WAC 197-11-960 Environmental checklist.

ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

Purpose of checklist:

The State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA), chapter 43.21C RCW, requires all governmental agencies to consider the environmental impacts of a proposal before making decisions. An environmental impact statement (EIS) must be prepared for all proposals with probable significant adverse impacts on the quality of the environment. The purpose of this checklist is to provide information to help you and the agency identify impacts from your proposal (and to reduce or avoid impacts from the proposal, if it can be done) and to help the agency decide whether an EIS is required.

Instructions for applicants:

This environmental checklist asks you to describe some basic information about your proposal. Governmental agencies use this checklist to determine whether the environmental impacts of your proposal are significant, requiring preparation of an EIS. Answer the questions briefly, with the most precise information known, or give the best description you can.

You must answer each question accurately and carefully, to the best of your knowledge. In most cases, you should be able to answer the questions from your own observations or project plans without the need to hire experts. If you really do not know the answer, or if a question does not apply to your proposal, write "do not know" or "does not apply." Complete answers to the questions now may avoid unnecessary delays later.

Some questions ask about governmental regulations, such as zoning, shoreline, and landmark designations. Answer these questions if you can. If you have problems, the governmental agencies can assist you.

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.

Use of checklist for nonproject proposals:

Complete this checklist for nonproject proposals, even though questions may be answered "does not apply." IN ADDITION, complete the SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET FOR NONPROJECT ACTIONS (part D).

For nonproject actions, the references in the checklist to the words "project," "applicant," and "property or site" should be read as "proposal," "proposer," and "affected geographic area," respectively.

A. BACKGROUND

1. Name of proposed project, if applicable: **Fitzsimonds Culvert Replacement**

2. Name of applicant: **Rocky J. Ross for the Washington Dept. of Fish & Wildlife**

3. Address and phone number of applicant and contact person: **1820 Road 60, Pasco, WA 99301 (509) 545-2420**

4. Date checklist prepared: **March 9, 2009**

5. Agency requesting checklist: **Washington Dept. of Fish & Wildlife**

6. Proposed timing or schedule (including phasing, if applicable): **Project could start as early as April 1, 2009 and should be completed no later than May 30, 2009**

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.

A JARPA form has been prepared and sent to Eric Bartrand, Habitat Biologist at the Yakima Regional Office of the Dept. of Fish & Wildlife. A Shoreline Permit application has been prepared and sent to Byron Gumz with Yakima Co. Planning.

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 to my knowledge**

10. List any government approvals or permits that will be needed for your proposal, if known. **See question #8 above**

11. Give brief, complete description of your proposal, including the proposed uses and the size of the project and site. There are several questions later in this checklist that ask you to describe certain aspects of your proposal. You do not need to repeat those answers on this page. (Lead agencies may modify this form to include additional specific information on project description.)

The Dept. of Fish & Wildlife (WDFW) owns an easement on a driveway that provides public access from the Yakima Valley Highway to the Yakima River. A culvert in that road has collapsed and plugged. Water that originates from a spring on the west side of the driveway has become impounded behind this culvert and has flooded a pasture on the west side of the driveway. When the nearby Yakima River is in high water stage, the spring runs more water and impounded water runs over the driveway. We want to replace the culvert so it functions normally and minimizes flooding in the pasture and eliminates water over the road.

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 driveway leading into the project site leaves the Yakima Valley Highway at the following address: 6410 & 6412 Yakima Valley Highway. Maps are attached to previously submitted JARPA & Shoreline Permit. A plat map is attached to this document.**

B. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS

1. **Earth**

a. General description of the site (circle one): Flat, rolling, hilly, steep slopes, mountainous, other . . . . . .

Very flat. Water comes to the surface in the middle of a cow pasture on the west side of the driveway, passes through a culvert under the driveway (when it's functioning) and with very passive flow, maintains a backwater slough and riparian zone, which begins on the east side of the driveway and eventually connects with the Yakima River. This slough runs through another culvert, which passes under Interstate 82.

b. What is the steepest slope on the site (approximate percent slope)? **The area is almost flat, with just enough slope for water to move passively to the Yakima River**

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 prime farmland. **Sandy loam. Exact classification is unknown.**

d. Are there surface indications or history of unstable soils in the immediate vicinity? If so, describe. **NO**

e. Describe the purpose, type, and approximate quantities of any filling or grading proposed. Indicate source of fill. **We are replacing the existing culvert with one of the same diameter. We will be setting the new culvert at the same elevation as the old one, so technically there will be no additional fill required for this project. We will remove material from around the old culvert and replace it around the new culvert. We may add a couple yards of crushed rock to the top of the roadway to stabilize it after the dirt work is completed.**

f. Could erosion occur as a result of clearing, construction, or use? If so, generally describe. **Yes. Because there is some water impounded on the west side of the road, that water will flow through the cut in the road as we remove the culvert. Because the area on the west side of the road is so deep, it would take a substantial amount of fill to build a coffer dam to hold back water during construction. However, once the area drains to the invert elevation of the culvert, the flow will become passive and erosion will be minimized.**

g. About what percent of the site will be covered with impervious surfaces after project construction (for example, asphalt or buildings)? **NONE**

h. Proposed measures to reduce or control erosion, or other impacts to the earth, if any: **Erosion within the trench will be difficult to control as impounded water flows through from west to east. A beaver dam located downstream is impounding water back to the vicinity of the culvert outlet and the water is too deep to place an effective silt trap. We can perform the excavation a few inches at a time, and allow the impounded water to drain over a protracted time period to reduce velocity and help minimize erosion.**

2. Air

a. What types of emissions to the air would result from the proposal (i.e., dust, automobile, odors, industrial wood smoke) during construction and when the project is completed? If any, generally describe and give approximate quantities if known. **No dust is expected during the construction period.**

b. Are there any off-site sources of emissions or odor that may affect your proposal? If so, generally describe. **NONE**

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control emissions or other impacts to air, if any: **A water truck will be used to settle dust if it appears to be a problem.**

3. **Water**

a. Surface:

1) Is there any surface water body on or in the immediate vicinity of the site (including year-round and seasonal streams, saltwater, lakes, ponds, wetlands)? If yes, describe type and provide names. If appropriate, state what stream or river it flows into. **Yes. A spring wells up in the middle of a cow pasture to the west of the driveway. Typically, when the culvert is functioning normally, all that exists between the spring source and the driveway is a narrow, slow moving stream. The water passes through the culvert and enters a slough/backwater area, which is formed by a partially blocked culvert under Interstate 82 or a beaver dam, or both. Eventually, the water flows into a wide riparian zone and eventually the Yakima River.**

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. **YES. This work has already been described above.**

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. **An existing culvert will be replaced. Approximately 20 feet of culvert lies within the driveway prism. Assuming a 4 foot trench will be dug to remove the old culvert, and also assuming there is about 2 feet of cover over the old culvert, a maximum of 12 cubic yards of material will be removed, set to one side of the ditch, and then used to backfill over the new culvert. Since the upstream side of the culvert is inundated with water, some excavation within the water will be necessary to completely expose it.**

4) Will the proposal require surface water withdrawals or diversions? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known. **NO. It won't be required for this project unless we are directed to rent a high volume, portable pump to draw down the water first.**

5) Does the proposal lie within a 100-year floodplain? If so, note location on the site plan. **Not according to Yakima Co. Planning.**

6) Does the proposal involve any discharges of waste materials to surface waters? If so, describe the type of waste and anticipated volume of discharge. **NO**

b. Ground:

1) Will ground water be withdrawn, or will water be discharged to ground water? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known. **NO**

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 related activity will occur.**

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 only runoff that will occur is from the impounded water on the upstream side of the collapsed culvert.**

2) Could waste materials enter ground or surface waters? If so, generally describe. **NO**

d. Proposed measures to reduce or control surface, ground, and runoff water impacts, if any: **If existing water levels on both sides of the driveway equalize by the time the work is performed, no specific action will be required. If the water on the upstream side is still higher than the downstream side, we will either excavate the trench a few inches at a time to let water passively equalize, or, if the problem is more severe, we will dig a channel to the side, line it with plastic and breach the plug, letting the water flow over the plastic to avoid erosion.**

4. **Plants**

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

X deciduous tree: **Russian olive, willow, cottonwood**,

_____ evergreen tree: fir, cedar, pine, other

X_____ shrubs: **rose, willow**

X_____ grass: **reed canarygrass**

X_____ pasture **Cow pasture on the west side of the driveway**

_____ crop or grain

X_____ **wet soil plants: cattail, bullrush, 200-300 yards below the construction zone**

_____ water plants:

_____ other types of vegetation

b. What kind and amount of vegetation will be removed or altered? **The driveway is mostly devoid of vegetation within the construction zone, but a few small willows may be disturbed on the road shoulder.**

c. List threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the site**. Ute ladies'-tresses (Spiranthes) could have been found in this area historically. Local plant experts agree its presence here is unlikely. Bald eagle is present along the Yakima River and Mid-Columbia Steelhead migrate up the river.**

d. Proposed landscaping, use of native plants, or other measures to preserve or enhance vegetation on the site, if any: **This section of driveway has very little vegetation, but any willows that are removed will be replanted. Reed canarygrass is the primary grass and it will fill in quickly.**

5. **Animals**

a. Circle any birds and animals, which have been observed on or near the site or are known to be on or near the site: **All of the following species are likely to exist on or near this site.**

birds: **hawk, heron, eagle, songbirds, other: plus several species of waterfowl and bittern, sora, rails, shorebirds, white pelican, kingfisher**
mammals: **deer, beaver, muskrat, mink, nutria, raccoon, rodents, other:**
fish: **bass, salmon, steelhead, shellfish (crawfish, freshwater clams, snails etc.)**

b. List any threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the site. **See 4c above.**

c. Is the site part of a migration route? If so, explain. **YES, for doves, numerous waterfowl species and neotropical migrants.**

d. Proposed measures to preserve or enhance wildlife, if any: **The actions described above show how we will minimize the effects of the project to fish & wildlife. We do not plan to perform any specific enhancement work.**

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**. Primarily diesel fuel to operate construction equipment.**

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: **We are somewhat limited in the methods we can use to perform this work. It will be of short duration. We will try to complete the work within one day to avoid making multiple trips to and from the job site.**

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. **The only possibility would be a spill of diesel fuel or hydraulic fluid from construction equipment, and we will monitor this closely.**

1) Describe special emergency services that might be required. **Ambulance services for on the job injury. Environmental clean up services in the case of a major fuel or hydraulic fluid spill. Fire services if construction equipment catches on fire.**

2) Proposed measures to reduce or control environmental health hazards, if any: **Make sure equipment is well- maintained. Make sure all involved parties have an accurate description of the work site location and a list of emergency services (and phone numbers) available in the area.**

b. **Noise**

1) What types of noise exist in the area which may affect your project (for example: traffic, equipment, operation, other)? **The operation of a backhoe may cause some temporary disturbance at a private residence a short distance from the construction area. We don't expect this to be a problem.**

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**. On a short-term**

basis, noise would come from construction equipment, during daylight hours only. The driveway will be closed to public access during the construction period.

3) Proposed measures to reduce or control noise impacts, if any: **NONE. They will be temporary and have minimal affect on neighboring landowners.**

8. **Land and shoreline use**

a. What is the current use of the site and adjacent properties? **Agriculture and livestock in the immediate construction vicinity. Public recreation along the Yakima River.**

b. Has the site been used for agriculture? If so, describe. **See previous question.**

c. Describe any structures on the site. **A very old out building exists about 60 yards from the excavation zone, and a private residence is present about 150 yards away.**

d. Will any structures be demolished? If so, what**? None**

e. What is the current zoning classification of the site? **Probably agriculture, based on current use.**
f. What is the current comprehensive plan designation of the site? **Rural remote/ limited development? Not sure.**

g. If applicable, what is the current shoreline master program designation of the site? **Assume it's <u>conservancy</u>**

h. Has any part of the site been classified as an "environmentally sensitive" area? If so, specify. **Wetlands forming in old river oxbows, river shoreline and associated riparian habitat, floodplain and floodway areas are all considered environmentally sensitive areas.**

i. Approximately how many people would reside or work in the completed project? **Periodic visits by a single State employee who would periodically check the operation of the culvert.**

j. Approximately how many people would the completed project displace? **NONE**

k. Proposed measures to avoid or reduce displacement impacts, if any: **NONE**

l. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with existing and projected land uses and plans, if any: **The culvert has been in place for many years so it's assumed to be compatible with existing & project land uses.**

9. **Housing**

a. Approximately how many units would be provided, if any? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing**. DOES NOT APPLY**

b. Approximately how many units, if any, would be eliminated? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing. **DOES NOT APPLY**

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control housing impacts, if any: **DOES NOT APPLY**

10. **Aesthetics**

a. What is the tallest height of any proposed structure(s), not including antennas; what is the principal exterior building material(s) proposed? **No buildings are planned for this project.**

b. What views in the immediate vicinity would be altered or obstructed? **NONE**

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control aesthetic impacts, if any: **DOES NOT APPLY**

11. **Light and glare**

a. What type of light or glare will the proposal produce? What time of day would it mainly occur? **DOES NOT APPLY**

b. Could light or glare from the finished project be a safety hazard or interfere with views? **DOES NOT APPLY**

c. What existing off-site sources of light or glare may affect your proposal? **NONE**

d. Proposed measures to reduce or control light and glare impacts, if any: **NONE**

12. **Recreation**

a. What designated and informal recreational opportunities are in the immediate vicinity? **Public hunting, fishing, hiking, bird watching, horseback riding**

b. Would the proposed project displace any existing recreational uses? If so, describe. **All recreational uses will remain intact, although State land will not be accessible during the construction period, hopefully of only one day.**

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts on recreation, including recreation opportunities to be provided by the project or applicant, if any: **We'll work as fast as we can, within the limitations placed on us by permits.**

13. **Historic and cultural preservation**

a. Are there any places or objects listed on, or proposed for, national, state, or local preservation registers known to be on or next to the site? If so, generally describe. **Don't know, but we will only be disturbing the area previously disturbed when the original culvert was installed.**

b. Generally describe any landmarks or evidence of historic, archaeological, scientific, or cultural importance known to be on or next to the site. **None that are known.**

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts, if any: **NONE NEEDED.**

14. **Transportation**

a. Identify public streets and highways serving the site, and describe proposed access to the existing street system. Show on site plans, if any. **The construction site is within a gravel driveway, which leaves the Yakima Valley Highway, and runs through a large culvert under Interstate 82, and which provides public access to the Yakima River. It is an unnamed road.**

b. Is site currently served by public transit? If not, what is the approximate distance to the nearest transit stop**? UNKNOWN**

c. How many parking spaces would the completed project have? How many would the project eliminate? **DOES NOT APPLY**

d. Will the proposal require any new roads or streets, or improvements to existing roads or streets, not including driveways? If so, generally describe (indicate whether public or private). **DOES NOT APPLY**

e. Will the project use (or occur in the immediate vicinity of) water, rail, or air transportation? If so, generally describe. **NO**

f. How many vehicular trips per day would be generated by the completed project? If known, indicate when peak volumes would occur. **Hunting season would probably be the peak use for the site, but vehicle trips per day will depend on local conditions. It's possible to have a dozen trips per day on this site.**

g. Proposed measures to reduce or control transportation impacts, if any: **NONE. Usually, it's site limiting. If it's crowded, people move on.**

15. **Public services**

a. Would the project result in an increased need for public services (for example: fire protection, police protection, health care, schools, other)? If so, generally describe. **NO**

b. Proposed measures to reduce or control direct impacts on public services, if any. **NONE**

16. **Utilities**

a. Circle utilities currently available at the site: electricity, natural gas, water, refuse service, telephone, sanitary sewer, septic system, other. **None are currently used, but electricity, telephone and refuse service could be available. We will not need any of these for the project.**

b. Describe the utilities that are proposed for the project, the utility providing the service, and the general construction activities on the site or in the immediate vicinity, which might be needed. **NONE**

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: Rocky Ross (original on file) .....

Date Submitted: 3/19/2009 .....