

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:

Milltown Island Phase II Habitat Restoration

2. Name of applicant:

Applicant	Authorized Agent
Bob Everitt Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife 16018 Mill Creek Blvd Mill Creek, WA 98012 (425) 775-1311 bob.everitt@dwf.wa.gov	Steve Hinton Skagit River System Cooperative PO Box 368 La Conner, WA 98257 (360) 391-1354 shinton@skagitcoop.org

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

See above

4. Date checklist prepared:

06/23/11

5. Agency requesting checklist:

WDFW

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

Site Prep and Construction: August 15, 2011 through October 15th, 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. We expect to be able to complete the proposed work during the time frame listed above.

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

Cultural Resources Investigation

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.

No other applications are pending for this property

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

HPA

ACOE NW 27 and 10

Skagit County Shorelines and Critical Areas

Section 106 Cultural

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.)

Summary

The property, located in the South Fork Skagit River, is part of the Skagit Wildlife Area, which is owned and managed by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW). The Skagit Wildlife Area

comprises around 13,000 acres in Skagit, Snohomish, and Island Counties, and is managed to provide fish and wildlife habitat and outdoor recreation opportunities. Milltown Island was the site of a previously permitted habitat restoration project which was completed in 2007. This prior project involved using explosives to remove 1,050 feet of levee and excavating 3,200 feet of new channels. More than 8,000 native willows and other hardy, fast growing shrubs were also installed.

The currently proposed project will utilize explosives to remove approximately 1,440 Linear Feet (LF) of dike (0.46 acres) along Steamboat Slough on the west side of Milltown Island (See Question 12 of this checklist for site location). The excavation will lower the elevation of the diked area by approximately four feet, roughly matching the surrounding marsh surface elevation. Additionally, 176 LF of channel will be excavated to allow water to run through the diked areas and into the interior marshes. These actions will restore river and tidal flows to the interior marshes on the island and will increase access for juvenile Chinook and other salmon.

Project Element: Dike Removal

Approximately 1,440 LF of dike will be removed on the southern portion of Milltown Island using 4 to 6 pounds (lbs) of AMFO charges placed inside holes augured into the dike fill material (Figure 1). The holes will be four feet deep by 6 inches wide, will be placed on a 4-foot spacing across the dike top, and will be backfilled after charge placement which will be detonated electronically. The detonation sequence will be designed such that material will be thrown toward the interior of the island, minimizing sediment impacts to the Skagit River and redistributing dike material toward the original source of the fill. To further minimize sediment impacts, silt fencing will be placed at perimeter areas of the blast zone that are adjacent to water features. The attached plan and cross section drawings give further detail about the proposed dike removal actions.

Project Element: Channel Excavation

Following dike removal, two small channels (280 LF in total) will be excavated through the previously diked area and will use explosives in a similar method to that described above (Figure 1). The channels will be approximately four feet wide by three feet deep. The attached plan and cross section drawings give further detail about the proposed channel excavation actions.

Project Element: Land Clearing/Revegetation

Site-appropriate native scrub-shrub vegetation will be planted within the areas affected by dike removal and channel construction activities, along with adjacent areas currently impacted by non-native invasive vegetation (reed canary grass and Himalayan blackberry) (Table 1, Figure 1). The total area proposed for planting is 1.76 acres. Areas occupied by invasive species will first be cleared using gas-powered brush cutters.

Table 1. Plant species proposed for revegetating the restoration site.

Species	Plant stock	Spacing (o.c.)	Percent cover	# to plant in the Dike Removal Area	# to plant in the Planting Area
Cottonwood (<i>Populus balsamifera</i>)	l.s.	8	20.0%	60	225
Hooker's willow (<i>Salix hookeriana</i>)	l.s.	3	25.0%	565	2065
Pacific Willow (<i>Salix lucida</i> ssp. <i>lasiandra</i>)	l.s.	6	55.0%	315	1150
Total			100.0%	940	3440

o.c. = on center

l.s. = live stake

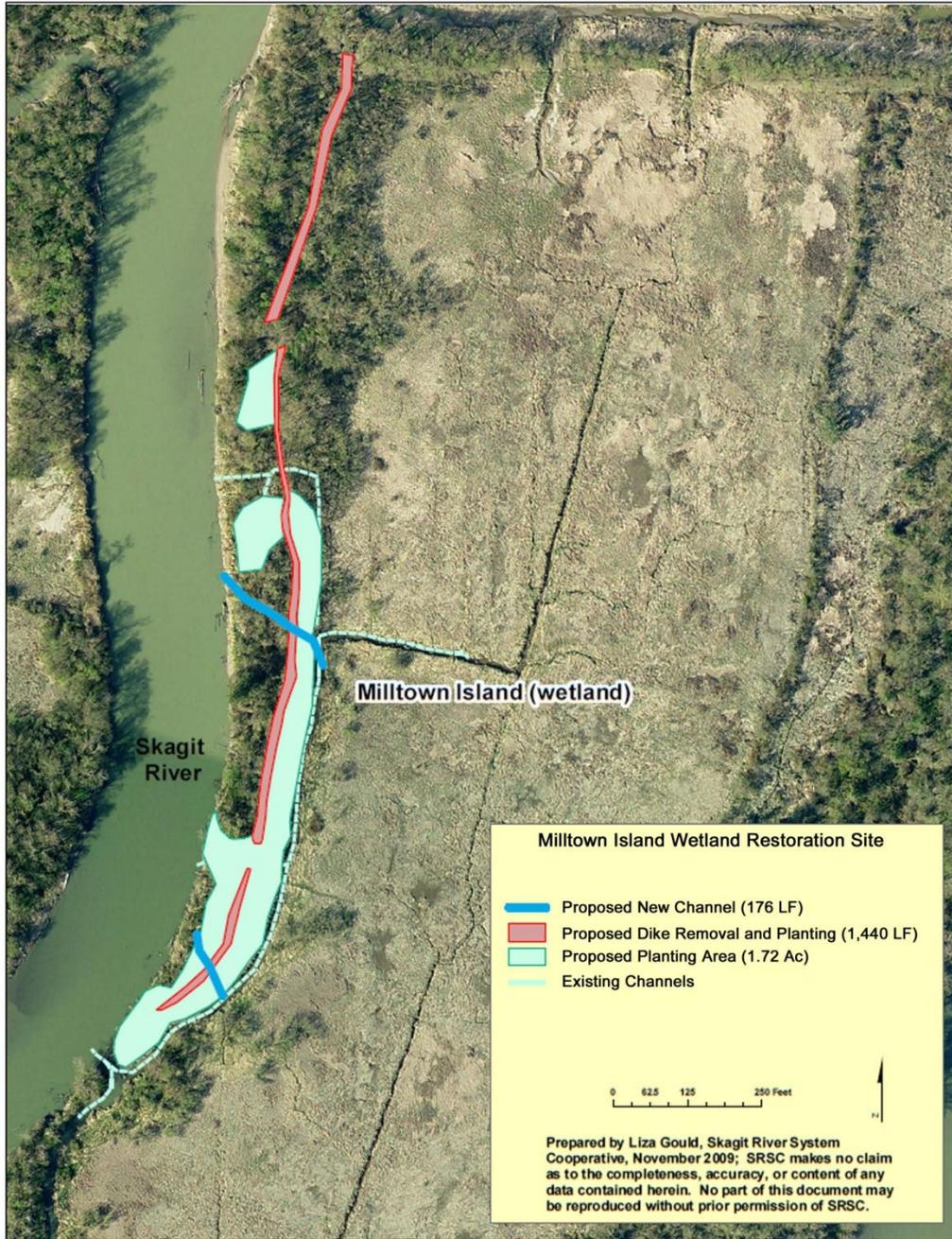


Figure 1. Proposed dike removal, channel creation, and planting areas within the Milltown Island Restoration Site

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.

Milltown Island
Skagit Wildlife Area
Skagit County, WA

Lat: 48.31025N Long: 122.3546W

¼ Section	Section	Township	Range
NW	31	33N	O4E

Parcels:

P17532

Legal Description:

(38.3100 ac) LT 2 EXC TR

P17534

Legal Description:

(43.8800 ac) LT 4

Property Owner (both parcels):

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

600 N Capitol Way

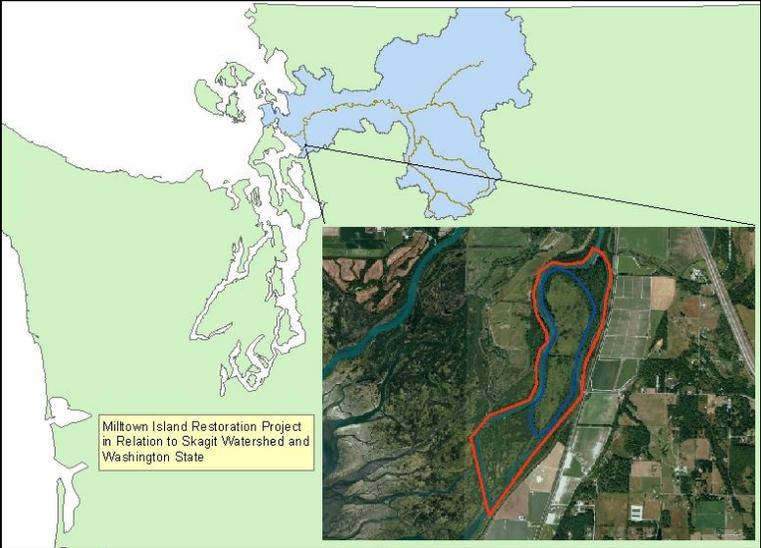
Olympia, WA 98501

Vicinity Maps are shown below.

See attached parcel maps from Skagit County Assessor.

See attached Site Plans.

Vicinity and Site Maps:





Milltown Island

Project Location

B. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS

1. Earth

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

The project site is an island in the South Fork Skagit River. The terrain is flat.

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

The site is quite flat, with the exception of the sides of the dikes proposed for excavation. Dike sideslopes are approximately 50%. The average height of the dikes is 3 feet.

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.

Alluvial silt and clay

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.

The project will utilize explosives to remove approximately 1,440 LF of dike (0.46 acres) along Steamboat Slough on the west side of Milltown Island. Additionally, 176 LF of channel will be excavated to allow water to run through the diked areas and into interior marshes. These actions will restore river and tidal flows to the interior marshes on the island and will increase access for juvenile Chinook and other salmon. The approximate volume of fill for these activities is 1,725CY. The dikes were constructed of native material, and blasting will redistribute these materials towards their original source location.

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

Erosion is unlikely to occur as a result of project activities due to the flat topography and targeted excavation techniques.

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 control BMP's (silt fencing) will be put in place along adjacent waterbodies to further guard against impacts from erosion (see attached site plans).

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.

Some dust may be generated during blasting, but is expected to consist of fairly large diameter particles with short travel distances. Dust quantities are unknown but will likely be fairly minimal.

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

None that we are aware of.

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

Calm weather days will be selected for blasting, and the size explosive charges will be minimized to the greatest practicable extent possible.

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. The site is located along Steamboat Slough, which is part of the South Fork Skagit 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. See Section A and attached site plans.

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.

Dikes on the site are composed of native marsh fill materials. Excavated materials will be directed towards the original source of the fill towards the interior of the island. Total volume is 1,725CY. In total, 1.68 acres of wetland area will potentially receive fill, although it will be highly dispersed.

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

No.

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

Yes. The entire site is located within a 100-year floodplain. MHHW is noted on the site plans.

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 waste material will be discharges into the ground.

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.

Any storm runoff will occur in the form of sheet flow towards Steamboat Slough or existing interior marsh channels. Site topography is quite flat, so runoff is expected to be diffuse and slow moving. Silt fencing will be in place to intercept flow prior to reaching water bodies.

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:

Impacts are expected to be minimal Silt fencing will be in place.

4. Plants

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

deciduous tree: **alder, maple**, aspen, other

evergreen tree: **fir**, cedar, pine, **spruce**

shrubs: **Many (Nootka Rose dominant)**

grass : **Reed Canary 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: **Himalayan Blackberry**

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

The levee sections to be deconstructed are primarily vegetated by mid-sized alders, riparian shrubs, Himalayan Blackberry. There are adjacent cattail stands that will be impacted by the displacement of levee material.

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

None are known.

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

Site-appropriate native scrub-shrub vegetation will be planted within the areas affected by dike removal and channel construction activities, along with adjacent areas currently impacted by non-native invasive vegetation (reed canary grass and Himalayan blackberry). The total area proposed for planting is 1.76 acres. Areas occupied by invasive species will first be cleared using gas-powered brush cutters.

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.

Bald Eagle, Bull Trout, Marbled Murrelet, Puget Sound ESU Chinook, Puget Sound DPS Steelhead. Section 7 consultation is in process per permit requirements.

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

The site is located adjacent to the Skagit River, a migration route for native salmon.

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

The project has been set to a work window that will occur after bald eagle nesting and minimize impacts to juvenile and adult salmonids. Actual demolition detonations will occur during the lowest available tides. The completed project will restore native scrub-shrub delta habitat for juvenile salmon and other species.

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.

Does not apply.

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:

Does not apply.

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 will be the use of controlled belowground demolitions to deconstruct the dike and excavate channels, but there is nothing present on site that would result in additional uncontrolled explosions. Demolition charges will be placed into pre-bored holes in the levee, the resulting explosions will not ignite surrounding vegetation. A licensed demolitions expert will oversee all demolition activities, and the AMFO explosives used are inert until electronically detonated.

1) Describe special emergency services that might be required.

None.

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

None proposed.

b. Noise

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

Does not apply.

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.*

Extremely brief periods of noise will be generated by blasting during daylight hours.

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

The project is located in an isolated area. Personnel will be station at locations a safe distance away from any blast or noise generated by demolitions.

8. Land and Shoreline use

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

The site is part of WDFW's Skagit Wildlife Area, a public recreation and wildlife conservation site.

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

Yes. The site was farmed during the first half of the 20th century. It was purchased by WDFW in the early 1950's.

c. *Describe any structures on the site.*

There is a remnant levee system that surrounds a large portion of Milltown Island. There are also a few remnant fence posts scattered throughout the site

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

Yes. The purpose of the project is to demolish 1,440 LF of levee at the perimeter of the island.

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

(740) RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES

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

OSRSI- Public Open Space Areas of Regional/State Importance

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. Much of the site would be classified as environmentally sensitive area. The site is a wetland and a fish and wildlife conservation area under Skagit County's Critical Areas Ordinance.

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

No residents or permanent staff. SRSC or WDFW staff would occasionally conduct field work at the site.

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:

Consultation with Skagit County Planning and Development Services

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:

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 structures are proposed

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?

This project will not produce any light or glare. The project action will be occurring during the day.

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:

Does not apply

12. Recreation

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

Waterfowl hunting, water recreation, birding, fishing.

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:

None.

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.

No. A Cultural Resources Investigation has been completed for the site, and no cultural artifacts were found on site.

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

None.

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

Cultural monitoring protocols will be followed, including work stoppage and notification of a licensed archaeologist in the event of an unforeseen discovery.

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.

There are no public streets/highways serving the site. Access will be by boat.

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

No. 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.

Milltown island requires water transportation for access. During the project, the island will be access via small outboard watercraft.

f. How many vehicular trips per day would be generated by the completed project? If known, indicate when peak volumes would occur.

Site prep will require one boat trip (30 minute round-trip travel) per day for approximately two weeks starting August 15th. Demolition will require for round-trips per day over two to three days in August or September.

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

None proposed.

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 proposed.

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 proposed.

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.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "R. P. [unclear]".

Signature:

Date Submitted:

7/29/2011