

**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:

Swart Riparian Restoration-Wenas Creek

2. Name of applicant:

North Yakima Conservation District (NYCD)

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

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Brian-schmidt@wa.nacdnet.org

4. Date checklist prepared:

September 17, 2009

5. Agency requesting checklist:

WDFW

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

October 15, 2009 thru June 30, 2010

7. Do you have any plans for future additions, expansion, or further activity related to or connected with this proposal? If yes, explain. If the riparian vegetation does not adequately stabilize the banks to protect existing irrigation infrastructure, additional instream structures may be proposed in the future, under a separate application.

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

SMP and CAO questionnaire for Yakima County Planning

JARPA for aquatic permits

Grant application for water quality funding thru Washington Department of Ecology

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 known

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

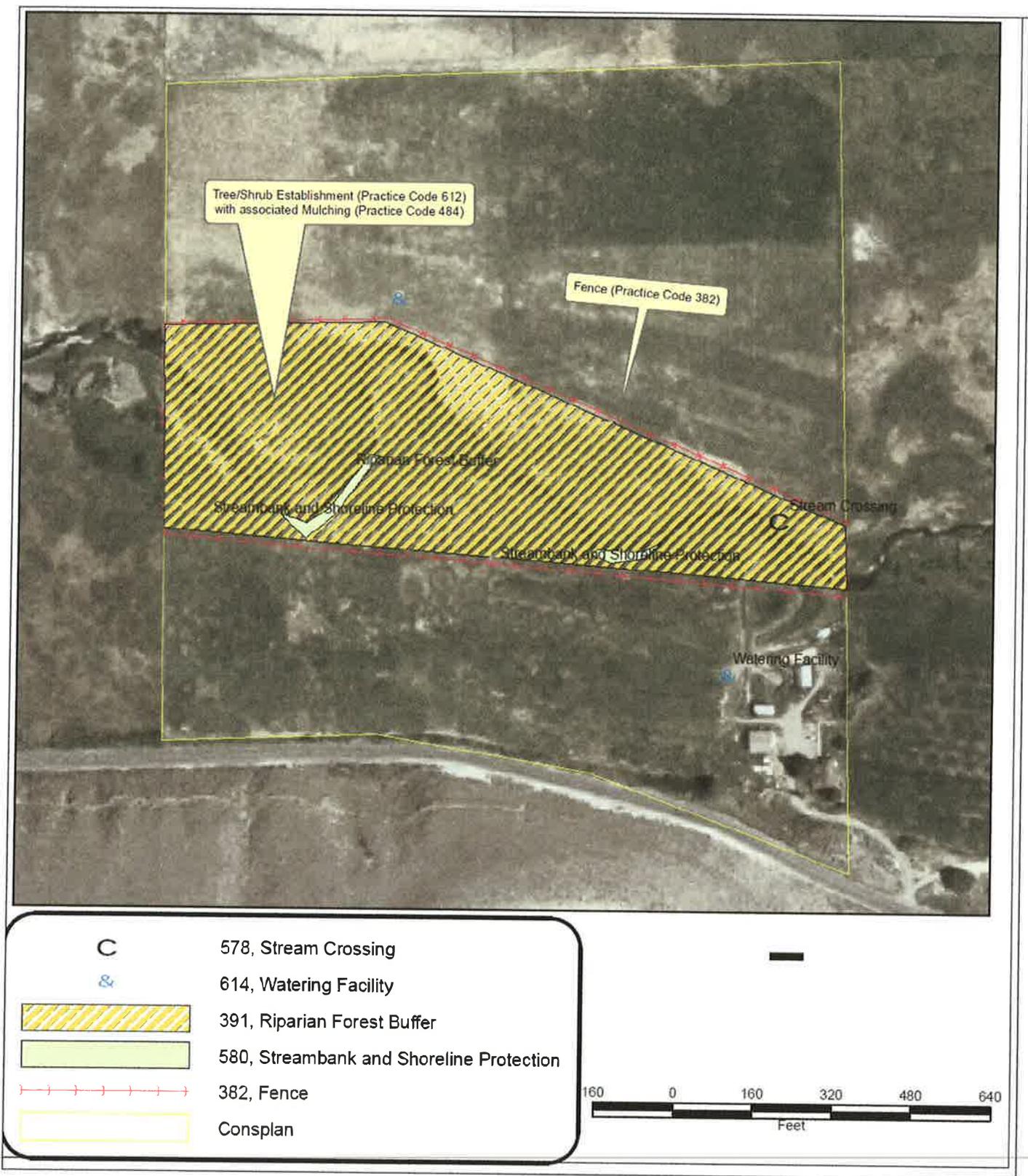
Hydraulic Project Approval from WDFW

CAO exemption from Yakima County

Cultural Resources Consultation under Executive Order 05-05

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 proposed project will provide long term bank stability with the establishment of a healthy riparian buffer. The unnatural rate of erosion will be slowed such that native woody vegetation can become established and provide natural bank protection. The riparian buffer will be fenced and grazing within the fenced area will be managed. A hardened ford will be constructed at the current crossing site to reduce erosion and habitat degradation when accessing the pump station and the pasture on the north side of the creek.



**Figure 1.** Plan view of proposed project, including riparian fencing, planting, off channel watering facilities, and hardened ford crossing.

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.

1. 1143 South Wenas Road Selah, WA 98942
2. Parcel # 18141132403
3. NE ¼ Section 11, Township 14, Range 18
4. Wenas Creek WRIA 39
5. About 5 miles northwest of the City of Selah

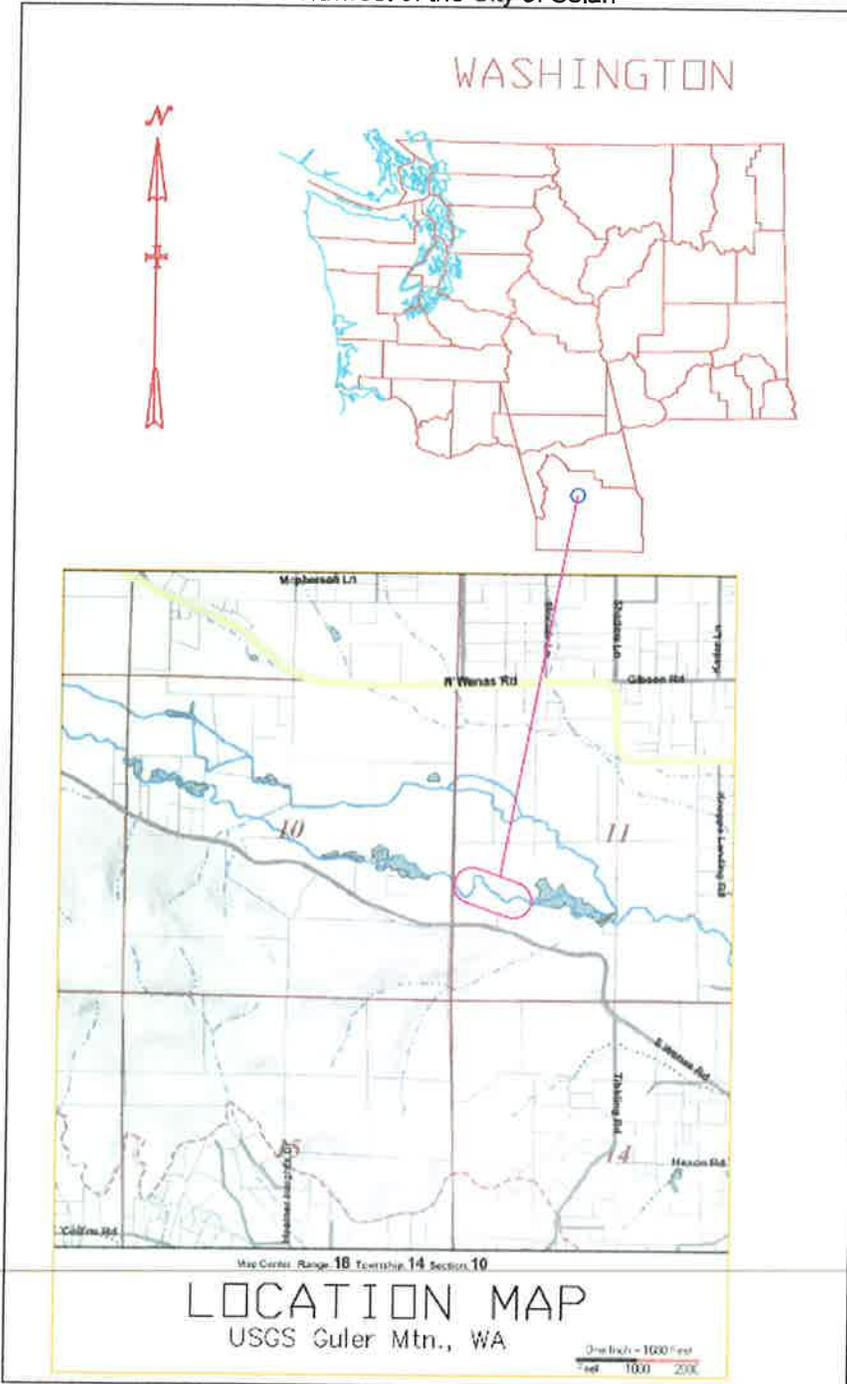


Figure 2. Vicinity map indicating the proposed project location.

B. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS

1. **Earth**

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

Flat

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

2%

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.

Track Loam 55%, Umapine Silt Loam 24%, Wenas Silt Loam 21%, Cleman Very Fine Sandy Loam 1%

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

There are sloughing banks along the stream through this project area, but soils throughout the entire property appear relatively stable.

e. Describe the purpose, type, and approximate quantities of any filling or grading proposed. Indicate source of fill.

Upon completion, the hardened ford crossing (for livestock and farm equipment) will result in no net gain of fill. Native materials will be excavated, backfilled with angular rock and topped off with native streambed gravels. The final grade of the project area will not change from current conditions.

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

Not likely. There will be minimal ground disturbance associated with implementation of the proposed project and work will occur during low flows in Wenas Creek. Once the newly planted vegetation is established, risks associated with erosion will be decreased.

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:

Eliminating free access of livestock to the creek will help reduce erosion as will the establishment of a healthy riparian buffer. Concentrating livestock crossings and equipment crossings to a single location that has been properly designed will also reduce impacts associated with erosion and increases in turbidity.

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.

Minor emissions associated with operating an excavator or similar piece of equipment will occur during implementation. There will be no long term air emissions upon completion.

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

None known

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control emissions or other impacts to air, if any:  
 Equipment will be turned off when not in use.

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—Wenas Creek, a tributary to 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—Riparian vegetation will be planted along Wenas Creek along with fencing to control livestock access. Additionally, a hardened ford will be constructed at the downstream end of the project where an existing agricultural crossing exists.

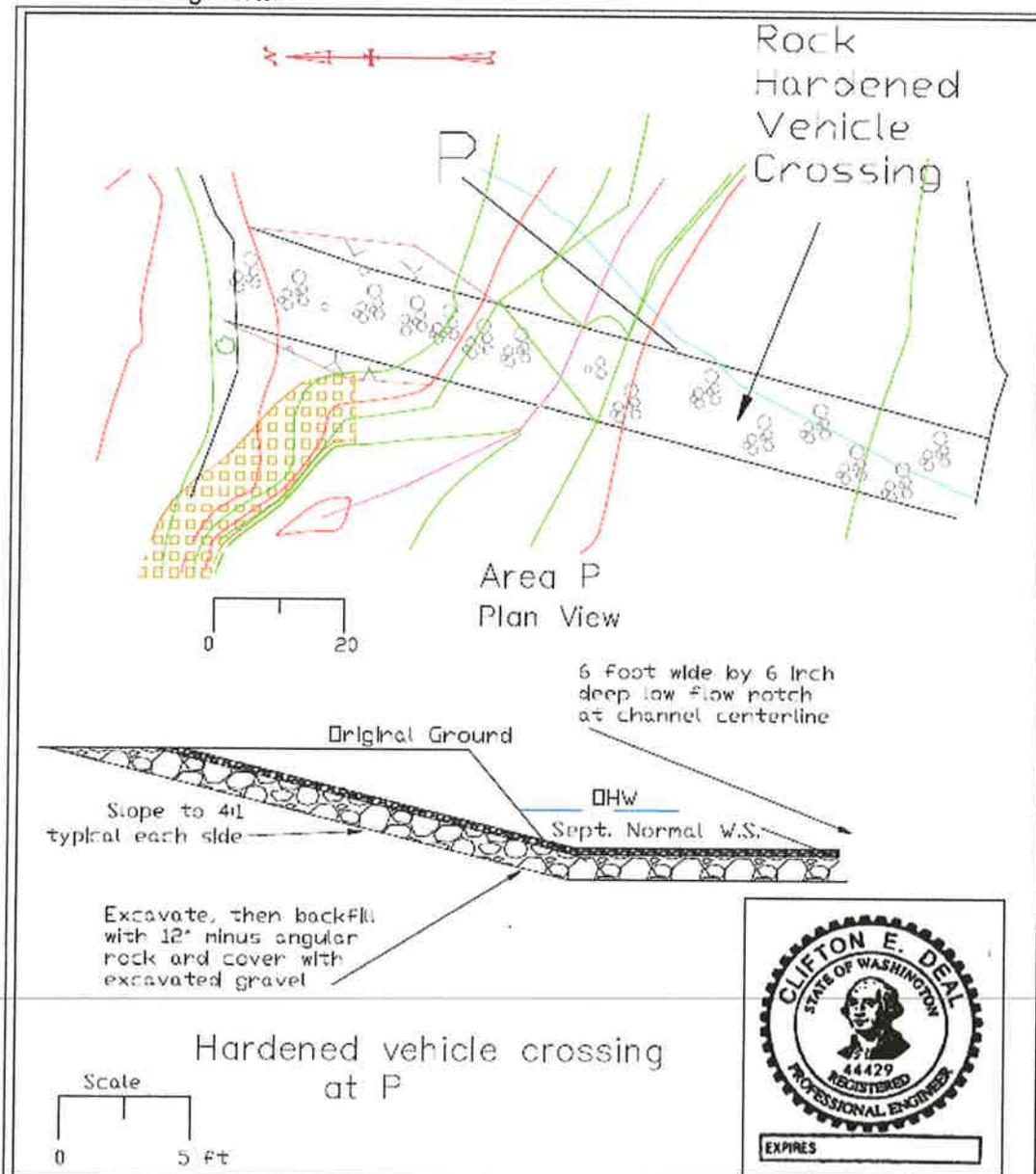


Figure 3. Designs for hardened ford crossing Wenas Creek. Plan View given in Figure 2.

- 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.

Approximately 98 cubic yards of native material will be excavated for construction of the hardened ford. 74 cubic yards of 12 inch minus angular rock will be backfilled with 24 cubic yards of native streambed cobbles and gravels over the angular rock. There will be no net change in fill within the channel. Fine material removed from the channel will be placed outside of the 100 year floodplain for the landowner's use.

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

No, but there is an existing pump station for irrigation water that will not be altered with the proposed project.

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

Yes, much of the property north of the creek is within the 100 year floodplain for Wenas Creek.

- 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.

Not applicable

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.

There may be minimal stormwater runoff during implementation of the hardened ford as that is the only action where there will be substantial ground disturbance. Implementation will occur in one day and will be scheduled when the weather forecast calls for cool dry weather with little chance of a storm event.

Planting and suitable mulch throughout the remaining project area will reduce the likelihood of stormwater runoff entering Wenas Creek.

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

It is unlikely that waste materials could enter Wenas Creek. Equipment will be clean and in good working order prior to entering the project area and hydraulic lines will be inspected daily to minimize the risks contaminants entering Wenas Creek.

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

Work will occur quickly and in good weather conditions. Temporary erosion control measures will be applied immediately and in the long term, the project will result in buffering runoff from entering Wenas Creek. Equipment will be clean and in good working order and a spill containment kit will be on site during implementation.

#### 4. Plants

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

- deciduous tree: alder, maple, aspen, other  
 evergreen tree: fir, cedar, pine, other  
 shrubs  
 grass  
 pasture  
 crop or grain  
 wet soil plants: cattail, buttercup, bullrush, skunk cabbage, other  
 water plants: water lily, eelgrass, milfoil, other  
 other types of vegetation

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

There will be some pasture grasses and reed canary grass that may be removed during the revegetation and hardened ford construction. There are no trees and very few shrubs present throughout the project area.

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

None known

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

Native plants suitable to the site conditions will be planted throughout the project area according to NRCS specifications. Not only will this benefit water quality by establishing a functional riparian buffer, but birds and other wildlife will benefit from the habitat enhancement as well.

#### 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:

birds: hawk, heron, eagle, songbirds, other:  
mammals: deer, bear, elk, beaver, other: coyotes  
fish: bass, salmon, trout, herring, shellfish, other: minnows, suckers, sculpins

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

It is unlikely that ESA listed steelhead or bull trout will be within the project area due to the degraded state of the habitat.

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

The project area may be part of a migratory bird route. Fish and wildlife will be more likely to use the project area upon establishment of a healthy riparian buffer, as proposed.

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

A native riparian buffer will be established throughout the project area in addition to fencing to control livestock access to Wenas Creek. Off channel watering devices will be installed along with a hardened ford to help manage livestock and protect water quality and newly planted riparian plants. Implementation of this project will significantly enhance the riparian conditions for fish, wildlife, and water quality in Wenas Creek through the project area.

## 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.

Electricity is currently available at the pump site and it will be used for the off channel watering facilities as well.

- b. Would your project affect the potential use of solar energy by adjacent properties? If so, generally describe.

No

- c. What kinds of energy conservation features are included in the plans of this proposal? List other proposed measures to reduce or control energy impacts, if any:

Not applicable

## 7. Environmental health

- a. Are there any environmental health hazards, including exposure to toxic chemicals, risk of fire and explosion, spill, or hazardous waste, that could occur as a result of this proposal? If so, describe.

There is a chance that petroleum products could be spilled onto the ground or Wenas Creek from the equipment. All equipment will be in good working order, inspected daily, and cleaned prior to entering the project site to minimize risks associated with a petroleum spill.

- 1) Describe special emergency services that might be required.

The local fire district and Yakima County Sheriff's office will respond to emergencies. The Military Department, Ecology, and WDFW will be contacted for any chemical spills.

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

Equipment will be cleaned and in good working order prior to entering the project area. Hydraulic lines will be inspected daily and a spill containment kit will be on site at all times.

### b. Noise

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

Noises associated with a rural road are near the project area and other agricultural practices. No noise will affect the proposed project.

- 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.

Noise associated with construction equipment (an excavator or similar piece of equipment and dump trucks) will be used on site for a short time during implementation. Work will occur during daylight hours Monday-Friday and equipment will be turned off when not in use.

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

Work will occur during normal business hours and equipment will be turned off when not in use.

## 8. Land and shoreline use

- a. What is the current use of the site and adjacent properties?

The project area and surrounding parcels are in agricultural production. The project area is currently irrigated pasture.

b. Has the site been used for agriculture? If so, describe.

Yes, the project area is currently irrigated pasture.

c. Describe any structures on the site.

There is a pump station and pump screen for irrigation purposes and an undeveloped agricultural road and stream crossing.

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

The existing stream crossing will be improved so as to reduce erosion associated with vehicular and livestock crossing at this location. There are really no structures associated with it that will be demolished.

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

Agricultural

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

Ag Resource

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

Not a shoreline of the state

h. Has any part of the site been classified as an "environmentally sensitive" area? If so, specify.

Wenas Creek is a fish bearing creek and the establishment of the riparian buffer, off channel watering, and hardened crossing will enhance the water quality in Wenas Creek.

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

Not applicable

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

Not applicable

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

Not applicable

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

The application will be reviewed by Yakima County Planning to ensure consistency with applicable plans and regulations. The proposed project will maintain the property in agricultural production as an irrigated pasture with an enhanced riparian buffer that will benefit fish, wildlife, and water quality in Wenas Creek.

## 9. Housing

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

Not applicable

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

Not applicable

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

Not applicable

**10. Aesthetics**

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

Off channel watering devices are less than 4 feet tall. Mature riparian vegetation may exceed 100 feet in the future.

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

Not applicable

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

The riparian buffer will likely enhance the aesthetics in the area and will likely increase wildlife viewing opportunities for the landowners.

**11. Light and glare**

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

Not applicable

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

No

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

None known

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

Not applicable

**12. Recreation**

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

The project is located on private property.

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

No

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

Not applicable

**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.

None known. A cultural resources survey has been completed by a qualified archaeologist.

- b. Generally describe any landmarks or evidence of historic, archaeological, scientific, or cultural importance known to be on or next to the site.

The Wenas Valley has several culturally and historically important sites. None are known within the proposed project area.

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

The project area has been surveyed by a qualified archaeologist and consultation with DAHP and the Yakama Nation is currently underway.

#### 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 project area is located just off of South Wenas Road.

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

No, the nearest public transit is in the city of Selah.

- c. How many parking spaces would the completed project have? How many would the project eliminate?

Not applicable

- 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).

No, the existing agricultural road will be improved with a hardened ford across Wenas Creek. There will be no improvements or changes to public roads.

- 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.

None

- g. Proposed measures to reduce or control transportation impacts, if any:

Trucks and equipment on the road during construction will be minimized as much as possible. There are not likely to be any measurable impacts to public transportation infrastructure associated with implementation of this project.

#### 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.

Not applicable

#### 16. Utilities

- a. Circle utilities currently available at the site: **electricity**, natural gas, water, refuse service, telephone, sanitary sewer, septic system, other.

The rural homes nearby also have wells, telephone, and septic systems in addition to electricity. The pump station within the project area already has electricity.

- 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.

The electricity on site will be used to power the off channel watering devices.

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: Brian K Schmidt.....(Schmidt)

Date Submitted: 9-23-09.....