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: Palouse to Cascades Ditch Re-establishment

2. Name of applicant: Kittitas County Flood Control Zone District

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

Arden Thomas
Kittitas County Public Works
411 North Ruby, Suite 1
Ellensburg, WA 98926
509-962-7523

4. Date checklist prepared:

5/27/2021

5. Agency requesting checklist:

Washington State Parks

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

Project would occur sometime between May and October in 2022 or 2023 when conditions are suitable. The duration of the project is anticipated at one week, possibly two including contingency time for any unanticipated delays, staging and clean up.

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

No.

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

None.

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.

None are pending to my knowledge.

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

Washington State Parks & Recreation Real Property Agreement

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.)

Kittitas County Flood Control Zone District proposes to restore the function of an existing ditch that conveys snowmelt and stormwater runoff. Ditch degradation has reduced the conveyance capacity of the ditch and increased flood impacts to the adjacent neigbhorhood. The pertinent section of this ditch begins west of the Old Cedars housing development and outfalls to the County ditch on Nelson Siding Rd. The ditch is currently compromised in places due to illegal UTV/ATV passage through the ditch and modifications during residential construction, resulting in water escapement and entrance into residential areas along Old Cedars Road. The project elements consist of reditching the existing structure running east to west, and making additional improvements to the slopes on either side at the private access road and the toe of the Palouse to Cascades Trail revetment.

The projects total area is approximately 200,000 square feet, or 4.59 acres. The work will include reditching for approximately 2,200 linear ft. at a depth of 2 ft. and width of 95 ft. The adjacent private access (south) and the Palouse to Cascades Trail revetment toe (north) will be brought to grade that supports ditch structure and efficiency with a slopes of 3H:1V and 2H:1V.

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 approximately 10 miles west of the City of Cle Elum, Washington in Section 19 of Township 20 N, Range 14 East in Kittitas County. Access is a private drive off at 6740 Nelson Siding Rd. between the State Parks Palouse to Cascade Trail (BNSF Railway parcel ID 848736) on the North and private properties referred to as the Old Cedars Development on the South. The approximate latitude/longitude of the beginning and of the project are -121.144, 47.218 (start) and -121.135, 47.217.

B. Environmental Elements

1. *Earth*

a. General description of the site:

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

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

The general topography of the project area is relatively flat (<5%).

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 Survey Map indicates that Kladnick ashy sandy loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes, is found on site. The

farmland classification is not prime farmland. There is also imported fill and gravel associated with access road construction and maintenance. Some of the native soil and potentially some fill will be removed from site to re-establish the drainage ditch.

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.

Approximately 40 cubic yards of material on site will be regraded on site for the purposes of re-establishing the roadside ditch, creating more of a consistent grade along the ditch, and regrading the road so that it is above the ditch. Approximately 500 cubic yards will be excavated and hauled off site, to a Kittitas County storage site, re-establish the drainage ditch. Total project area is approximately 200,000 sq. ft. or 4.59 acres.

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

Erosion risk is expected to be reduced as a result of this project. Currently water is not contained in the ditch, and the adjacent access road is lower in elevation then the ditch bank along a section of the ditch. As a result, under the current condition the road is at increased risk of erosion.

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

The project will not crease any impervious surface.

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

The design maintains the existing overall slope of the ditch (2H:1V) and does not create sloped banks steeper than a 3H:1V slope.

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.

There may be some short term increases in dust and exhaust during construction generated by earth moving equipment (e.g.,excavators, bulldozers, backhoes, graders) and other support vehicles (pickup trucks,equipment maintenance vehicles). The completed project will not increasetraffic volumes or air emissions.

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:

If dust is generated, control methods such as watering open soils or road surfaces or other dust abatement measures will be implemented as needed. Equipment, machinery and support vehicles used for the project will be maintained in proper working order to keep emissions within applicable air quality guidelines and will not be left on and idling when not in use.

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.

The work area contains no identified streams, ponds, or wetlands. There is a ditch along the railroad revertment which is typically dry. This ditch eventually intercepts the roadside ditch along Nelson Siding Road, a Kittitas County Road.

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.

Not applicable. While the work involves ditch maintenance, this work will occur when the ditch is dry.

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.

Not applicable.

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.

The project is not within an identified 100-year floodplain. The FEMA designation for the project side is Zone X (area of minimal flood Hazard). Observed overland flooding issues appear to be associated with local drainage issues associated with rapid snow melting and rain on snow conditions.

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.

There will be no discharges of waste materials to surface waters.

b. Ground Water:

1) Will groundwater be withdrawn from a well for drinking water or other purposes? If so, give a general description of the well, proposed uses and approximate quantities withdrawn from the well. Will water be discharged to groundwater? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.

No groundwater will be withdrawn.

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.

No waste material will be discharged.

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.

The proposed project will not generate stormwater, as no imperviuous surfaces are being created. The proposed project will re-establish a previously constructed ditch so that existing runoff is better managed. Since there is not a source of surface water in the vicinity, runoff is from precipitation and snow melt events. There is a dich that runs along the railroad embankment, conveying this runoff to the Nelson Siding Road ditch. However, sections of the ditch have filled in over time, as a result of illegal wheeled access onto the railroad revetment from the private road, unpermitted road maitenance activities, and the casting of spoils into the ditch when electrical poles were installed. Due to the degradation of the ditch, stormwater flows south, rather than following the ditch east, and into the Coyote Creek neighborhood.

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

The project will generate no waste materials that could enter ground or surface waters.

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

The project will restablish drainage patterns, as described further in question c1. Degradation of the existing ditch has altered drainage patterns, exacerbating flooding issues from local runoff.

d. Proposed measures to reduce or control surface, ground, and runoff water, and drainage

pattern impacts, if any:

The project purpose is to better control surface runoff water, as described in further detail in question C1.

4. Plants

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

_X__deciduous tree: alder, maple, aspen, other
_X__evergreen tree: fir, cedar, pine, other
_X__shrubs
_X__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?

No mature shrubs or trees will be removed. A limited amount grasses and small forbs, and potentially small seedlings may be disturbed or removed.

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

No threatened or endangered species are know to be on or near the site.

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

None proposed.

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

Noxious plants have not been noted.

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.

No threatened or endangered species are know to be on or near the site. The site does not contain designated critical habitat for any threatened or endangered species. The site is within the range of of Canadian Lynx and Northern Spotted Owls. However, these species are not expected to be present on site, as the local habitat is not suitable and is highly disturbed from residential activity, regular vehicular traffic, and proximity to I-90.

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

No.

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

None.

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

None are 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.

There will be no ongoing 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:

None.

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.

No.

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

None known.

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.

None.

4) Describe special emergency services that might be required.

None anticipated.

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

Since no potential environmental health hazards have been identified, there are no proposed measures.

b. Noise

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

Traffic noise from I-90. Periodic train noise from the BNSF rail road. Occasional light traffic on the private access drive.

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.

There will be short-term noise associated with equipment operation. This noise will be limited to 6 am – 6 pm.

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 site is next to the railroad revetment for the Palouse to Cascades Trail, which is a non-motorized trail for public use. Construction will occur between the railroad revetment and a private access drive. The adjacent property uses are residential, recreational and active railroad.

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?

None.

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.

None.

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

No.

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

Agriculture 5

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

Rural Residential

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:

The project will re-establish an existing ditch along the railroad revetment. The ditch has been compromised over time and since conveyance has not been maintained, is exacerbating flooding issues in the adjacent neighborhood. The ditch maintnenance has also been designed so that there is no impact on the road that is also located next to ditch.

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

Not applicable

9. Housing

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

Not applicable

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

Not applicable

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?

Not applicable

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

Not applicable

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

Not applicable

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?

Not applicable

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

Not applicable

12. Recreation

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

Non-motorized trail use on the Palouse to Cascades Trail.

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

No. Proposed activities will not impact use of the trail. All proposed activity will occur outside the footprint of trail.

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

Since the proposed activities will not impact recreational uses on the Palouse to Cascade Trail, no measures are proposed.

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.

None are known.

c. Describe the methods used to assess the potential impacts to cultural and historic resources on or near the project site. Examples include consultation with tribes and the department of archeology and historic preservation, archaeological surveys, historic maps, GIS data, etc.

None have been conducted. Note that within the project area soil has been previously disturbed by: railroad construction, ditch construction, road construction, and utility pole installation.

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.

If any potential cultural resources are discovered during construction, operations will cease immediately and the Kittitas County Project manager will notify appropriate Department of Archaeological and Historic Preservation (DAHP) and tribal contacts.

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.

Access to the site is from Nelson Siding Rd.

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 nearest public transit stop is approximately 10 miles away in Cle Elum.

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, the proposed project will maintain the function and quality of the existing private access road and Parks trail located on the railroad.

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

The ditch will be re-estabished between a railroad revetment which is part of a regional trail network and a private drive that serves private residences. The private access road will beed to be utilized to access this site. A portion of the road will need to be elevated to maintain a ditch adjacent to the road.

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?

Not applicable. The proposed project will have no effect on the number of vehicular trips within the area.

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 applicable.

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 _____

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.

Utility locate will be conducted before the project occurs and the project will not affect any of PSE energy poles out on site.

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 Arden Thomas

Position and Agency/Organization Water Resource Manager, Kittitas County Public Works

Date Submitted: 5-27-2022

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.