

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:

Fish Passage Project for Lewis Ditch on South Naches Channel

2. Name of applicant:

Yakama Nation

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

**Henry Fraser
201 N. Pearl
Ellensburg, WA 98926
(509) 933-1210**

4. Date checklist prepared:

July 25, 2011

5. Agency requesting checklist:

WDFW

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

Construction will occur after the irrigation season, from October 15 thru December 15, 2011.

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

The new vegetation will be monitored and maintained thru time to control invasive species and ensure survival of plantings.

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

**Cultural Resources Survey and Inventory of the South Naches Channel Fish Passage Project-complete
Joint Aquatic Resources Project Application (JARPA) form
Specific Project Information Form (SPIF) for coverage under the Corps Programmatic Restoration BiOp**

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.

NHPA Section 106 Consultation with THPO and SHPO

ESA Section 7 Consultation with NMFS and USFWS

CWA Section 404 Permit from US Army Corps of Engineers

CWA Section 401 Permit from Ecology

HPA from WDFW

CAO/Floodplain Review from Yakima County

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 install five rock bands downstream of the existing concrete check dam for Lewis Ditch in the South Naches Channel to provide fish passage for all life stages and species of fish. Large wood (rootwads) will be incorporated in the design to provide instream cover in the South Naches Channel. Approximately 200 linear feet of the channel will be impacted due to construction and revegetation will occur along both banks. There will be no changes to the fish screen or operation of Lewis Ditch with implementation of this project; irrigation activities will continue as normal, within their adjudicated rights.

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. South Naches Channel (relict side channel/irrigation channel off Naches River) at Lewis Ditch irrigation diversion**
- 2. About 1.5 miles south of the City of Naches, on Craig Road, property begins about 500 feet west of the intersection with South Naches Road**
- 3. Yakima County, Parcel # 17140911431**
- 4. WRIA 38**
- 5. NE ¼ Section 9, Township 14, Range 17**
- 6. 46.7226°N; -120.7015°W**

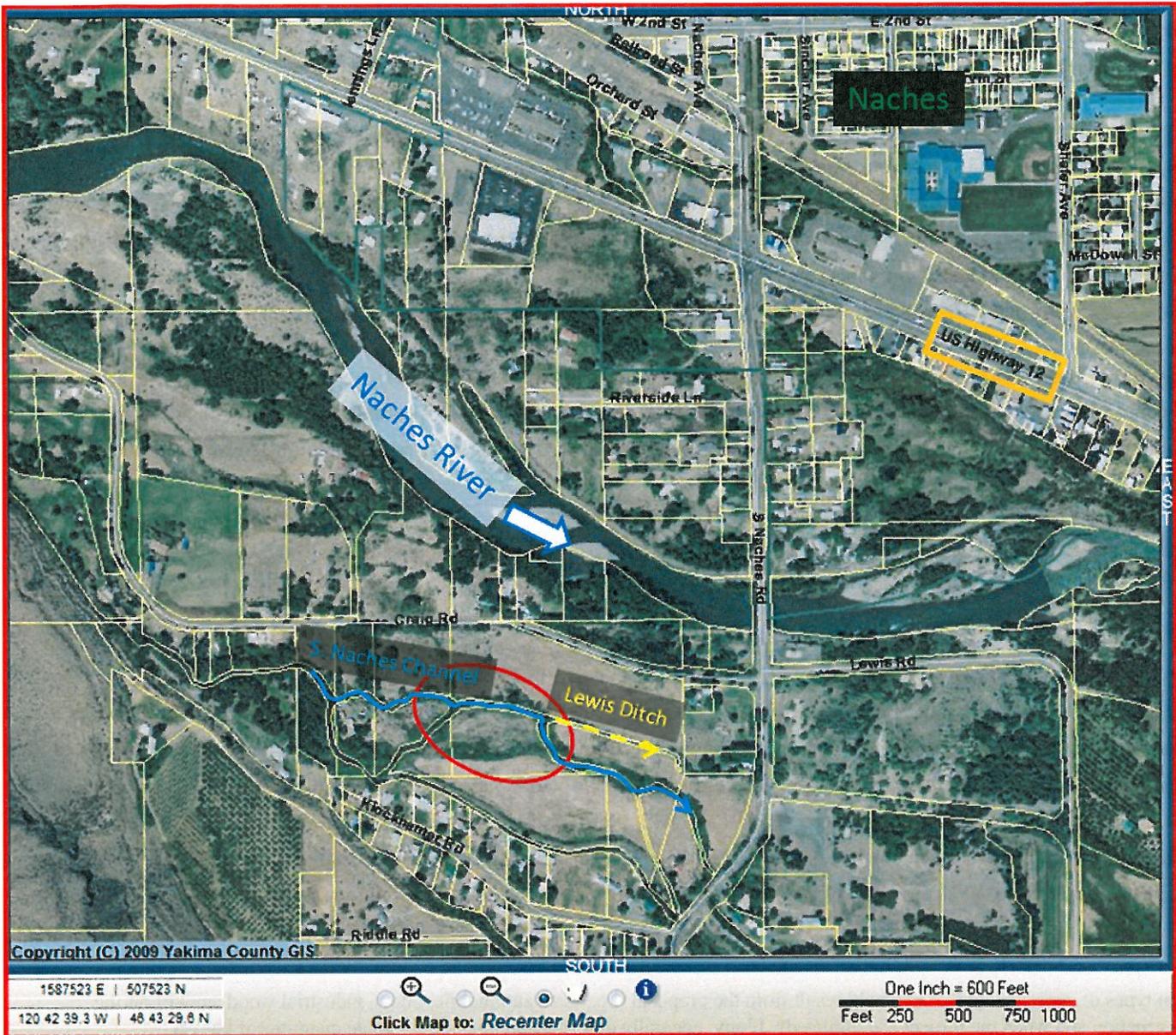


Figure 1. This photo shows the project in relation to the City of Naches and US Highway 12, south of the Naches River.

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)?

Less than 3%

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.

Weirman fine sandy loam—common on alluvial floodplains—not classified as prime farmland

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

Not recently, this is within the floodplain of the Naches River, but under most conditions, the existing levee prevents it from becoming activated. The soils are stable throughout the project area.

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

The only soil disturbance, or filling/grading proposed is within and adjacent to South Naches Channel. Five boulder weirs (rock bands) will be constructed downstream of the existing concrete check dam. Streambed gravels will be placed between the rock bands. The banks will be re-contoured to blend with surrounding banks and to facilitate improved plant growth. Large rootwads will be installed throughout the South Naches Channel to provide instream cover for aquatic species. All rock, wood, and plant materials will be obtained from local sources, within the Yakima Basin to the greatest extent possible.

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

There could be some erosion on the short term basis, during and immediately after construction, before the seed mix has been established to stabilize the disturbed soils. Best management practices will be applied to minimize erosion in the short term and it is unlikely in the long term.

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

Zero

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

The project will occur when flows are lower through the South Naches Channel, after irrigation season. The headgate at the upstream end of the channel can be manipulated to control the amount of flow through the channel to minimize the risks of high flows causing erosion during construction. Erosion control measures will be applied during implementation to prevent sediment plumes from entering the channel and the work area will be effectively isolated from flowing water. Immediately after construction, the area will be planted with woody species for long term stability and an erosion control seed mix for short term stabilization. The streambanks may be covered with mulch or erosion control fabric as well to minimize the risks of erosion.

2. Air

a. What types of emissions to the air would result from the proposal (i.e., dust, automobile, odors, industrial wood smoke) during construction and when the project is completed? If any, generally describe and give approximate quantities if known.

Emissions from heavy equipment (tracked excavators, dump trucks, generators, pumps) and vehicles on site will increase during construction. There will likely be a slight increase in dust during this time as well.

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:

Construction is not expected to take more than three weeks to finish and engines will be turned off when not in use. Dust will be minimized with the use of a water truck if it becomes a problem.

3. Water

a. Surface:

- 1) Is there any surface water body on or in the immediate vicinity of the site (including year-round and seasonal streams, saltwater, lakes, ponds, wetlands)? If yes, describe type and provide names. If appropriate, state what stream or river it flows into.

Work will occur in South Naches Channel, a relict side channel of the Naches River managed as an irrigation diversion. Lewis Ditch is a small diversion off of South Naches Channel.

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, all work will occur in and adjacent to the South Naches Channel. Rock bands and large wood will be constructed instream, banks will be regraded and planted. During construction, temporary coffer dams will help to isolate the work area from flowing water.

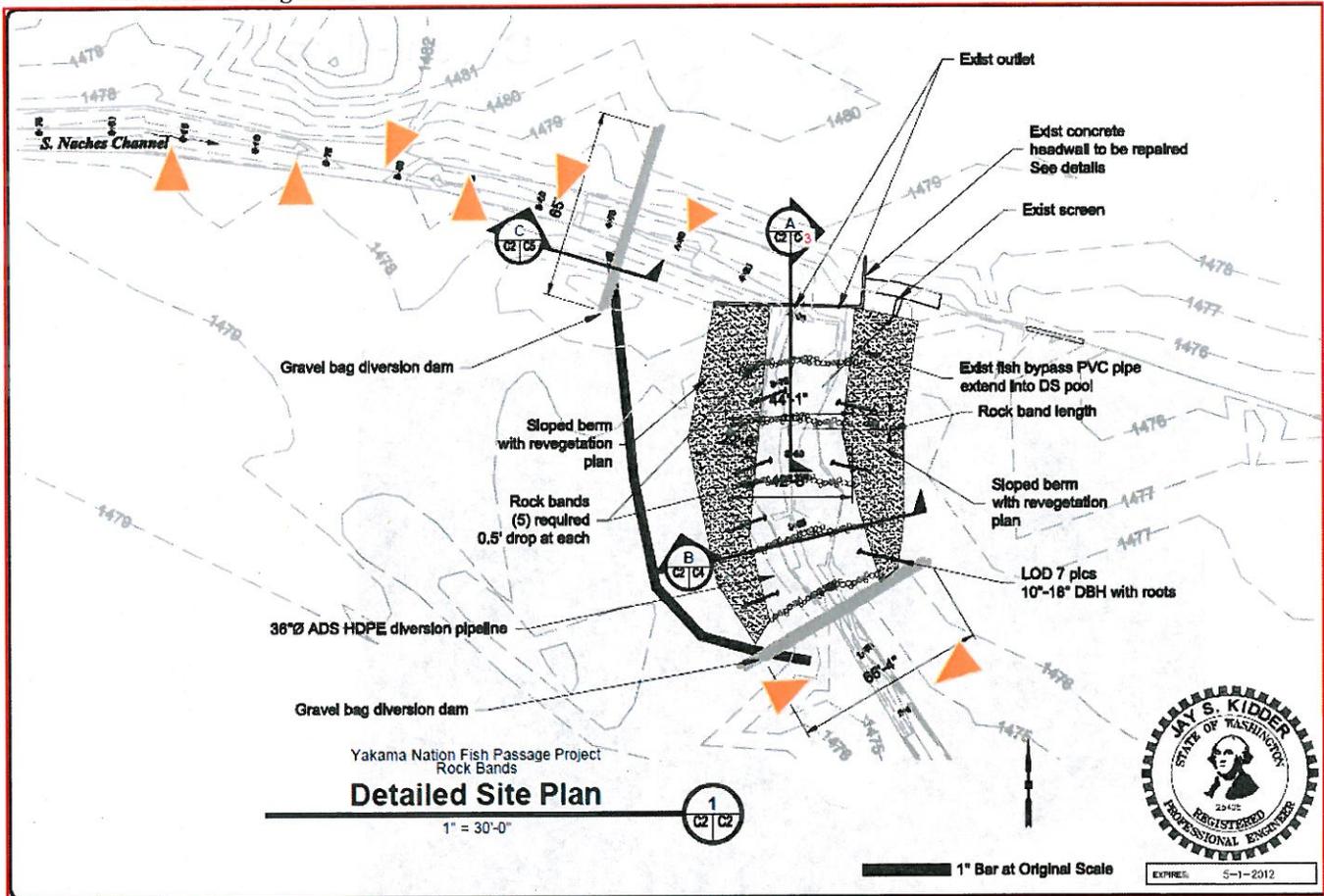


Figure 2. This is the plan view for the proposed fish passage portion of the project at the 30% design level. The orange triangles represent potential locations for Large wood structures shown in Figure 3.

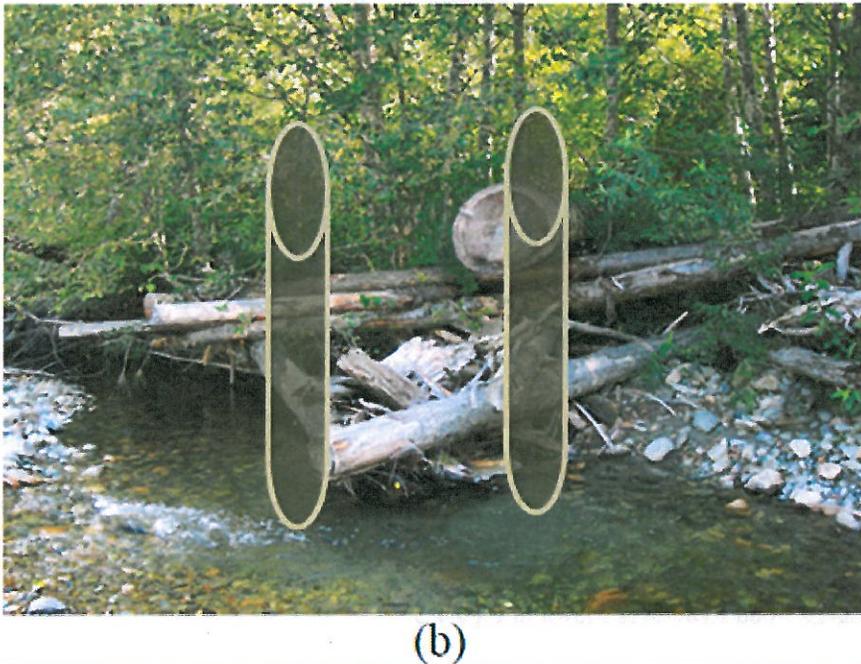
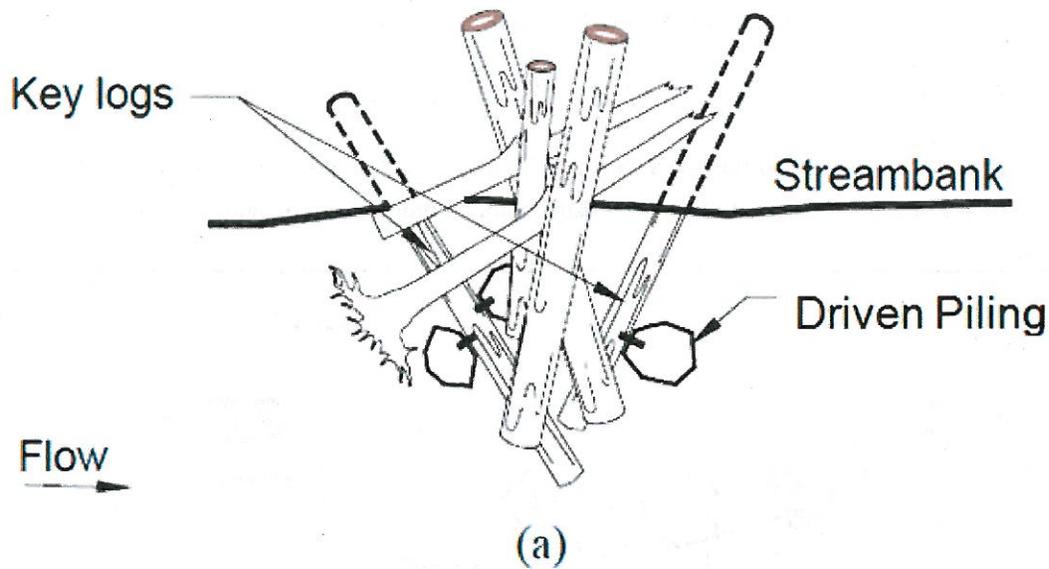


Figure 3. This shows one of the typical large wood installations for the proposed project. Pilings have not been shown on this image, but will be used in the proposed project to stabilize the structures and prevent them from floating downstream. No excavation is required for construction of these structures.

- 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.

We estimate that about 250 cy of material will be excavated during construction of the instream structures and recontoured banks (all will be used as backfill and will remain on site). Roughly 300 cubic yards of streambed gravels, fill for the subgrade, and large boulders will be installed to provide fish passage at this site. All rock material will come from local quarries within the Yakima Basin.

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

Flow in the South Naches Channel will temporarily be diverted around the active worksite as shown in Figure 2 during construction. The adjudicated water rights within the South Naches Channel and Lewis Ditch will not change with implementation of this project.

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

Part of the project area is mapped as the Naches River Floodway, and part of the floodplain (Figure 3).

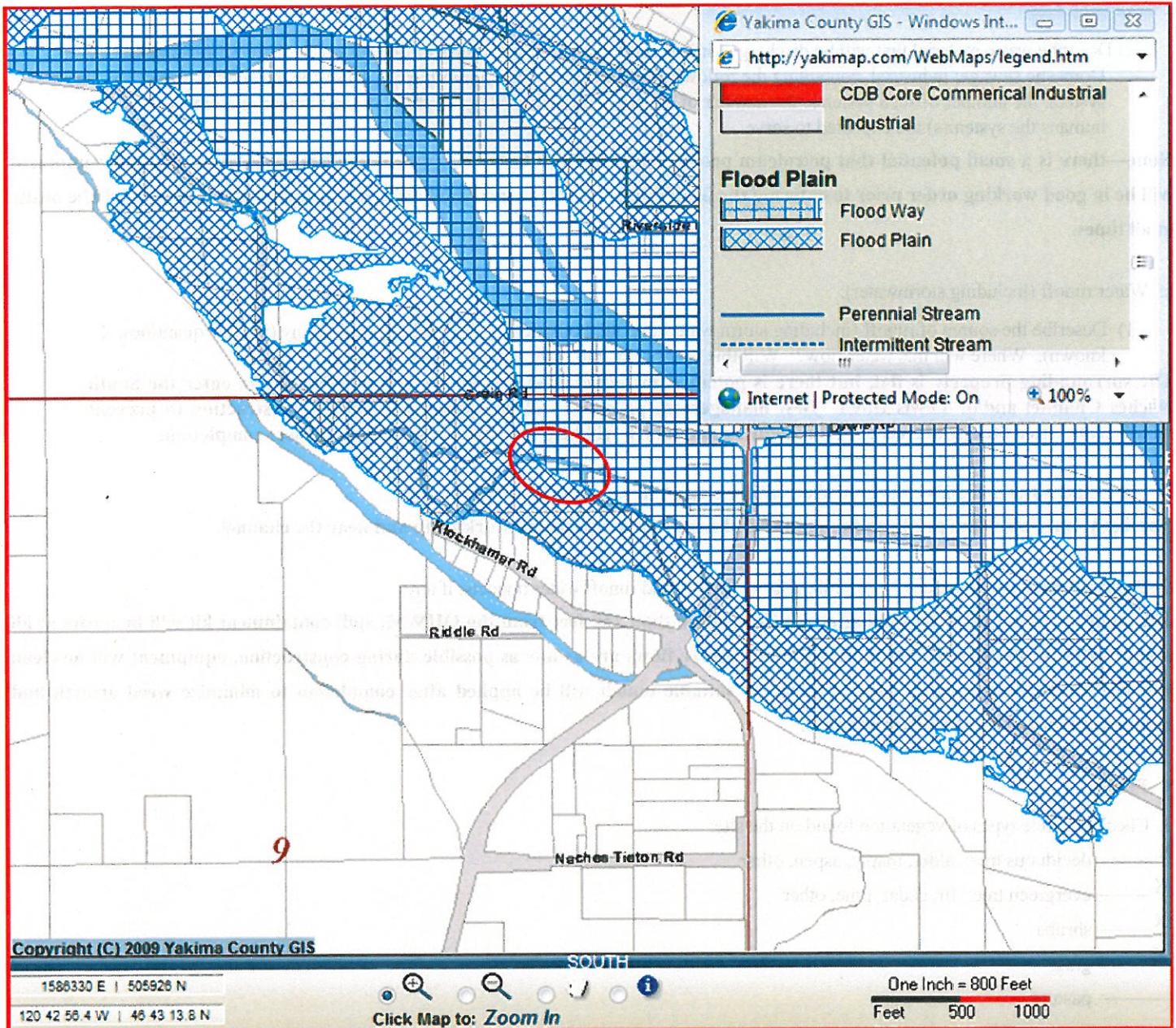


Figure 3. This map shows the project area (circled in red) and the Naches River Floodway and floodplain, as mapped by Yakima County on www.yakimap.com.

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, minor turbidity increases may occur during construction, but there will be no discharges of waste materials of any kind during construction or upon completion.

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.

None—there is a small potential that petroleum products leaked from heavy equipment could be present on site, but equipment will be in good working order prior to entering the project area, it will be inspected daily, and a spill containment kit will be onsite at all times.

c. Water runoff (including stormwater):

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

The surrounding property is flat, but there is potential for runoff water from the construction site to enter the South Naches Channel and/or Lewis Ditch. Best management practices will be applied throughout construction to prevent runoff from enter the surface water. Revegetation and mulch will help stabilize the soils upon project completion.

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

Not likely, but petroleum products could be leaked from heavy equipment working in and near the channel.

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

The equipment and material staging area will be more than 150 feet from the OHWM, spill containment kit will be onsite at all times, water in the channel will be managed to ensure flows are as low as possible during construction, equipment will be clean and well maintained, erosion control fabric or suitable mulch will be applied after completion to minimize weed growth and reduce erosion on recently disturbed soils.

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?

Disturbance to existing woody riparian vegetation will be minimal. Very few trees are present within the project area. Native shrubs (mostly woods rose) will be cut off if necessary so that they regrow. Where bank disturbance is required, clumps of native vegetataion will be transplanted. Most of the disturbance will occur to non-native species such as reed canary grass.

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

Ute Ladies'-tresses are listed in Yakima County, but none are known to occur. Previous disturbance and the arid environment make them unlikely to be present at this site.

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

Fast growing annual grasses may be used to temporarily stabilize the soils, otherwise, only native plants will be used to revegetate the site. Riparian trees and shrubs will be planted throughout the reshaped banks near the rock bands as well as intermixed with the large wood structures. The property has been purchased and is managed to improve riparian and floodplain habitat for fish and wildlife.

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, small mammals

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

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

Middle Columbia River Steelhead and Columbia River Bull Trout could be present throughout the South Naches Channel.

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

For fish, the South Naches Channel functions as side channel habitat, providing valuable rearing habitat for juvenile salmonids- both resident and anadromous. Non-salmonid resident fishes likely reside in the South Naches Channel on a rear-round basis. For birds and other wildlife, the property may serve as a resting area during migrations. It's close proximity to the Naches River and lack of development on the property likely make this valuable wildlife habitat.

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

Implementation of the proposed project will ensure fish are able to successfully migrate upstream of the existing Lewis Ditch check dam at all flows, providing them access to about a mile of additional side channel habitat. Installing large wood structures will improve the habitat complexity and provide instream and overhead cover for aquatic species. Native vegetation will benefit aquatic and terrestrial 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.

None needed

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.

These risks exist on any construction site, and best management practices will be applied to minimize the risks to ensure the safety of those on site and the environment.

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

Emergency medical responders could be required including ambulances, Yakima County Sheriff's Office, or the Fire Department. In the event of a petroleum spill, Ecology, Department of the Military, and WDFW may respond.

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

Best management practices to prevent a petroleum spill have been detailed in this checklist already. All state, local and federal laws will be applied to ensure a safe working environment during implementation and restoration of this project.

b. Noise

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

Noise from nearby roads and rural lifestyles surround the site, but will not affect this 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.

There will be no long term change in the noise level associated with implementation of this project. Short term increases will result from heavy equipment, tractors, trucks, generators, and pumps on site. Construction will likely occur on normal business days during daylight hours.

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

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 property is actively being restored to native upland grasses to control invasive species. There has been some native plants planted along the streambanks.

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

Yes, prior to its purchase, the property was irrigated for hay and pasture production.

- c. Describe any structures on the site.

The Lewis Ditch checkdam, headgate, fish screen and bypass pipe, and earthen ditch are within the project area.

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

No, the fish screen bypass pipe will be reset to ensure it continues to operate in NMFS and WDFW criteria.

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

Remote/Extremely Limited Development Potential and Valley Rural

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

Rural Remote/Limited Development and Rural Self-Sufficient

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.

All fish bearing waters should be treated as environmentally sensitive areas.

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:

Not Applicable

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

All necessary state, local, and federal authorizations, permits, and reviews will occur. The proposed project will enhance the existing channel and riparian habitat, but overall land use will not change.

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?

Not Applicable

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

No views would be obstructed, native vegetation should enhance the aesthetics of the rural area.

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

Native vegetation will help return the property to a more natural state, likely increasing fish and wildlife viewing opportunities.

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?

Not Applicable

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?

This project is located on lands owned by the Yakama Nation; it is not open to the public for recreation as it is actively being restored. Recreational activities along the Naches River nearby include fishing, swimming, boating, and rafting.

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

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, but an archeological survey took place and we are currently consulting with SHPO and THPO under the National Historic Preservation Act Section 106.

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

We will follow NHPA Section 106 and any recommendations made by the survey archaeologist, SHPO, or THPO.

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 property is located just off of Craig Road, near South Naches Road.

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

No, more than 1 mile.

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

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:

Not Applicable

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.

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.

Not Applicable

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: Harry Smith

Date Submitted: 08-02-11

