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HABITAT PROGRAM

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: Usk Hatchery Water Right Application

2. Name of applicant: Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife

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

   John Whalen, Fish Program
   2315 North Discovery Place
   Spokane Valley, WA 99216

4. Date checklist prepared: December 21, 2010

5. Agency requesting checklist: Washington Dept. of Ecology (WDOE)

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

   Obtain water right prior to completing site feasibility assessment. (2010-2011)
   Complete Facility Implementation Planning within three years
   Facility Draft and Final Engineering Plans within four years
   Facility Construction and begin operations within six years

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

Once the water rights are obtained, the site is to be redeveloped to convert the site into a native fish, conservation facility. Any future redevelopment of this facility requires a separate and additional SEPA process.

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

Stream flow information (flow, temperature, dissolved oxygen measurements) has been collected.

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.

The proposal is to obtain two water rights for the Usk Hatchery.
No other applications are pending affecting the property covered by this proposal.

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

No other permits are required for the water right issued by the WDOE.
A WDFW Hydraulic Project Approval and/or county shoreline permit exemption may be needed for future development of the site.

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.)

This SEPA document solely addresses the water right application process, and is a non-project action. The purpose of the water rights is to redevelop the old Usk Hatchery into a native fish conservation facility. The water right will allow diversion of water for operation of the facility. Since the use is non-consumptive, all water will be returned to the creek. The facility once operated as a trout fish hatchery with valid a state water right, but it has been inoperable for many years. If water rights are re-established and the site is feasible for the intended purpose; proposed future redevelopment, operation, and maintenance of the facility will fulfill a mitigation obligation in the Settlement Agreement for the Boundary Dam, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) relicensing. This facility will be used for the purpose of native fish species conservation and recovery in tributaries to the Pend Oreille River basin. Water from an un-named spring and Skookum Creek will be used to propagate fish as well as sustain fish that are held at the facility. The proposed redeveloped facility may cover up to two acres of a forty-acres site owned by WDFW.

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 site is located in Pend Oreille County, 3.5 miles east of the city of Usk.
The site is located on Parcel No. 443322220001
Legal description NW1/4 of NW1/4 Section 22 Township 33N Range 44E
See attached maps

TO BE COMPLETED BY APPLICANT

EVALUATION FOR
AGENCY USE ONLY

B. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS

1. **Earth**

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

Generally, the site is on a gentle slope. This SEPA is for the water right application only. Redevelopment details will be determined at the site feasibility assessment stage.

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

The slope varies on the site, approximately 1-4 percent. This SEPA is for the water right application only. Redevelopment details will be determined at the site feasibility assessment stage.

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.

Generally the soils are sandy loam on the surface and mixed sand and gravel subsurface with occasionally clay. This SEPA is for the water right application only. Redevelopment details will be determined at the site feasibility assessment stage.

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

No indication of unstable soils.

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

This SEPA is only for the water right application. In the future, as part of the feasibility and site design and engineering phase, this information will become available. Approximate quantities of filling or grading are unknown at this time.

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

Do not know. This SEPA is for the water right application only. Redevelopment details will be determined at the site feasibility assessment stage.

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

This SEPA is for the water right application only. Redevelopment details will be determined at the site feasibility assessment stage.

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

This SEPA is for the water right application only. Redevelopment details will be determined at the site feasibility assessment stage.

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.

This SEPA is for the water right application only. Redevelopment details will be determined at the site feasibility assessment stage.

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

This SEPA is for the water right application only. Redevelopment details will be determined at the site feasibility assessment stage.

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

This SEPA is for the water right application only. Redevelopment details will be determined at the site feasibility assessment stage.

TO BE COMPLETED BY APPLICANT

EVALUATION FOR AGENCY USE ONLY

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.

The Usk Hatchery and proposed facility is located next to an un-named spring that flows into Skookum Creek, tributary to the Pend Oreille 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, part of the proposed project is currently located within 200 feet of the un-named spring creek.

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.

Redevelopment details will be determined at the site feasibility assessment stage.

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

Yes. Approximately 400 feet north of the facility, up to 3 cfs of water from the un-named spring and up to 5 cfs of water from Skookum Creek will be diverted and delivered through a gravity fed pipe to the facility for the purpose of fish propagation, rearing and holding. Since this is a non-consumptive use, water will be treated and returned to Skookum Creek.

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

No.

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.

Water withdrawn from the spring and creek will flow through the facility and will be returned to the creek. In terms of the water right, it is a non-consumptive use. Redevelopment details will be determined at the site feasibility assessment stage.

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.

Does not apply

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.

Do not know. This SEPA is for the water right application only. Redevelopment details will be determined at the site feasibility assessment stage.

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

Do not know. This SEPA is for the water right application only. Redevelopment details will be determined at the site feasibility assessment stage.

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

Do not know. This SEPA is for the water right application only. Redevelopment details will be determined at the site feasibility assessment stage.

4. **Plants**

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

x_____ deciduous tree: alder, maple, aspen, other

x_____ evergreen tree: fir, cedar, pine, other

x_____ shrubs

x_____ grass

_____ pasture

_____ crop or grain

_____ 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?

Do not know. This SEPA is for the water right application only. Redevelopment details will be determined at the site feasibility assessment stage.

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

Do not know. This SEPA is for the water right application only. Redevelopment details will be determined at the site feasibility assessment stage.

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

Do not know. This SEPA is for the water right application only. Redevelopment details will be determined at the site feasibility assessment stage.

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:
fish: bass, salmon, trout, herring, shellfish, other:

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

On November 30, 2003, a wolf (WA State endangered species) sighting was recorded near this location. No other listed species are known to be on or near this site. (Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife; Priority, Species, and Habitat database, 2010)

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

No. (Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife; Priority, Species, and Habitat database, 2010)

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

The purpose of the water rights is to redevelop the old Usk Hatchery into a native fish conservation facility. This facility will be used for the purpose of native fish species conservation and recovery in tributaries to the Pend Oreille River basin. Water from an un-named spring and Skookum Creek will be used to propagate fish as well as sustain fish that are held at the facility.

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.

Do not know all the needs, but electricity will be the main source of energy used.

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:

Do not know. This SEPA is for the water right application only. Redevelopment details will be determined at the site feasibility assessment stage.

7. Environmental health

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

No environmental health hazards will result from this action of obtaining the water right.

1) Describe special emergency services that might be required.

No environmental health hazards will result from this action of obtaining the water right.

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

No environmental health hazards will result from this action of obtaining the water right.

b. **Noise**

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

No noise impacts will result from this action of obtaining the water right.

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.

No noise impacts will result from this action of obtaining the water right.

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

No noise impacts will result from this action of obtaining the water right.

8. **Land and shoreline use**

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

The site is currently occupied by a non-functioning hatchery. Adjacent sites are forested and undeveloped, with the exception of one resident nearby.

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

No.

c. Describe any structures on the site.

The site has one dwelling, garage, shop, storage shed, and hatchery warehouse with fish propagation structures.

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

It is likely that all structures will be demolished and replaced.

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

Current zoning classification for this site is Public Lands.

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

The current comprehensive plan designation for this site is Public Lands.

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

This section of Skookum Creek is not regulated under Pend Oreille County's Shoreline Master Program.

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

No part of this site has been classified as an "environmentally sensitive" area, but the general region is classified as White-tail deer and elk habitat.

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

Two people may reside at the site, but two or more may work at the completed project.

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

None.

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

Does not apply.

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

Do not know. This SEPA is for the water right application only. Redevelopment details will be determined at the site feasibility assessment stage.

9. **Housing**

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

One or two dwellings will be provided for staff residing on-site.

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?

Do not know. This SEPA is for the water right application only. Redevelopment details will be determined at the site feasibility assessment stage.

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

None. This SEPA is for the water right application only. Redevelopment details will be determined at the site feasibility assessment stage.

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

Does not apply. This SEPA is for the water right application only. Redevelopment details will be determined at the site feasibility assessment stage.

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?

Does not apply

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

Does not apply

12. **Recreation**

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

Do not know. This SEPA is for the water right application only. Redevelopment details will be determined at the site feasibility assessment stage.

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

Does not apply

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

Does not apply

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.

Does not apply at this time. This SEPA is for the water right application only. Redevelopment details will be determined at the site feasibility assessment stage and the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) will be consulted with prior to any project actions.

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

Do not know. This SEPA is for the water right application only. Redevelopment details will be determined at the site feasibility assessment stage.

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

Does not apply

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.

Does not apply

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

Does not apply

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).

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.

Do not know. This SEPA is for the water right application only. Redevelopment details will be determined at the site feasibility assessment stage.

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

Does not apply

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.

Does not apply

b. Proposed measures to reduce or control direct impacts on public services, if any.

Does not apply

16. **Utilities**

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

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

Do not know.

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: John T. Whalen

Date Submitted: Dec. 22, 2010

TO BE COMPLETED BY APPLICANT

EVALUATION FOR AGENCY USE ONLY

D. SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET FOR NONPROJECT ACTIONS

(do not 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?

   This SEPA is for the water right only, a non-project action. Redevelopment details will be determined at the site feasibility assessment stage. However, the water right is non-consumptive and water diverted from the creek will pass through the facility and will be returned to the creek. No additional discharge is expected to occur to the creek. No emissions to the air are expected and no known toxic or hazardous substances will occur as a result of the proposed project.

   Proposed measures to avoid or reduce such increases are:

   Since none of the above is expected, nothing to avoid or reduce the above is proposed.

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

   This SEPA is for the water right only, a non-project action. Redevelopment details will be determined at the site feasibility assessment stage. However, the proposal to redevelop the site is not expected to affect plants or animals. After redevelopment of the site, the facility will function to recover native fish stocks in the region.

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

   Since no negative impacts are expected, there are no proposed protection measures.

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

   It is not expected that redevelopment of the site and operation of the facility will deplete energy or natural resources.

   Once the water rights are obtained, it is expected that the facility will enhance fishery resources.

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

   Since no negative impacts are expected, there are no proposed protection measures.

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 proposal is not likely to use or affect environmentally sensitive areas.

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

   Since no negative impacts are expected, there are no proposed protection measures.

TO BE COMPLETED BY APPLICANT

EVALUATION FOR AGENCY USE ONLY

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 proposal is not likely to affect land or shoreline use.

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

   Since no negative impacts are expected, there are no proposed protection measures.

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

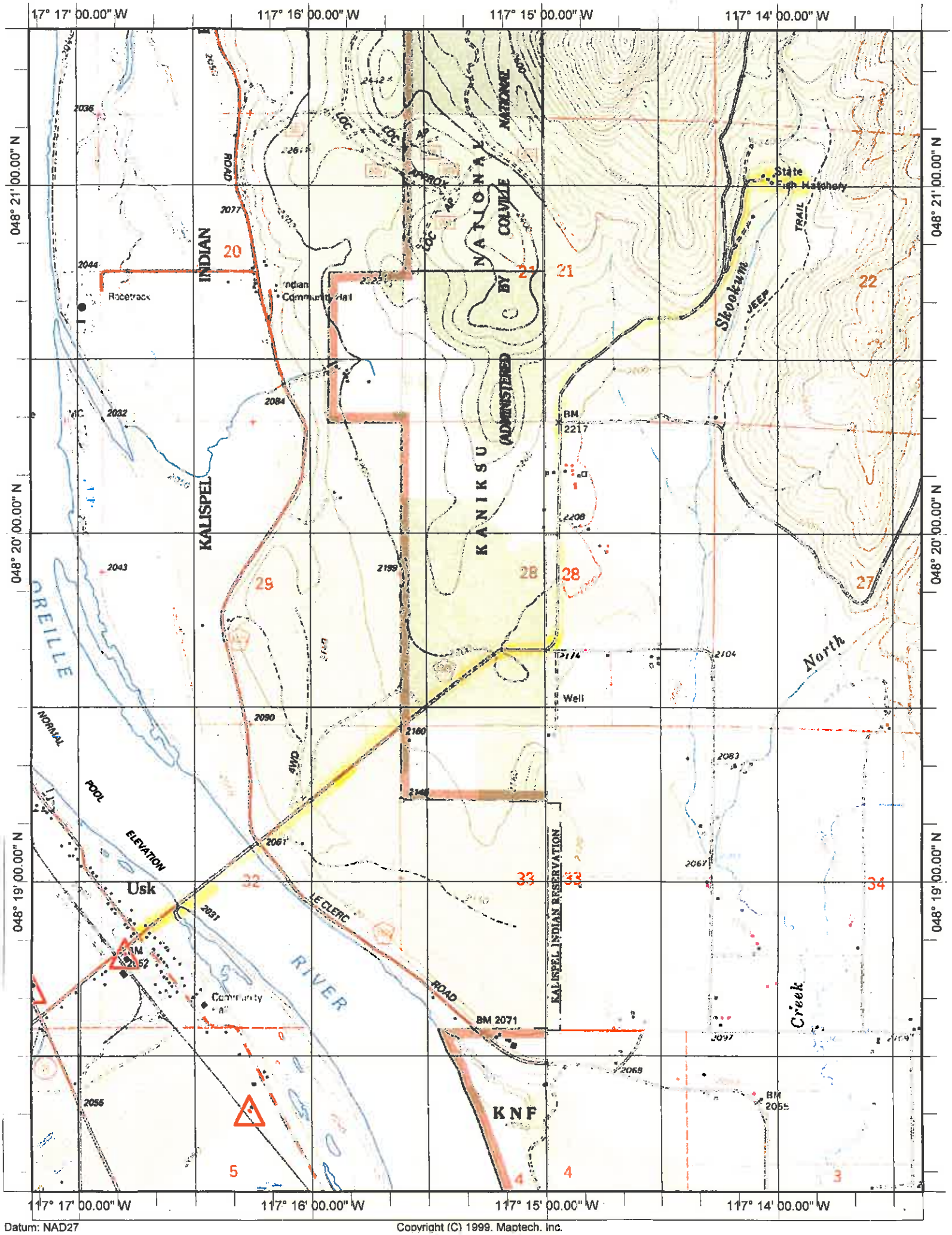
   The proposal will not increase demands on transportation, public services or utilities.

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

   Since no negative impacts are expected, there are no proposed protection measures.

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

   The proposal will not conflict with local, state, or federal laws for the protection of the environment.



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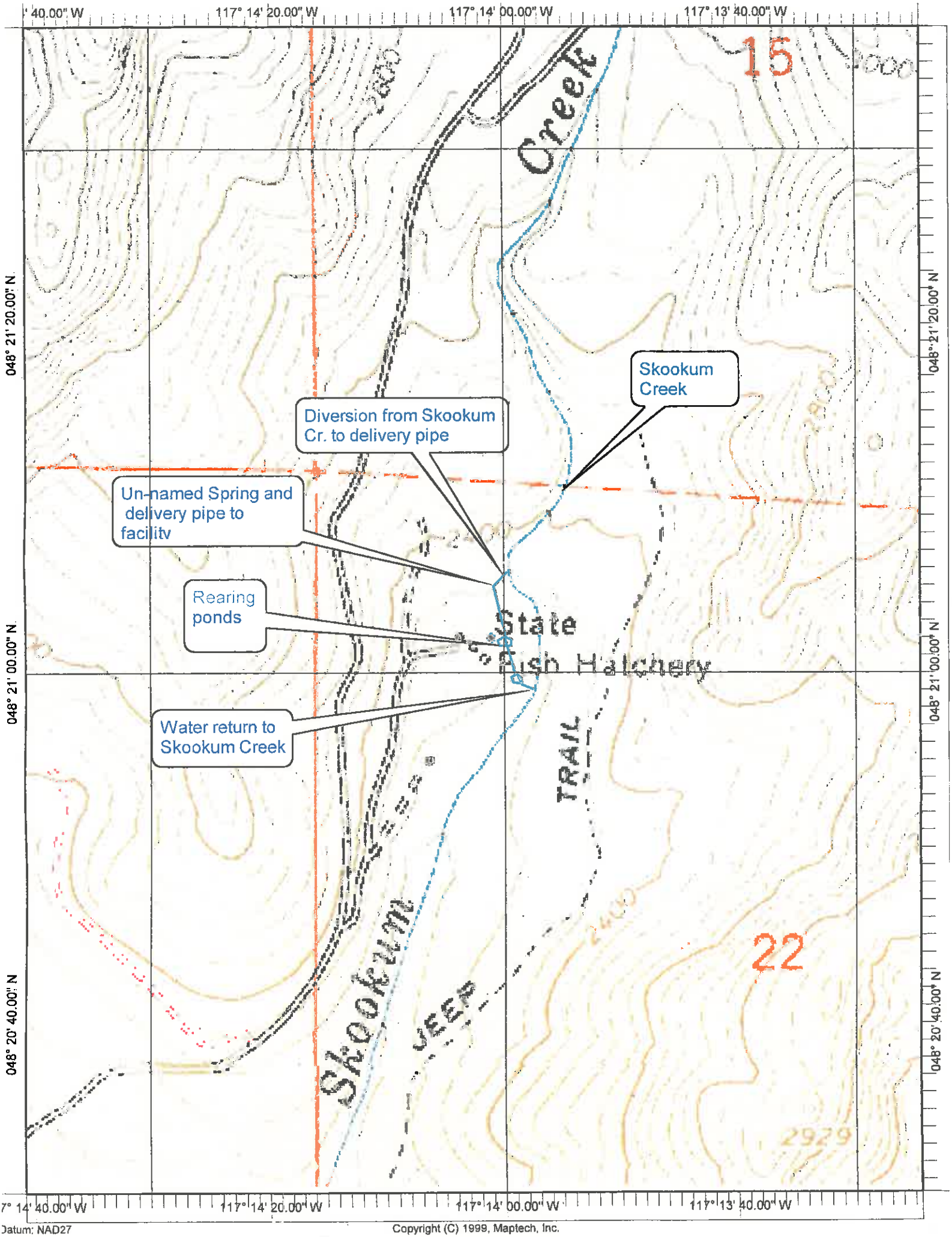

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