

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:

Ranch on Swauk Creek Habitat Enhancement Project and Screening and Passage Project, Kittitas County

2. Name of applicant:

Yakama Nation Fisheries (YN)

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

Hank Fraser 201 Pearl Street Ellensburg, WA 98926 (509) 933-1210

4. Date checklist prepared: **July 14, 2010**

5. Agency requesting checklist: **WDFW**

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

July 2010-December 2011

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

No—the property adjacent to the floodplain restoration actions that is not designated Open Space has a planned Unit development that is not associated with this proposal. Routine maintenance will occur within the ditch at the point of diversion and to ensure proper screen operation.

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

NHPA Section 106 Consultations with Yakama Nation and DAHP

JARPA for Aquatic permits (WDFW, Corps of Engineers, Ecology, County)

Specific Project Information Forms for ESA consultation through the Corps of Engineers with USFWS and NMFS

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.

WDFW Hydraulic Project Approval, Kittitas County Shoreline Exemption, NHPA Concurrence, CWA Sections 404 and 401, ESA Section 7 Concurrence, Construction Stormwater Permit

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.)

Habitat Enhancement Project: The proposed project is designed to restore instream and riparian habitat such that natural stream processes will continue to facilitate natural habitat creation and maintenance. Bioengineering approaches such as adding large woody material in the form of engineered log jams and an aggressive revegetation plan using native species will provide immediate habitat benefits while encouraging long term habitat creation. The restoration approach in this reach is to return the Ranch on Swauk Creek's designated riparian corridor to as close to pre-disturbance condition as possible by encouraging natural processes.

Fish Passage and Screening Project: The proposed project will provide fish passage in Swauk Creek while maintaining a water surface elevation such that the adjudicated water right can be diverted from the point of diversion (POD). A roughened channel will be constructed in Swauk Creek to elevate the incised bed approximately one foot from current conditions. Pre-cast concrete will be used to build a new headgate and the

existing ditch elevation will be lowered about 2 feet before it crosses under Highway 97. A refurbished fish screen will be installed near the headgate to ensure fish are protected from entrainment according to NMFS and WDFW criteria.

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. Near the Lauderdale Junction of United States Highway 97 and Washington State Highway 970 in Kittitas County.**
- 2. Habitat Enhancement Project: 980 Burke Road—along Swauk Creek for approximately 4000 linear feet
Fish Passage and Screening Project is accessed from private access road off of Highway 97, both are Cle Elum, WA addresses.**
- 3. Upper Yakima River Water Resource Inventory Area # 39**
- 4. Habitat Enhancement Project: Latitude: 47.1948° N, Longitude: -120.7167° W**
- 5. Fish Passage and Screening Project: Latitude: 47.2036° N, Longitude: -120.7041° W**
- 6. Habitat Enhancement Project: T 20 N, R 17 E, S 28 SE ¼
Fish Passage and Screening Project: T 20 N, R 17 E, S 27 NW ¼**
- 7. Habitat Enhancement Project Parcel #: 045535, 949696, 949695**
- 8. Fish Passage and Screening Project Parcel #: 195535, 827336**

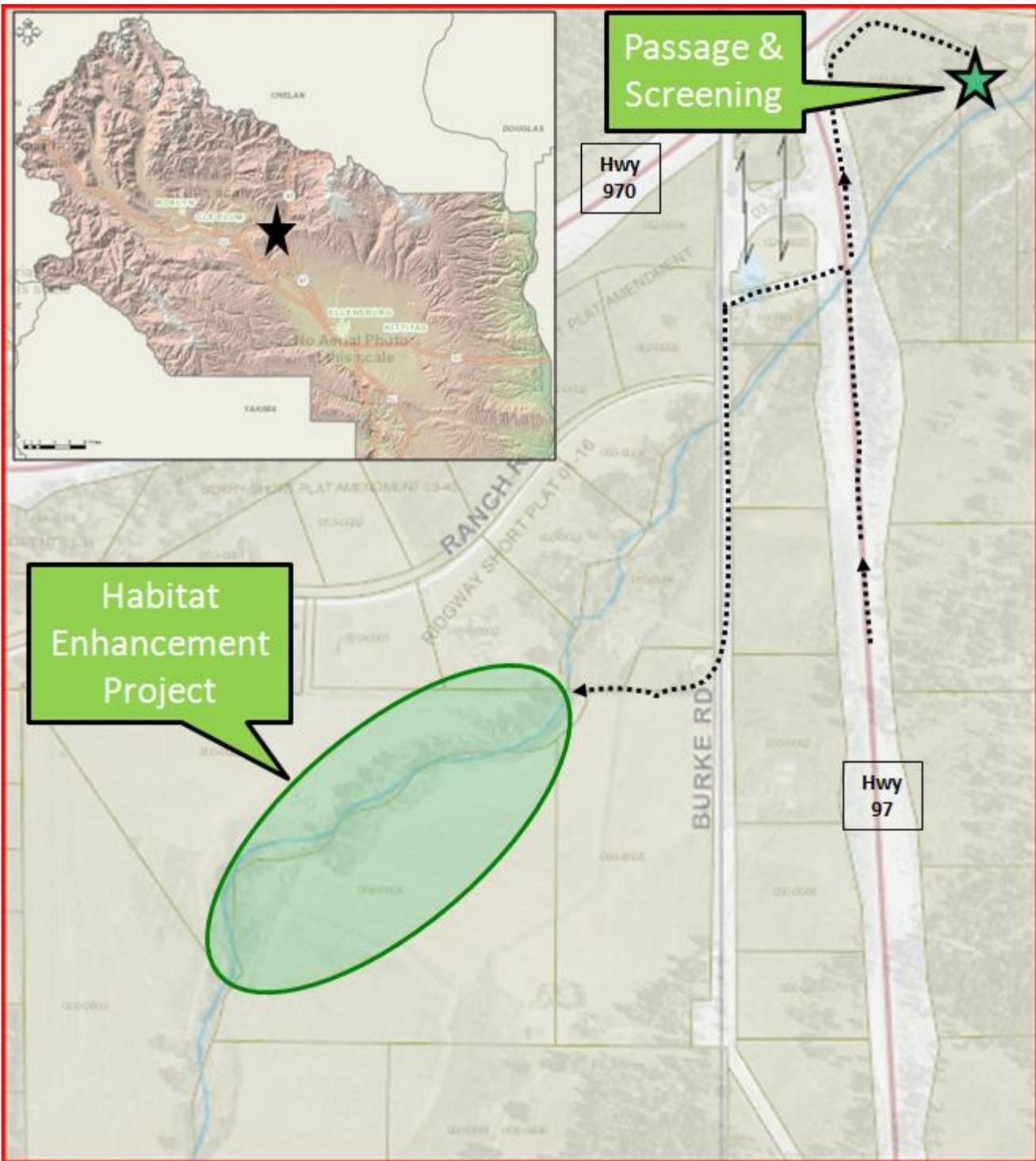


Figure 1. Map of proposed project sites in Kittitas County on Swauk Creek.

B. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS

1. **Earth**

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

The landscape is generally flat with some rolling hills.

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

The steepest slope in the project locations is less than 5%.

c. What general types of soils are found on the site (for example, clay, sand, gravel, peat, muck)? If you know the classification of agricultural soils, specify them and note any prime farmland.

Streambed gravels and alluvium, river rock.

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

High flow events have increased scour along the banks at both sites and caused localized incision within the stream channel. Surrounding properties do not have unstable soils.

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

For the Habitat Enhancement Project, about 3400 cubic yards of material will be excavated along the banks and gravel bars and about 13,000 cubic yards of native material, logs, and boulders will be placed to ballast the engineered log jams and habitat forming structures.

For the Fish Passage and Screening Project, about 530 cubic yards of native alluvium will be excavated within the channel and replaced with 860 cubic yards of large boulders and native backfill to form the roughened channel. 1000 cubic yards of native material will be excavated from the existing ditch to drop the elevation so it is consistent with the new instream structure.

All fill will be obtained from local sources.

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

Minor erosion may occur during construction if a storm event occurs prior to erosion control measures being implemented. Native riparian vegetation will be replanted upon project completion. Erosion control will occur at material and equipment staging areas as well to minimize the risks of stormwater reaching Swauk Creek.

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

There will be no impervious surfaces associated with the Habitat Enhancement Project Area.

The headgate and fish screen are the only artificial structures in the Fish Passage and Screening Project.

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

Disturbance will be minimized as much as possible at each site. During construction, best management practices will be applied to reduce the chances of stormwater runoff entering Swauk Creek and/or causing erosion. Work will occur during a typically dry time of year when storms are less likely and when stream flows are low. Erosion control fabric or suitable mulch will be applied to all disturbed areas and suitable native vegetation will be seeded/planted.

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.

Emissions from diesel exhaust from excavators, generators, and trucks into and out of the worksites. Dust will likely be minimal due to the time of construction.

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

No

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control emissions or other impacts to air, if any:

All equipment will be turned off while 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, Swauk Creek is 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, nearly all work at both project sites will be within 200 feet of Swauk Creek. The work in the irrigation ditch at the passage and screening site (upstream site) will be more than 200 feet from Swauk Creek as it gets closer to its point of use.

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.

For the Habitat Enhancement Project, about 1900 cubic yards of native streambed material will be excavated from the channel below the high water mark and stored on site. Roughly 8800 cubic yards of boulders and native excavated material will be placed back in the channel as ballast for engineered log jams and other habitat structures. Native materials will be reused as much as possible and additional material will be obtained from nearby sources.

For the Passage and Screening Project, about 530 cubic yards of native alluvium will be excavated and stored on site. 860 cubic yards of large boulders and native material will be placed back in the channel to construct the roughened channel. All suitable native material will be reused and additional material will be obtained from local sources.

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

No new diversions or changes will result from this project. The fish screen is a refurbished screen for the one that was previously damaged in a flood event.

At both project locations, the creek will be temporarily bypassed to isolate the instream work area during implementation.

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

Yes

6) Does the proposal involve any discharges of waste materials to surface waters? If so, describe the type of waste and anticipated volume of discharge.

There may be temporary increases in turbidity from instream work. Hydraulic lines will be filled with biodegradable fluids to minimize impacts if a line breaks during implementation.

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.

N/A

c. Water runoff (including stormwater):

- 1) Describe the source of runoff (including storm water) and method of collection and disposal, if any (include quantities, if known). Where will this water flow? Will this water flow into other waters? If so, describe.

This project is not likely to impact the amount or material associated with runoff, including storm water runoff events. Ground disturbance will be minimized and best management practices will be applied throughout construction. Work will occur during low flows, when there is the least risk of encountering sensitive fish and wildlife species. There will be no impervious surfaces that might impact runoff and/or storm water management.

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

There is a chance that petroleum products could leak from equipment or vehicles onto the ground. All equipment will be kept in good working condition to minimize this risk. Refueling will occur at least 150 feet away from the ordinary high water mark and machinery within the channel will have biodegradable fluids in hydraulic lines.

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

Best management practices will be applied to reduce impacts to water quality. The projects will be constructed during low stream flows and when there is the least risk of encountering sensitive salmonid species and/or life stages instream. Disturbed areas will be mulched and seeded for temporary erosion control and native riparian plantings will provide long term stabilization to help buffer runoff.

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?

Riparian vegetation is very sparse at the Habitat Enhancement Project site, most of the vegetation that will be disturbed will be invasive grasses and other broad leaf species. Native trees and shrubs will be salvaged as much as possible, and if they are taken down, they will be incorporated into the project design.

At the Passage and Screening Project site, the vegetation is more robust. Large native trees will be avoided as much as possible; in total, about 0.1 acre of vegetation will be cleared and grubbed along the creek banks and ditch banks. Much of the temporary access will be on an existing access road with a cleared area near the POD. Less than 20 trees greater than 8" diameter will be felled and incorporated into the project.

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

Ute Ladies'-tresses are listed in Kittitas County, but not known to occur in the County.

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

Disturbance to existing vegetation will be minimized as much as possible. Native grasses, shrubs and trees will be planted in suitable locations throughout the project areas and will be maintained to ensure survival. A robust revegetation plan is a critical component to the Habitat Restoration Project's objectives to enhance instream, riparian, and floodplain habitat.

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: **coyote**

fish: **bass, salmon, trout**, herring, shellfish, other: **native minnows, sculpins and suckers**

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

Middle Columbia River Steelhead

Columbia River Bull Trout

Northern Spotted Owl

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

Swauk Creek is a known migration route for resident trout, salmon and steelhead. Migratory birds may also use the creek corridor during migrations. Both project areas are within the winter range for large ungulates, but the highway system likely limits part of this migration.

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

Both projects have been proposed, funded and designed to enhance habitat for fish and wildlife. Fish passage has been limited to non-existent during irrigation seasons for several decades at the Passage and Screening Project site. Implementation of the proposed project will ensure year round fish passage for all species and all life stages as well as preventing entrainment into the irrigation ditch. Project proponents have worked closely with WDFW to ensure the design meets passage and screening criteria. The current conditions in the Habitat Enhancement Project area do not provide quality habitat for fish or wildlife. Implementation will improve instream and riparian habitat and increase floodplain function through this reach of Swauk Creek. A more robust riparian buffer will improve habitat for fish and wildlife as well as improving water quality.

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.

Portable pumps and/or generators may be used during project implementation to dewater the work areas and run 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:

Pumps and generators will be sized appropriately and only used when necessary.

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 machinery and equipment pose a potential risk of a petroleum spill during refueling or if the gas tanks leak. All equipment will be kept in good working condition to reduce the risks of a chemical spill or sparks causing a fire. Biodegradable fluids will be in the hydraulic lines of equipment working within the floodplain.

1) Describe special emergency services that might be required.

There is a chance that emergency personnel such as EMT, fire fighters, and sheriff's deputies may need to respond to the project area during implementation. In the event of a spill, the Departments of Military, Ecology, and Fish and Wildlife are likely to respond as well.

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

All equipment using petroleum products will be in good working condition and spill containment kits will be onsite 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)?

Highway noise from the nearby highways and roads exists, but will not affect either 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.

Normal construction noises from dump trucks, excavator, generator, etc. during daylight hours, Monday thru Friday. Work may occur during weekends or outside of daylight hours at critical junctures in the construction phase and/or if storm events are likely to occur.

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

Construction activities will occur during daylight hours; all equipment will be shut off when not in use.

8. Land and shoreline use

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

Both project sites are in agricultural production. The point of diversion is upstream of the point of use and on an undeveloped parcel with rural homes nearby. The Habitat Enhancement Project reach is within an irrigated hay field. Rural homes are on the adjacent parcels.

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

Yes, the surrounding area is primarily in hay production and/or pasture.

c. Describe any structures on the site.

Roads and highways are near each site. There are a couple of barns near the creek in the Habitat Restoration Project area, but they will not be altered with this proposed project. Other structures, including rural homes, are outside the impacted area of this project. At the Passage and Screening site, there is an existing culvert about 100 feet down the ditch from the point of diversion that will be reset. This is where the access road crosses the ditch. There is an existing concrete structure about 100 feet down the ditch to control the diversion. The fish screen in this ditch has been removed due to flood damage and will be refurbished. There are no other known structures on the property.

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

The concrete control structure in the irrigation ditch will be demolished and replaced with a headgate on the creek.

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

The Habitat Enhancement Project is designated as Open Space within a Planned Unit Development and the Passage and Screening site is zoned as Rural 3.

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

Rural

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

Rural

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

Yes, Swauk Creek and its riparian buffer is an important and environmentally sensitive area.

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

None

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

None

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

N/A

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

All applicable permits and authorizations will be obtained prior to beginning work.

9. Housing

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

None

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

None

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

N/A

10. **Aesthetics**

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

The headgate at the point of diversion will be the tallest structure constructed, which will be just above the existing bank. Once the vegetation is mature throughout the Habitat Enhancement reach, trees may be more than 100 feet tall.

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

None

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

N/A

11. **Light and glare**

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

Light may be reflected off of the headgate and/or screen during direct daylight, but existing vegetation makes this unlikely to occur.

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

No

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

None

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

N/A

12. **Recreation**

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

Fishing, floating, boating—but the project areas are on private lands.

- 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:

N/A

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.

NHPA Section 106 consultation has occurred at both project sites, with no places or objects listed/registered.

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

None known

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

Consultation with SHPO and THPO has occurred.

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 sites are near the junction of state highway 970 and US highway 97. The Habitat Enhancement Project site is accessed from Burke Road, a Kittitas County road.

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

No, Ellensburg has the nearest public transit system.

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

N/A

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

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.

No change

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

N/A

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

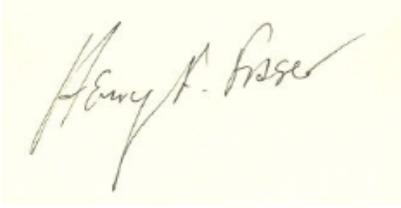
b. Describe the utilities that are proposed for the project, the utility providing the service, and the general construction activities on the site or in the immediate vicinity which might be needed.

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:

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light yellow background. The signature reads "Henry A. Gasser" in a cursive script.

Date Submitted: 7-19-10