



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: [\[help\]](#)

For nonproject proposals (such as ordinances, regulations, plans and programs), complete the applicable parts of sections A and B plus the [SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET FOR NONPROJECT ACTIONS \(part D\)](#). Please completely answer all questions that apply and note that the words "project," "applicant," and "property or site" should be read as "proposal," "proponent," and "affected geographic area," respectively. The lead agency may exclude (for non-projects) questions in Part B - Environmental Elements –that do not contribute meaningfully to the analysis of the proposal.

APPLICATION FEES:

\$600.00 Kittitas County Community Development Services (KCCDS)**


\$250.00 Kittitas County Department of Public Works**

\$430.00 Kittitas County Public Health

\$1,280.00 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.

FOR STAFF USE ONLY

Application Received by (CDS Staff Signature): _____	DATE: _____	RECEIPT# _____	 DATE STAMP IN BOX
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A. Background [\[help\]](#)

1. Name of proposed project, if applicable: [\[help\]](#)

Proposed non-project action: Critical Areas Ordinance periodic review update.

2. Name of applicant: [\[help\]](#)

Kittitas County

3. Address and phone number of applicant and contact person: [\[help\]](#)

*Kittitas County Community Development Services
Jeremy Johnston, Planning Official
411 N. Ruby Street, Suite 2
Ellensburg, WA 98926
(509) 962-7506*

4. Date checklist prepared: [\[help\]](#)

August 23, 2021

5. Agency requesting checklist: [\[help\]](#)

Kittitas County Community Development Services

6. Proposed timing or schedule (including phasing, if applicable): [\[help\]](#)

Anticipate final adoption by December 31, 2021.

7. Do you have any plans for future additions, expansion, or further activity related to or connected with this proposal? If yes, explain. [\[help\]](#)

This proposal is for a non-project action with no directly related plans for future physical expansions or activities. Kittitas County's Critical Areas Ordinance exists in Kittitas County Code Title 17A. These regulations apply to development within geographic areas in Kittitas County that meet the criteria and definition for critical areas.

8. List any environmental information you know about that has been prepared, or will be prepared, directly related to this proposal. [\[help\]](#)

- *A Best Available Science Report was completed in June 2014 by Environmental Science Associates for the County's Draft Critical Areas Ordinance.*
- *Best Available Science Technical Memorandum was completed in January 2018 by SCJ Alliance Consulting, and was updated in November 2018 as an Addendum.*
- *A Best Available Science Technical Memorandum regarding Critical Aquifer Recharge Area Remapping was completed in May 2020 by The Watershed Company.*
- *A Best Available Science Technical Memorandum regarding Recommendations for Riparian Management Zones Widths was completed in July 2020 by The Watershed Company.*

These reports are available on the County's CAO website:

<https://www.co.kittitas.wa.us/cds/cao/reports.aspx>.

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. [\[help\]](#)

There are no known applications that are pending governmental approvals directly affecting this ordinance update.

10. List any government approvals or permits that will be needed for your proposal, if known. [\[help\]](#)

Proposed changes to the Critical Areas Ordinance will have to be approved through ordinance by the Kittitas County Board of Commissioners to become effective.

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

The proposed update to Kittitas County's Critical Areas Ordinance (KCC Title 17A) is a complete update to bring the existing regulations, in place since 1994, into compliance with current state regulations and in accordance with the Best Available Science. Critical areas regulations are development regulations that designate critical areas and protect the functions and values of those critical areas, along with protecting public health and safety, as required by the Growth Management Act (RCW 36.70A.060).

Kittitas County's critical areas includes:

Critical Aquifer Recharge Areas

Fish and Wildlife Habitat Conservation Areas

Frequently Flooded Areas

Geologically Hazardous Areas

Wetlands

Draft mapping of these critical areas can be found on Kittitas County's CAO website:

<https://www.co.kittitas.wa.us/cds/cao/maps.aspx>.

Current drafts of the proposed changes to the existing CAO can also be found on the County's CAO website: <https://www.co.kittitas.wa.us/cds/cao/meetings.aspx>.

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. [\[help\]](#)

The proposed amendments to Kittitas County's Critical Areas Ordinance will affect all of Kittitas County, except for those areas under the jurisdiction of the County's Shoreline Master Program (KCC Title 17B), or Kittitas County's Voluntary Stewardship Plan (VSP), provided that the land owner has opted into the VSP, and the VSP program is active. Section 17A.01.030 of the draft CAO provides additional information regarding applicability.

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

1. Earth [\[help\]](#)

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

(circle one): _____

Rural areas within Kittitas County contain all of the characteristics listed above. More mountainous areas exist in the western portion of the County, more rolling areas exist in the middle and eastern areas of the County, and flat areas exist within the lower and/or eastern farming areas of the County.

- b. What is the steepest slope on the site (approximate percent slope)? [\[help\]](#)

Slopes within Kittitas County range from 6% slope in the valley to over 200% in the upper mountainous areas.

- 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. [\[help\]](#)

Soil types include ashy sandy loam, stony ashy loam, and rock outcrops in the Nimue, Chinkmin, and Vabus series. The most common soil classifications are for rocky outcrops and gravelly loam in the Malaga series and the Drino Fortyday complex, Sagehill-Timmerman complex and the Fortyday Drino Nevo complex. Typical soils in the agricultural areas consist of alluvium soils mixed with volcanic ash.

- d. Are there surface indications or history of unstable soils in the immediate vicinity? If so, describe. [\[help\]](#)

Unstable soils are expected to exist throughout the County. Future project-specific development proposals within the study areas will be reviewed consistent with the provisions of the Comprehensive Plan and the Kittitas County Code. Additionally, future project specific development proposals will conduct separate State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) review, as applicable.

- 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. [\[help\]](#)

As a non-project action, the proposal does not propose fill or grading. Future project specific development proposals within the study areas that may include fill or grading will be reviewed consistent with the provision of the Comprehensive Plan and applicable provision of the Kittitas County Code, SEPA, and State regulations.

- f. Could erosion occur as a result of clearing, construction, or use? If so, generally describe. [\[help\]](#)

No erosion will result from this non-project action. Future project specific development proposals within the study areas will be reviewed consistent with the provision of the Comprehensive Plan and applicable provision of the Kittitas County Code, SEPA, and State regulations.

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

No impervious surfaces will be added as a result of this non-project action. Future project specific development proposals within the study areas will be reviewed consistent with the provision of the Comprehensive Plan and applicable provision of the Kittitas County Code and State regulations. Additionally, future development proposals would be subject to SEPA and would include a review of added impervious surfaces. In addition, development throughout the County is regulated by zoning that sets building coverage and establishes storm water regulations.

- h. Proposed measures to reduce or control erosion, or other impacts to the earth, if any: [\[help\]](#)

As a non-project action, the proposal is not expected to result in erosion or other impacts to the earth, therefore no mitigating measures are proposed. Future project-specific development proposals will be reviewed consistent with the Comprehensive Plan and applicable provisions of the Kittitas County Code, SEPA, and other State regulations. Proposed KCC 17.06 provides standards to reduce erosion and impacts to the earth, and allows the Director to impose conditions to mitigate impacts.

2. Air [\[help\]](#)

- 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. [\[help\]](#)

As a non-project action, the proposal will not directly result in impacts to air quality. Future project specific development proposals within the study area that may result in air quality impacts will be reviewed consistent with the provisions of the Comprehensive Plan and applicable provisions of the Kittitas County Code, SEPA, and other State regulations.

- b. Are there any off-site sources of emissions or odor that may affect your proposal? If so, generally describe. [\[help\]](#)

Off-site sources of emissions or odor are not applicable to this non-project action. Future development proposals would be subject to SEPA individually and would include a review of off-site sources or emissions.

- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control emissions or other impacts to air, if any: [\[help\]](#)

As a non-project action, the proposal is not expected to result in impacts to the air quality. No mitigating measures are proposed. Future project specific development proposals will be reviewed pursuant to SEPA and County Environmental Policy (KCC Title 15) to identify potential environmental impacts and applicable mitigating measures.

3. **Water** [\[help\]](#)

- 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. [\[help\]](#)

- *Gold Creek, Coal Creek, and Tunnel Creek are headwater tributaries to Keechelus Lake. Two other major lakes, Kachess and Cle Elum exist in the western portion of the County fed by numerous other small lakes and streams.*
- *Two other major lakes, Kachess and Cle Elum, exist in the western portion of the County fed by numerous other small lakes and streams.*
- *Yakima River, Columbia River, and Manastash Creek are the three major rivers in the area designated rural.*
- *Water channels used for irrigation, floodplains, and wetlands exist throughout the rural area and valley floor of Kittitas County.*

- 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. [\[help\]](#)

As a non-project action, the proposal does not include any work over, in, or adjacent to water bodies. Future project specific development proposals within the study area that may include work over, in, or adjacent to water bodies will be reviewed consistent with the provisions of the Comprehensive Plan and applicable provisions of the Kittitas County Code, SEPA, and other State regulations.

- 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. [\[help\]](#)

As a non-project action, the proposal does not include any work over, in, or adjacent to water bodies. Future project specific development proposals within the study area that may include work over, in, or adjacement to water bodies will be reviewed consistent with the provisions of the Comprehensive Plan and applicable provisions of the Kittitas County Code, SEPA, and other State regulations.

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

As a non-project action, the proposal does not include any work over, in, or adjacent to water bodies. Future project specific development proposals within the study area that may include work over, in, or adjacement to water bodies will be reviewed consistent with the provisions of the Comprehensive Plan and applicable provisions of the Kittitas County Code, SEPA, and other State regulations.

- 5) Does the proposal lie within a 100-year floodplain? If so, note location on the site plan. [\[help\]](#)

Floodplains exist throughout the Kittitas County rural areas. Most exist along major rivers and tributaries described in question 3.a.1 above. Kitittas County contains Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) calculated floodplains which includes floodways and floodplains. No site plan exists as this is a non-project action.

- 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. [\[help\]](#)

As a non-project action, the proposal does not include any work over, in, or adjacent to water bodies. Future project specific development proposals within the study area that may include work over, in, or adjacement to water bodies will be reviewed consistent with the provisions of the Comprehensive Plan and applicable provisions of the Kittitas County Code, SEPA, and other State regulations.

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. [\[help\]](#)

As a non-project action, the proposal will not discharge to groundwater. Future project specific development proposals within the study area that may impact groundwater will be reviewed consistent with the provisions of the Comprehensive Plan and applicable provisions of the Kittitas County Code, SEPA, and other State regulations. New groundwater withdrawl must be consistent with Kittitas County Code Title 13: Water and Sewer.

- 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. [\[help\]](#)

As a non-project action, the proposal will not discharge to groundwater. Future project specific development proposals within the study area that may impact groundwater will be reviewed consistent with the provisions of the Comprehensive Plan and applicable provisions of the Kittitas County Code, SEPA, and other State regulations.

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. [\[help\]](#)

As a non-project action, the proposal will not withdraw or discharge to stormwater or produce additional surface runoff. Future project specific development proposals within the study area that may include source runoff and any methods of collection and disposal will be reviewed consistent with the provisions of the Comprehensive Plan and applicable provisions of the Kittitas County Code, SEPA, and other State regulations.

- 2) Could waste materials enter ground or surface waters? If so, generally describe. [\[help\]](#)

As a non-project action, no waste materials are expected to be generated and therefore are not expected to enter ground or surface waters. Future project specific development proposals within the study area will be reviewed consistent with the provisions of the Comprehensive Plan and applicable provisions of the Kittitas County Code, SEPA, and other State regulations.

- 3) Does the proposal alter or otherwise affect drainage patterns in the vicinity of the site? If so, describe. [\[help\]](#)

As a non-project action, the proposal will not alter or otherwise affect drainage patterns in the vicinity of the site. Future project specific development proposals within the study area will be reviewed consistent with the provisions of the Comprehensive Plan and applicable provisions of the Kittitas County Code, SEPA, and other State regulations.

d. Proposed measures to reduce or control surface, ground, and runoff water, and drainage pattern impacts, if any: [\[help\]](#)

As a non-project action, the proposal is not expected to result in impacts to surface, ground, or runoff water, therefore no mitigating measures are proposed at this time. Future project specific

development proposals within the study area will be reviewed consistent with the provision of the Comprehensive Plan and applicable provisions of the Kittitas County Code, SEPA, and other State regulations. Proposed KCC 17A.03 would protect Critical Aquifer Recharge Areas from degradation resulting from new or changed land use activities by providing protection standards. Proposed KCC 17A.05 would mitigate flood impacts by providing protection standards and requirements for mitigation. Proposed KCC 17A.06 would address impacts to Erosion Hazard Areas by providing protection standards. Proposed KCC 17A.07 would protect functions and values of wetlands with respect to groundwater recharge and discharge, water quality, stormwater and floodwater retention, storage and conveyance by providing protection standards and mitigation requirements.

4. **Plants** [\[help\]](#)

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

Forested areas with various types of evergreen trees exist throughout the mountainous areas in the western and northern areas of Kittitas County. Various shrub species are prominent in eastern Kittitas County. Wetland areas, existing throughout the County's valley and mountain areas are characterized by open water, emergent shrub-scrub vegetation communities. Agricultural vegetation exists throughout the eastern valley areas of the County. Riparian vegetation is found in the wetlands along the Columbia River.

b. What kind and amount of vegetation will be removed or altered? [\[help\]](#)

As a non-project action, the proposal will not remove or alter vegetation. Future project specific development proposals within the study area that may remove or alter vegetation will be reviewed consistent with the provisions of the Comprehensive Plan and applicable provisions of the Kittitas County Code, SEPA, and other State regulations.

c. List threatened and endangered species known to be on or near the site. [\[help\]](#)

- *While not a project specific proposal the County's Comprehensive Plan and CAO does contain policies that recognizes the importance of habitat that is critical to the recovery and sustainability*

of threatened and endangered species. Additionally, Kittitas County Code 17A does address specific code requirements regarding critical areas and endangered/threatened species, however the proposed annual amendments do not propose any specific activity that will affect endangered species at any specific site as this is a non-project action. Future review will be required for any project specific actions.

- [NRCS](#) lists the following threatened and endangered plants within Kittitas County:
 - *Anemone patens* var. *multifida*
 - *Astragalus arrectus*
 - *Cryptantha rostellata*
 - *Delphinium viridescens*
 - *Eatonella nivea*
 - *Erigeron basalticus*
 - *Heterotheca oregona* var. *oregona*
 - *Juncus howellii*
 - *Minuartia nuttallii* ssp. *Fragilis*
 - *Ophioglossum pusillum*
 - *Phacelia minutissima*
 - *Potentilla breweri*
 - *Sidalcea oregana* var. *calva*
 - *Tauschia hoover*

- d. Proposed landscaping, use of native plants, or other measures to preserve or enhance vegetation on the site, if any: [help](#)

As a non-project action, the proposal is not expected to result in impacts to vegetation, therefore no mitigation measures are proposed. Future project specific development proposals will be reviewed pursuant to SEPA and the County Environmental Policy (KCC Title 15) to identify environmental impacts and applicable mitigating measures.

- e. List all noxious weeds and invasive species known to be on or near the site. [help](#)

The non-project proposed changes to the Critical Areas Ordinance are applicable to all areas of Kittitas County. There is no specific activity proposed at any specific site through this update process.

The county noxious weed list can be found at the following site:

<https://www.co.kittitas.wa.us/noxious-weeds/documents/weed-list.pdf>

5. Animals [help](#)

- 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. [help](#)

There are a wide range of birds and other animals in the county including: hawks, eagles, herons, shorebirds, and many others. Mammals may include: deer, elk, beaver, bear and others. Fish include: many types of salmon and trout, and others. Critical areas including streams, stream buffers, and other sensitive habitat areas.

- b. List any threatened and endangered species known to be on or near the site. [help](#)

The proposed update to the Critical Areas Ordinance is a general legislative action applicable in all areas of Kittitas County as is the Kittitas County Code. None of the proposed amendments are proposing any specific activity that will at any specific site. Future project specific development proposals that may affect birds, animals, or fish will be reviewed consistent with the provisions of the Comprehensive Plan and applicable provisions of the Kittitas County Code, SEPA, and other State regulations.

WDFW lists the following candidate, threatened, and endangered animals within Kittitas County:

- Bull Trout
- Gray Wolf
- Grizzly Bear
- Northern Spotted Owl
- Wolverine
- Black-backed Woodpecker
- Columbia Spotted Frog
- Golden Eagle
- Greater Sage-grouse
- Mountain Sucker
- Northern Goshawk
- Pileated woodpecker
- Prairie Falcon
- Sharp-tailed Snake
- Steelhead
- Western gray squirrel
- Black-tailed jackrabbit
- Burrowing Owl
- Common Loon
- Ferruginous Hawk
- Loggerhead shrike
- Sagebrush sparrow
- Sage thrasher
- Stripped whipsnake
- Townsend's Big-eared Bat

c. Is the site part of a migration route? If so, explain. [\[help\]](#)

It is likely that portions of the County are part of one or more migratory routes. Elk are prominent throughout the County particularly in the southern range and hill areas. The Columbia River is a migration corridor for migratory waterfowl, the Columbia River bull trout, and the Middle Columbia River steelhead. Washington Stare is also within the Pacific Flyway.

d. Proposed measures to preserve or enhance wildlife, if any: [\[help\]](#)

As a non-project action, the proposal will not impact wildlife and therefore no measures are proposed to preserve or enhance wildlife at this time. However, the County will protect Fish and Wildlife Habitat Conservation Areas through the regulations proposed in KCC Title 17A, Chapter 17A.04. Current habitat regulations are found in adopted County Code Chapter 17A.07.

e. List any invasive animal species known to be on or near the site. [\[help\]](#)

The proposed update to the Critical Areas Ordinance is a general legislative action applicable in all areas of Kittitas County as is the Kittitas County Code. None of the proposed amendments are proposing any specific activity that will at any specific site. Future project specific development proposals that may affect birds, animals, or fish will be reviewed consistent with the provisions of the Comprehensive Plan and applicable provisions of the Kittitas County Code. Non-native aquatic animal species are listed in Washington Administrative Code (WAC 220-12-090).

6. Energy and Natural Resources [\[help\]](#)

- 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. [\[help\]](#)

As a non-project action, the proposal will not directly result in any additional need for energy. Future site-specific developments may use electric, natural gas, oil, wood stove, wind or solar energy sources amongst others, and will be required to meet County standards and regulations during project review.

- b. Would your project affect the potential use of solar energy by adjacent properties? If so, generally describe. [\[help\]](#)

No solar energy use would be impacted as part of this non-project action. Future development proposals would be subject to development permit reviews as well as County Building and Energy Codes.

- 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: [\[help\]](#)

Energy conservation features are not applicable as part of this non-project action. Future project specific development proposals will be reviewed consistent with the provisions of the Comprehensive Plan and applicable provisions of the Kittitas County Code, SEPA, and other State regulations.

7. Environmental Health [\[help\]](#)

- 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. [\[help\]](#)

As a non-project action, the proposal is not expected to cause environmental health hazards. The use of any hazardous materials on a project-by-project basis will be subject to federal and state law and the County Building Code (KCC Title 14).

- 1) Describe any known or possible contamination at the site from present or past uses. [\[help\]](#)

As a non-project action, the proposal is not expected to cause contamination. Future project specific development proposals will be reviewed consistent with the provisions of the Comprehensive Plan, and applicable provisions of the Kittitas County Code, SEPA, and other State regulations.

Additionally, Washington State Ecology maintains an online database of sites and facilities of environmental interest within Kittitas County. <https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/neighborhood/>

These sites are generally located along Interstate 90 and generally include:

- State Cleanup sites
- Federal Superfund sites
- Hazardous Waste Generators
- Solid Waste Facilities
- Underground Storage Tanks
- Dairies
- Enforcement

- 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. [\[help\]](#)

Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission identifies two primary pipeline routes within Kittitas County:

- Northwest Pipeline LLC
- Puget Sound Energy
 - <https://wutc.maps.arcgis.com/home/webmap/viewer.html?webmap=060d9e52b26a440a83bb1929c905ddb8>

As a non-project action, the proposal is not expected to cause environmental health hazards. The use of any hazardous materials on a project-by-project basis will be subject to federal and state law and the County Building Code (KCC Title 14).

- 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. [\[help\]](#)

As a non-project action, the proposal is not expected to cause environmental health hazards. The use of any hazardous materials on a project-by-project basis will be subject to federal and state law and the County Building Code (KCC Title 14).

- 4) Describe special emergency services that might be required. [\[help\]](#)

No special emergency services are required for this non-project proposal.

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

No measures to reduce or control environmental health hazards are required as part of this non-project action. Future development proposals would be subject to SEPA individually as well as development permit review by the County and both processes would include a review of environmental health hazards and potential mitigation.

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

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

Kittitas County is primarily a rural county with very low noise levels. Existing noise levels in the study area range from very low levels in undeveloped rural lands to noise levels typical in small communities along highways and arterial roads. A few small-scale public and private airports exist within Kittitas County. Industrial activities associated with these airports generate noise.

- 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. [\[help\]](#)

No noise will be created as part of this non-project action. Future development proposals would be subject to SEPA individually as well as development permit review by the County and both processes would include a review of additional traffic that may result in added noise. Future planned commercial and industrial development may result in added noise.

- 3) Proposed measures to reduce or control noise impacts, if any: [\[help\]](#)

Washington Administrative Code (WAC 173-60) establishes performance standards for all types of land uses and development and includes a maximum permissible environmental noise level and environmental designations for noise abatement. WAC 173-62 establishes noise standards for new motor vehicles and operation of motor vehicles on State Highways.

Kittitas County has established a specific zoning designation for airport industrial areas that are designed to reduce and control noise with building setbacks, noise separation buffers, and landscaping.

8. Land and Shoreline Use [\[help\]](#)

- 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. [\[help\]](#)

The predominant land uses in the western part of the County include recreation, vacation, and cabin homes, and public lands. Undeveloped land is located throughout the County, particularly to the east where farms are predominant. A few small parcels of single family and multifamily are found along local roads throughout the County. The eastern area of the County contains public uses, including the Ginkgo Petrified Forest State Park's boat launch and park area, some foothills territory and the Columbia River. The rural area consists primarily of agriculture uses, mining activities, sparse residential development, and some commercial and industrial land uses. While the comprehensive plan does not propose any specific activity on any specific site, identified land use designations dictate the types of uses permitted in areas of the County. Detailed land use maps are included within the comprehensive plan. Additionally, zoning regulations dictate the types of

uses allowed in certain zoning districts throughout the county. No site-specific uses are proposed to be put to use through this 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? [\[help\]](#)

The middle and eastern areas of the County in the valley areas are currently and have historically been used for agriculture purposes. The proposal to amend the Kittitas County Critical Areas Ordinance will not result in any conversion of agricultural or forest land of long-term commercial significance.

Kittitas County's Comprehensive Plan, specifically the Countywide Planning Policies and Objectives, Land Use, and Rural Elements identify these lands and outline policies, procedures, tools and authorities to conserve Commercial Forest, Agricultural, Mineral and other Resource Lands throughout Kittitas County and concentrate urban development in Urban Growth Areas and locations of more intense rural development (LAMIRDs). Detailed land use maps, including maps of Resource Lands are included within the comprehensive plan.

The proposed amendments to Kittitas County's Critical Areas Ordinance will affect all of Kittitas County, except for those areas under the jurisdiction of the County's Shoreline Master Program (KCC Title 17B), or Kittitas County's Voluntary Stewardship Plan (VSP), provided that the land owner has opted into the VSP, and the VSP program is active. Section 17A.01.030 of the draft CAO provides additional information regarding applicability.

- 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: [\[help\]](#)

No effects to surrounding working farms or forest land will result from this non-project action. Future development proposals would be subject to SEPA individually as well as development permit review by the County and both processes would include a review of potential impacts to working farms, long term commercial forest, or other Resource Lands.

- c. Describe any structures on the site. [\[help\]](#)

Structures located on developed land in Kittitas County include single and multi-family dwelling units along with accessory structures, commercial, industrial, and institutional structures. However, no structure are proposed as part of this non-action project.

- d. Will any structures be demolished? If so, what? [\[help\]](#)

No demolition of structures will result from this non-project action. Future development proposals would be subject to SEPA individually as well as development permit review by the County and both processes would include a review of potential impacts to working farms, long term commercial forest, or other Resource lands.

- e. What is the current zoning classification of the site? [\[help\]](#)

Kittitas County zoning classifications are discussed in detail within the County Code and maps of zoning classifications and future land use. These maps and figures can be found within the comprehensive plan and as part of the planning map library.

- f. What is the current comprehensive plan designation of the site? [\[help\]](#)

There is no site for this non-project proposal. The Kittitas County Comprehensive Plan has seven land use designations: Rural Working, Rural Residential, Rural Recreation, Commercial Agriculture, Commercial Forest, Mining, Limited Areas of More Intense Rural Development, and Urban. The land use designations existing throughout the County will not be changed by this proposal.

- g. If applicable, what is the current shoreline master program designation of the site? [\[help\]](#)

There is no site to this proposal. The Shoreline Master Program for Kittitas County includes four environment designations: Urban Environment, Rural Environment, Conservancy Environment, and Natural Environment. The environment designations existing throughout the County will not be changed by this proposal.

- h. Has any part of the site been classified as a critical area by the city or county? If so, specify. [\[help\]](#)

A number of environmentally sensitive areas exist throughout Kittitas County including steep slopes, wetlands, floodplains, floodways, and aquifer recharge areas. As a non-project action, the proposal does not include any work over, in, or adjacent to any specific sensitive area. However, the existing critical area regulations and the proposed critical area regulations designate critical areas, which includes:

Critical Aquifer Recharge Areas

Fish and Wildlife Habitat Conservation Areas

Frequently Flooded Areas

Geologically Hazardous Areas

Wetlands

Additionally, the purpose and intent of the County's Critical Areas Ordinance is to 1) prevent degradation of critical areas; 2) conserve, protect and where feasible, restore critical areas; 3) protect unique, fragile and/or valuable elements of the environment, including ground and surface water, anadromous fish species, and other fish and wildlife and their habitats; 4) protect the public

health, safety, and general welfare from hazards associated with critical areas; 5) further the goal and objectives of the Kittitas County Comprehensive Plan, and all of its elements; 6) implement the goals and requirements of the Washington Growth Management Act (RCW 36.70A); and 7) allow for reasonable use of all properties in Kittitas County.

- i. Approximately how many people would reside or work in the completed project? [\[help\]](#)

Over the 20-year planning horizon, it is anticipated that County population will grow by approximately 23,297 individuals for a total of 65,967 residents by 2037. These projections are based on Office of Financial Management estimates.

In 2015, it was estimated that 8,812 individuals live and work within Kittitas County with an additional 4,928 individuals working in County while living outside. In this same time period, it was estimated that 6,713 individuals live within Kittitas County and work outside. Projections collected from the United States Census Bureau.

- j. Approximately how many people would the completed project displace? [\[help\]](#)

Not applicable as this is a non-project proposal.

- k. Proposed measures to avoid or reduce displacement impacts, if any: [\[help\]](#)

Not applicable as this is a non-project proposal.

- l. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with existing and projected land uses and plans, if any: [\[help\]](#)

The Land Use Element of Kittitas County's Comprehensive Plan identifies the existing land use conditions throughout Kittitas County, projects the land requirements to the year 2037 to meet projected population growth and determines how that growth should be accommodated. While not a project specific proposal, the comprehensive plan does contain policies that discourages the siting of incompatible uses.

- m. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts to agricultural and forest lands of long-term commercial significance, if any: [\[help\]](#)

Kittitas County's Comprehensive Plan focuses population and employment growth in the Urban Growth Areas and implements policies to reduce sprawl and impacts to Commercial Forests, Agricultural Land and other Resource Lands throughout the County. No effects to agricultural or forest land of long-term commercial significance will result from this non-project action. Future development proposals would be subject to SEPA individually as well as development permit review by the County and both processes would include a review of potential impacts to working farms, long term commercial forest, or other Resource Lands.

The proposed amendments to Kittitas County's Critical Areas Ordinance will affect all of Kittitas County, except for those areas under the jurisdiction of the County's Shoreline Master Program (KCC Title 17B), or Kittitas County's Voluntary Stewardship Plan (VSP), provided that the land owner has opted into the VSP, and the VSP program is active. Section 17A.01.030 of the draft CAO provides additional information regarding applicability.

9. Housing [\[help\]](#)

- a. Approximately how many units would be provided, if any? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing. [\[help\]](#)

While this non-project plan will not provide housing units, Kittitas County is planning for growth in population and housing over the next 20 years (2017-2037). Kittitas County expects 23,297 individuals for a total of 65,967 residents by 2037. Based on current housing stock, it is anticipated that an addition 8,611 units will be needed over the next 20 years (2017-2037).

- b. Approximately how many units, if any, would be eliminated? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing. [\[help\]](#)

Not applicable to this non-project action.

- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control housing impacts, if any: [\[help\]](#)

Future development proposals would be subject to SEPA individually as well as development permit review by the County and both processes would include a review of potential impacts to housing. Kittitas County Comprehensive Plan, Housing Element does include policies, objectives and procedures to ensure a mix of housing with an emphasis on affordable housing types. No measures to reduce or control housing impacts are required of this non-project action.

10. Aesthetics [\[help\]](#)

- a. What is the tallest height of any proposed structure(s), not including antennas; what is the principal exterior building material(s) proposed? [\[help\]](#)

No development is proposed through this non-project action. Future development proposals would be subject to SEPA individually as well as development permit review by the County and both processes would include a review of building heights and materials. The Comprehensive Plan does include land use designations and maps, and zoning districts regulating building heights.

- b. What views in the immediate vicinity would be altered or obstructed? [\[help\]](#)

No views would be altered or obstructed by this non-project action. Future development proposals would be subject to SEPA individually as well as development permit review by the County and both processes would include a review of potential building impacts to view sheds.

- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control aesthetic impacts, if any: [\[help\]](#)

No measures to reduce or control aesthetic impacts are required of this non-project action. Future development proposals would be subject to SEPA individually as well as development permit review by the County and both processes would include a review of potential building impacts to view sheds.

11. Light and Glare [\[help\]](#)

- a. What type of light or glare will the proposal produce? What time of day would it mainly occur? [\[help\]](#)

No light or glare impacts will result from this non-project action. Growth and development planned for in Kittitas County's Comprehensive Plan may result in or generate additional light and glare including: additional exterior lighting of buildings and infrastructure and additional traffic which may lead to more glare generation.

- b. Could light or glare from the finished project be a safety hazard or interfere with views? [\[help\]](#)

No light or glare impacts will result from this non-project action. Future development proposals would be subject to SEPA individually as well as development permit review by the County and both processes would include a review of potential light or glare impacts.

- c. What existing off-site sources of light or glare may affect your proposal? [\[help\]](#)

No light or glare impacts will result from or impact this non-project action.

- d. Proposed measures to reduce or control light and glare impacts, if any: [\[help\]](#)

No measures to reduce or control light or glare are required of this non-project action. Future development proposals would be subject to SEPA individually as well as development permit review by the County and both processes would include a review of potential light or glare impacts.

12. Recreation [\[help\]](#)

- a. What designated and informal recreational opportunities are in the immediate vicinity? [\[help\]](#)

A major portion of the economy for Kittitas County depends upon the recreation activity that occurs. Winter activities are prevalent in the western part of Kittitas County with abundant hiking, skiing, camping, fishing, and tourist opportunities. Rock and mountain climbing opportunities are recognized nationally and internationally. Streams and rivers provide boating and fishing

opportunities throughout the County in centralized locations. Kittitas County offers recreation opportunities for area residents and visitors alike.

The proposed Critical Areas Ordinance (CAO) draft provides an exemption for passive outdoor activities, as long as they do not alter or degrade the critical area or buffer. Passive outdoor activities proposed to be exempt by the CAO include fishing, hiking, and birdwatching.

- b. Would the proposed project displace any existing recreational uses? If so, describe. [\[help\]](#)

As a non-project action, the proposal will not displace existing recreational uses. Kittitas County Comprehensive Plan prioritizes a number of improvements over the planning period (2017-2037) to recreational facilities across the county as outlined in the Capital Facilities Element.

- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts on recreation, including recreation opportunities to be provided by the project or applicant, if any: [\[help\]](#)

No measures to reduce or control impacts to recreation are required of this non-project action. The Comprehensive Plan, Parks and Recreation Element establishes standards for recreational facilities to ensure future growth and development will not displace existing recreational uses and will benefit from the same quality of recreational facilities enjoyed across the County today.

The proposed Critical Areas Ordinance (CAO) draft provides an exemption for passive outdoor activities, as long as they do not alter or degrade the critical area or buffer. Passive outdoor activities proposed to be exempt by the CAO include fishing, hiking, and birdwatching.

13. Historic and cultural preservation [\[help\]](#)

- 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. [\[help\]](#)

- *Sites with national, state, and local preservation registration exist throughout the County including. There are 25 properties and districts listed on the National Register of Historic Places:*
 - *Beverly Railroad Bridge*
 - *Cabin Creek Historic District*
 - *Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul & Pacific Railroad-Kittitas Depot*
 - *Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul and Pacific Railroad: South Cle Elum Yard*
 - *Cle Elum-Roslyn Beneficial Association Hospital*
 - *Downtown Ellensburg Historic District*
 - *First Railroad Addition Historic District*
 - *Dr. Paschal and Agnes Gray House*
 - *Kittitas County Fairgrounds*
 - *Lake Keechelus Snowshed Bridge*
 - *Liberty Historic District*

- *Milwaukee Road Bunkhouse*
- *Albert Nelson Farmstead*
- *Northern Pacific Railway Passenger Depot*
- *Northwestern Improvement Company Store*
- *Olmstead Place State Park*
- *Ramsay House*
- *Roslyn Historic District*
- *Salmon la Sac Guard Station*
- *Shoudy House*
- *Springfield Farm*
- *Tekison Cave*
- *Thorp Grade School*
- *Thorp Mill*
- *Washington State Normal School Building*
- *Two barns are also identified as part of the Washington Heritage Barn Register:*
 - *Storms Barn at 1011 Sisters Road*
 - *Page Farms Barn at 683 Goodwin Road*

- 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. [\[help\]](#)

Yes, there are landmarks, features, and/or other evidence of Indian or historic use of occupation, including material evidence throughout Kittitas County. Reports, submitted to Kittitas County, are project specific and kept on file. However, many reports are confidential and exempt from disclosure under RCW 42.56.300, as they contain historically and culturally sensitive materials. As applicable, future development proposals will undergo separate SEPA review, as well as County review for consistency with all local, state, and federal regulations.

- 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. [\[help\]](#)

As a non-project action, the proposal will not have any potential impacts to cultural and historic resources. Any project specific development will be subject to review for consistency with applicable local, state, and federal laws and regulations. Current proposed amendments to the Kittitas County Shoreline Master Program would allow for consultation with affected tribes and the department of archeology and historic preservation specific to those lands located within Shoreline Jurisdiction and subject to the Kittitas County Shoreline Master Program.

- 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. [\[help\]](#)

As a non-project action, the proposal will not impact historic or cultural features and therefore no mitigation measures are proposed. Any project specific development will be subject to review for consistency with applicable local, state, and federal laws and regulations. The proposed critical areas regulations do not address or propose any impacts to historic or cultural resources.

No additional measures are proposed in the draft critical area regulations. Cultural and historic resources are protected at the project specific level by inviting the public, a variety of agencies (which include federal, state, and local agencies); and the Yakama Nation to comment on every development proposal that requires public notice and/or SEPA review. A cultural resource survey and report may be required, if warranted, and those with expertise, such as the Yakama Nation and the Washington State Department of Archeology and Historic Preservation, may review the report for accuracy and compliance with applicable laws. Any person who inadvertently discovers human remains must notify the proper authorities pursuant to RCW 27.44.055, 68.50.645, and 68.60.055.

The Kittitas County Comprehensive Plan, Land Use Element includes policies, objectives and procedures to avoid impacts to historical and cultural resources. Kittitas County recognizes State law protecting and preserving these resources including: RCW 27.53 Archeological Sites and Resources; RCW 27.44 Indian Graves and Records Act; and RCW 68.60 Historic Cemeteries and Historic Graves Act.

14. **Transportation** [\[help\]](#)

- 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. [\[help\]](#)

Kittitas County's Transportation System consists of State Highways, urban streets, rural roads and local collectors.

- *I-90, I-82, and State Route 97 provide the predominant transportation routes within the County. County and State roads 10, 821, 903, 906 and 970 also carry a significant portion of the County's traffic.*

- 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? [\[help\]](#)

Public transit exists between Yakima and Ellensburg to serve Central Washington University and other commuters. Additionally, a new public transit option through Kittitas County Hopesource is providing transportation between Upper Kittitas County and Lower Kittitas County.

- c. How many additional parking spaces would the completed project or non-project proposal have? How many would the project or proposal eliminate? [\[help\]](#)

No additional parking or parking spaces are added by this non-project action. Future development proposals would be subject to SEPA individually as well as development permit review by the County and both processes would include an assessment of parking to be consistent with zoning and development regulations.

- 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). [\[help\]](#)

Kittitas County Comprehensive Plan, Transportation and Capital Facilities Elements include detailed assessments of transportation infrastructure needs. Washington State Department of Transportation conducts independent planning for state highways in Kittitas County. As a non-project action this proposal would not require any new improvements to existing roads, street, pedestrian, bicycle, or state transportation facilities.

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

As a non-project action this proposal does not use water, rail, or air transportation. Future growth and development as planned for in Kittitas County's Comprehensive Plan would use or be in the vicinity of water, rail, and air transportation.

- 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? [\[help\]](#)

As a non-project action this proposal would not generate vehicular trips. Most County roads maintain acceptable levels of service through the planning period, supported by expanded transit services and trail networks. State highway expansion projects are planned by Washington State Department of Transportation independently.

- 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. [\[help\]](#)

No interference with or impact to movement of agricultural and forest products will result from this non-project action. Future development proposals would be subject to SEPA individually as well as development permit review by the County and both processes would include a review of potential traffic impacts.

- h. Proposed measures to reduce or control transportation impacts, if any: [\[help\]](#)

While the Kittitas County Comprehensive Plan is not required to include site specific measures to reduce or control transportation impacts, it is intended to reduce traffic and related impacts through integrated land use and transportation planning. Future development proposals would be

subject to SEPA individually as well as development permit review by the County and both processes would include a review of potential traffic impacts.

15. Public Services [\[help\]](#)

- 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. [\[help\]](#)

This non-project action would not directly increase the need for public services. The growth and development planned for in the Comprehensive Plan will require additional public services including water and sewer services, waste management, law enforcement and fire protection, additional school services and facilities, telecommunications, health care, court services, and others. The Comprehensive Plan, Capital Facilities Element forecasts these needs and establishes levels of service to help ensure the quality of public services enjoyed by Kittitas County residents is maintained or improved through the planning period (2017-2037).

- b. Proposed measures to reduce or control direct impacts on public services, if any. [\[help\]](#)

The primary purpose for developing the Kittitas County Comprehensive Plan is to consider the needs of population growth and related development over the longer term and identify public service needs and gaps that may result. The primary responsibilities of the County for planning and provision of services include: water supply and stormwater, solid waste, transportation (county streets and roads), law enforcement, and court services. While Kittitas County does not plan for services including hospitals, ports, fire, and schools, we do have an important coordination role to ensure that these public facilities and services are available, adequate and concurrent with development within unincorporated parts of Kittitas County. Policies included in the Kittitas County Comprehensive Plan, Countywide Planning Policies and Utilities Element outline a framework for coordination with other jurisdictions within the County to provide adequate accommodation of public services concurrently with development. Future development proposals would be subject to SEPA individually as well as development permit review by the County and both processes would include a review of adequate public facilities and services.

16. Utilities [\[help\]](#)

- a. Circle utilities currently available at the site: [\[help\]](#)
electricity, natural gas, water, refuse service, telephone, sanitary sewer, septic system,
other _____

All such services are available at various areas throughout the County.

- 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. [\[help\]](#)

No utilities will be needed as a direct result of this non-project action. Future development proposals would be subject to SEPA individually as well as development permit review by the County and both processes would include a review of potential proposed utilities. The Comprehensive Plan, Utilities Element contains a detailed discussion of utility demand and future utility needs through the planning period. The Capital Facilities Element also establishes level of service standards for public utilities providing a foundation for analysis of the existing utility delivery system and proposed improvements which are necessary to meet changing demands.

C. Signature [\[help\]](#)

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: Jeremy Johnston

Position and Agency/Organization: Kittitas County CDS Planning Official

Date Submitted: August 24, 2021

D. supplemental sheet for nonproject actions [\[help\]](#)

(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?

- *No groundwater will be withdrawn from wells or discharged into groundwater as a result of this non-project action. Future development proposals would be subject to SEPA individually and would include a development permit review of any impacts to groundwater and drinking water.*
- *This non-project action will have no direct effects on air quality. The Kittitas County Comprehensive Plan does include polices and the county code provides regulations to guide growth and development over the 20-year planning period, 2017-2037. It is likely that projected population growth could lead to increased air emissions.*
- *Indirectly, the Comprehensive Plan and the growth and development projects for Kittitas County could increase traffic generating additional vehicle emissions, construction of public and private infrastructure and structures could generate localized air emissions, and additional homes burning wood could generate air emissions.*

- *No toxic or hazardous chemicals will be stored, used or produced as part of this non-project action. Future development proposals would be subject to SEPA individually as well as development permit review by the County and both processes would include a review of any toxic or hazardous chemicals.*
- *No noise will be created as part of this non-project action. Future development proposals would be subject to SEPA individually as well as development permit review by the County and both processes would include a review of additional traffic that may result in added noise. Future planned commercial and industrial development may result in added noise.*

Proposed measures to avoid or reduce such increases are:

As a non-project action with no expected impacts to discharge to water; emissions to air; production, storage, or release of toxic or hazardous substances; or production of noise no mitigation measures are included in the proposal.

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

- *The proposed update to the Critical Areas Ordinance includes increased buffers for wetlands and streams to be consistent with the Department of Ecology's guidance documents and Best Available Science. Additionally, the proposed updates will likely reduce the impacts to plants, fish, and wildlife by limiting development in critical areas, and within their buffers. Where impacts are unavoidable, mitigations will be required to offset the impacts.*

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

No additional measures are proposed within the Critical Areas Ordinance update. However, the draft regulations include provisions for vegetation enhancement as a method to improve or mitigate impacts. Additionally, the proposed wetland and stream buffers are consistent with Ecology's guidance documents and Best Available Science, in order to protect and conserve wetlands.

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

Energy conservation features are not applicable as part of this non-project action. The proposed updates for the Critical Areas Ordinance are not likely to deplete energy or natural resources. No amendments to mining or forestry regulations are proposed that would cause the depletion of those natural resources. In addition, no new high energy demand uses are proposed.

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

- *As a non-project action that is unlikely to deplete energy or natural resources, no protection measures are included within this proposal.*

- *Future development proposals would be subject to development permit reviews which require them to meet applicable County Building and Energy Codes.*
- *Washington state regulations for energy conservation apply to all new development.*

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 proposed amendments to the Kittitas County Code are not expected to use or affect environmentally sensitive areas or areas designated for governmental protection. The proposed amendments do not include any new uses or changes that would affect environmentally sensitive areas, or areas designated for governmental protection. All proposed projects are held accountable to the code in place which includes measures to protect these areas.

The proposed Critical Areas Ordinance updates are designed to protect the function and value of Critical Aquifer Recharge Areas, Fish and Wildlife Habitat Conservation Areas, frequently flooded areas, geologically hazardous areas, and wetlands through the use of development standards, critical area buffers, and mitigation. Cultural and historical resource sites are protected through the process outlined in question 13. Prime farmlands are addressed through the Voluntary Stewardship Plan for Kittitas County, unless the activity involves converting agricultural lands to a new use. In those cases, the project must meet the development requirements of the Critical Areas Ordinance.

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

No additional measures are proposed in this Critical Areas Ordinance update or required by law. The proposed wetland and stream buffers are consistent with Ecology's guidance documents and Best Available Science to protect and conserve wetlands and streams.

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?

The proposed Critical Areas Ordinance update does not affect shoreline use, as the CAO does not apply to land within shoreline jurisdiction. The critical area regulations affects land use by limiting development that is within critical areas or within critical area buffers that could have an adverse affect on a proposed development, the environment, the use and enjoyment of nearby properties, and safety of the public. Critical areas located within shoreline jurisdiction are subject to the Kittitas County Shoreline Master Program (Title 17B of Kittitas County Code).

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

As a non-project action that is not likely to affect land and shoreline uses no measures to avoid or reduce shoreline and land use impacts are included in this proposal. Critical areas within shoreline jurisdiction are subject to Kittitas County Shoreline Master Program (KCC Title 17B).

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

The proposed update of the Critical Areas Ordinance are not expected to increase demand on transportation or public services and utilities. The proposal does not include any new uses or changes that would impact transportation or public services and utilities.

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

As a non-project action that is not expected to increase demands on transportation or public services or utilities, no measures to reduce demand are included in this proposal.

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

The proposed Critical Areas Ordinance update has been drafted to conform with local, state and federal laws, or requirements, as required, for the protection of the environment.