Please list any professional studies conducted at the site to identify such resources.

**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.

**Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation's (DAHP) WISAARD mapping system does not show any identified or confirmed areas of potential affect in the vicinity of the site. DAHP identifies the project site as an area where an archaeological study is highly recommended. However, it is important to note that there is no record in the WISAARD mapping of an archaeological study occurring for the nearby DSHS facility.**

**Additionally it is important to note that over 30 years ago this site was previously farmed and has been used as pasture since then.**

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.

**Should anything be discovered during excavation and construction, the proper authorities will be immediately notified.**

## 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 current access to the site is from Parke Creek Road, as shown on the 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.**

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

**None.**

- d. Will the proposal require any new or improvements to existing roads, streets, pedestrian, bicycle or state transportation facilities, not including driveways? If so, generally describe (indicate whether public or private).

**No.**

- 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 non-passenger vehicles). What data or transportation models were used to make these estimates?

**It is expected that 1-2 trucks will travel to and from the site 1-2 times during working hours. The estimated maximum daily number of trips generated is approximately 8 and they typically occur between the hours of 8 am and 5 pm.**

- 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:

**Not Applicable.**

## 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.

**Not at this time.**

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

**Not Applicable.**

## 16. Utilities

- a. Circle utilities currently available at the site:  
electricity, natural gas, water, refuse service, telephone, sanitary sewer, septic system,  
other \_\_\_\_\_  
**Currently no utilities service the site, nor are they needed at this time.**
- 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.  
**None at this time.**

## 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: Tyler Schmitt

Position and Agency/Organization: President / Brown & Jackson Inc. / 46 Farms

Date Submitted: 6/10/20

## **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.