

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:

Caribou Creek Fish Passage Project

2. Name of applicant:

Kittitas County Conservation District (KCCD)

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

Anna Lael, District Manager

607 East Mountain View

Ellensburg, WA 98926

(509) 925-8585 x4

a-lael@conservewa.net

4. Date checklist prepared:

August 9, 2013

5. Agency requesting checklist:

WDFW

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

Work will occur after irrigation season from October thru February beginning in 2013 through 2016.

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

No

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

Engineering Drawings

Cultural and Historical Survey Report

Permit Applications

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.

SEPA

Hydraulic Project Approval (HPA) from WDFW

Construction Stormwater Permit from Ecology (depending on final design and footprint)

Kittitas County Floodplain Development Permit

Kittitas County SMP/CAO Approval

CWA Section 404 Permit from US Army Corps of Engineers

CWA Section 401 Permit from Ecology

ESA Section 7 Consultation with USFWS and NOAA Fisheries

NHPA Section 106 Consultation with SHPO and THPOs

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.)

A concrete and wooden irrigation dam will be removed to restore fish passage in Caribou Creek with implementation of this project. The dam was used to divert irrigation water via gravity flow down an unscreened, unmetered, and unlined ditch. Irrigation improvement projects have converted the property to a pressurized piped system directly from Ellensburg Water Company's main canal and the gravity diversion and associated dam is no longer necessary.

The project will result in removing a point of diversion from Caribou Creek and restoring fish passage through this reach.

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 fish passage barrier is located in Caribou Creek, downstream of the intersection with Denmark Road and downstream of Ellensburg Water Company's main canal. The project area is southwest of the town of Kittitas, WA in Kittitas County. Caribou Creek is a tributary to Parke Creek, which is a tributary to Cherry Creek, which is a tributary to Wilson Creek, which flows into the Yakima River in WRIA 39.

- 1) Caribou Creek stream mile 1.92
- 2) 1161 Denmark Road Ellensburg, WA 98926
- 3) Parcels # 460233 and 430233
- 4) SE ¼ Section 15, Township 17, Range 19
- 5) 46.9622; -120.43528

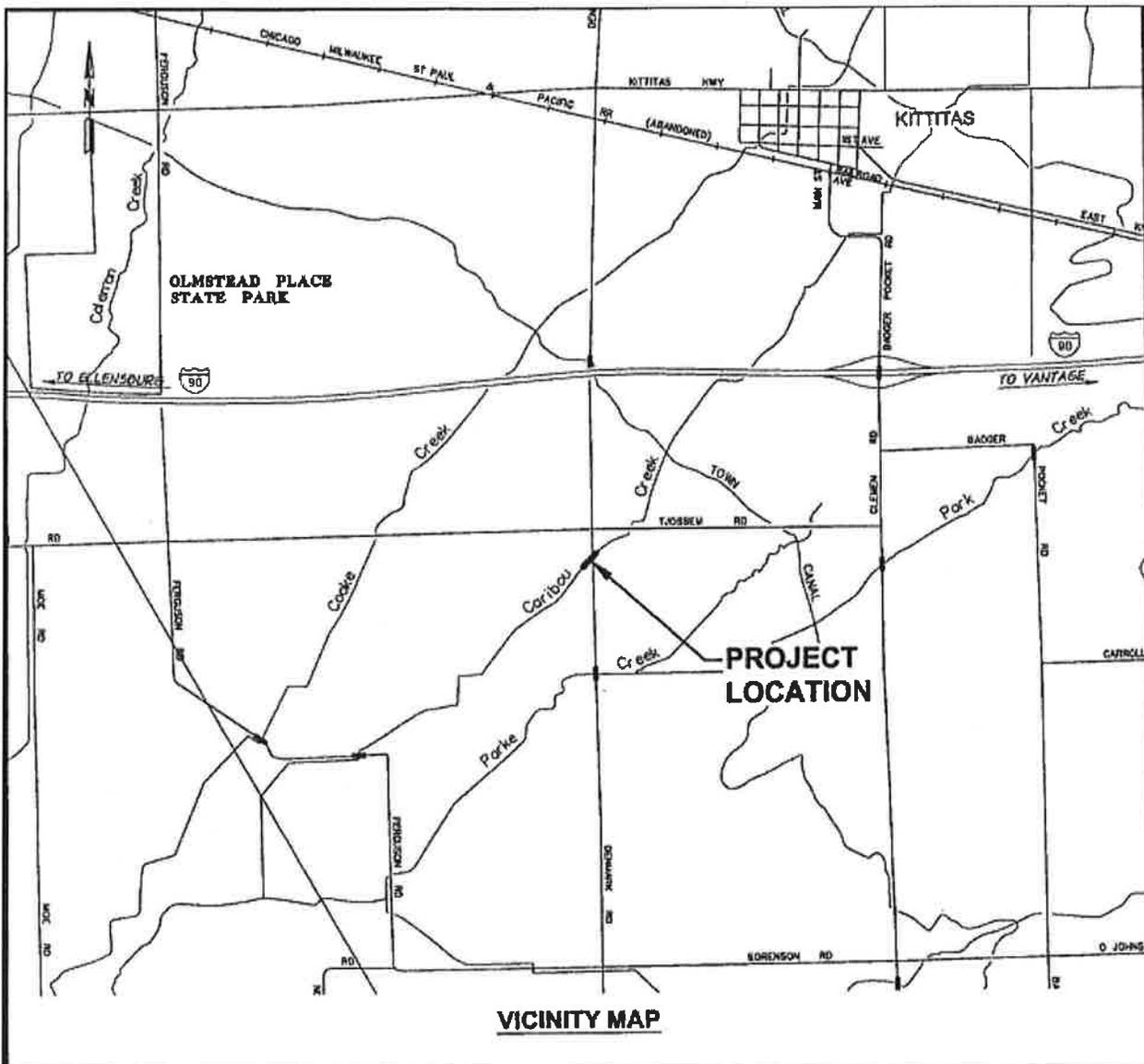


Figure 1. Vicinity Map of proposed project location on Caribou Creek.

B. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS

1. Earth

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

b. What is the steepest slope on the site (approximate percent slope)?
 Less than 2%

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

Opnish ashy loam—classified as prime farmland if irrigated and the project area is irrigated and used for commercial agricultural production.

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

Very little, there is minor bank erosion immediately downstream of the diversion dam where high flows plunging over the dam have scoured the banks.

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

Most of the filling and grading is addressed under "Water" below, but a temporary stream bypass channel will be excavated and backfilled around the work site. Approximately 150 cubic yards of material will be excavated for the project, and about 200 cubic yards of material will be backfilled and placed. Native material will be used for backfill in addition to boulders, cobbles, and gravels. Rootwads will also be placed along the stream banks for habitat complexity and additional stability. Boulders and imported rock will come from nearby quarries.

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

There is a chance that erosion could result from construction of the project. Removal of the concrete dam and regrading the banks to more natural contours could result in minor, short term erosion. Construction of the temporary stream bypass system also has the chance of leading to erosion if not decommissioned and backfilled appropriately when construction is complete.

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:

The area of disturbance will be minimized to the greatest extent possible and best management practices will be applied during construction as well as afterwards to protect against short term and long term erosion impacts. The temporary stream bypass will be compacted and armored as necessary to ensure Caribou Creek does not avulse into the construction bypass route. Banks and disturbed areas will be seeded with seed mixes compatible with surrounding crops and/or native seed mix along the stream banks. Native woody vegetation will be planted along the streambanks as well. Straw matting or other similar mulch will be applied to stream banks to protect against short term 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 (excavators, dump trucks, loaders, etc.) during construction and vehicular traffic of the workers, engineers, and construction supervisors will increase during project implementation. Working after irrigation season will reduce the dust during construction and water trucks can be used if necessary to reduce dust. None of the emissions from the project will likely result in a measurable increase from existing conditions and there will be no long term increase in emissions.

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:

All equipment will be turned off when not in use and water trucks will be used if dust becomes a problem during construction.

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.

All work will occur in and around Caribou Creek, a tributary to Parke Creek which is a tributary to Cherry Creek, which is a tributary to Wilson Creek, and ultimately the Upper 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, all work will occur in and around Caribou 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.

A roughened channel will be constructed once the existing concrete dam is removed to ensure Caribou Creek does not become more incised and/or create a headcut that would create new fish passage barriers or compromise Denmark Road Bridge immediately upstream. Large boulders will be placed in stream with smaller, graded mixed material to help seal the bed. All material will come from nearby quarries. Large rootwads will be installed along the banks for additional stability and to provide instream habitat for fish. In total, approximately 150 cubic yards of material will be excavated and about 200 cubic yards of material will be backfilled and/or added to the project area.

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

No, construction work areas will be temporarily routed around the construction site to protect water quality during construction, but no new withdrawals or diversions are proposed. The water associated with the diversion to be removed will now be delivered via pipeline directly from Ellensburg Water Company's main canal.

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

Yes, all of the proposed work will be within the 100 year floodplain of Caribou Creek.

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

There will be no discharges of waste materials. There may be accidental spills or leaks from heavy equipment, but a spill containment kit will be onsite at all times and equipment will be checked and cleaned regularly to minimize these risks.

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.

Not Applicable

- 2) Describe waste material that will be discharged into the ground from septic tanks or other sources, if any (for example: Domestic sewage; industrial, containing the following chemicals. . . ; agricultural; etc.). Describe the general size of the system, the number of such systems, the number of houses to be served (if applicable), or the number of animals or humans the system(s) are expected to serve.

Not Applicable

c. Water runoff (including stormwater):

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

There is a chance that stormwater could enter Caribou Creek during construction of this project. The surrounding topography is flat and the soils hold moisture well so there is not likely to be lots of surface water runoff entering the creek. During construction and during site restoration, best management practices will be applied to ensure any stormwater is captured and filtered prior to reentering Caribou Creek.

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

Although unlikely, it is possible that petroleum leaks or spills could enter surface water while heavy equipment is working in and near the stream.

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

Equipment will be well maintained and in good working order prior to entering the project site and it will be checked daily for leaks. A spill containment kit will be kept on site at all times during construction and the staging/refueling area will be located away from the flowing stream. Silt fencing, straw wattles, and/or other suitable erosion control practices will be applied throughout the construction areas to prevent stormwater from entering Caribou Creek. Turbid water associated with construction will be pumped upland away from surface waters to slowly filter out overland before returning to the stream.

4. Plants

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

_____ deciduous tree: alder, maple, aspen, other: willow

_____ evergreen tree: fir, cedar, pine, other

_____ shrubs

_____ grass

_____ pasture

_____ crop or grain

_____ wet soil plants: cattail, buttercup, bullrush, skunk cabbage, other

_____ water plants: water lily, eelgrass, milfoil, other

_____ other types of vegetation

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

There non-native willow hybrid trees that may be removed during removal of the concrete structure and construction of the roughened channel. Construction of the temporary stream bypass structures will result in removal of field crops and reseeding them upon completion.

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

Ute ladies'-tresses are listed in Kittitas County, but none have been documented in the County and are unlikely to be present within the project areas due to the heavy disturbance and altered hydrograph of the area.

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

Native seed mixes and native woody vegetation will be planted along the streambanks where disturbance occurs. Established native vegetation will be avoided wherever possible to minimize disturbance.

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 furbearers
fish: bass, salmon, trout, herring, shellfish, other: native minnows, sculpins, whitefish

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

Middle Columbia River Steelhead

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

Yes, resident and anadromous fish migrate through this project reach even though there are partial barriers downstream. Downstream "barriers" likely do not impeded adult steelhead passage into the project area.

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

The project is proposed and designed to improve fish habitat by removing a man-made barrier and a diversion on the stream. Rootwads will be installed to improve instream structure and habitat for fish. Best management practices will be applied throughout construction to minimize disturbance to the stream and aquatic organisms and to enhance the existing habitat in Caribou Creek. Native vegetation will be planted along the streambanks and the new roughened channel will provide fish passage for all species and life stages.

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.

Temporary generators may be used to provide power for pumps; there will be no long term need for energy at the site associated with barrier removal.

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 all machinery will be adequately sized to match the needs during construction and there will be no long term needs for energy at the sites.

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.

Petroleum spills or accidents associated with construction are possible but unlikely during implementation.

1) Describe special emergency services that might be required.

Spill response from the Washington Departments of Military, Ecology, and Fish and Wildlife and/or emergency response from Kittitas County Sheriff, Fire Districts, or Ambulance service

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

Extreme care will be taken to provide a safe work area during construction and all federal, state, and local safety laws will be followed. Refueling and maintenance of equipment will occur away from the flowing stream to minimize risks of spills into the flowing water and equipment will be kept in good working order and checked daily for leaks.

b. Noise

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

None

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.

In the short term, noise from construction activities (excavators, loaders, dump trucks, etc.) will increase but there will be no long term changes to the noise in the area. Construction activities will occur during daylight hours on normal working days (Monday thru Friday) and on weekends if necessary to secure the work area in preparation for storms or high flows.

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

All equipment will be turned off when not in use and neighbors will be consulted prior to work beginning. Work will occur during daylight hours and normal business days unless extenuating circumstances apply.

8. Land and shoreline use

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

Current land use is commercial agriculture-mostly irrigated hay production with a rural home and outbuildings located near the existing diversion. Surrounding property is also in irrigated agricultural production.

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

Yes, the project reach is within a commercial agricultural area that has been farmed for at least 50 years.

c. Describe any structures on the site.

The concrete diversion structure with wooden dam boards diverts water into an existing pipe to the place of use. Denmark Road Bridge is about 70 feet upstream of the existing diversion structure. A home and outbuildings are located near the diversion structure on the left bank.

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

Yes, the concrete structure will be removed from the stream and banks.

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

Commercial Ag

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

Commercial Ag

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

Not applicable

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

Caribou Creek is a water of the State and is fish bearing and should be treated as an environmentally sensitive area.

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

No changes

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:
Project sponsors have been working with local, state, and federal regulatory agencies in planning this project and will apply for and abide by all permits and authorizations required to remove fish passage barriers in fish bearing waters of the state.

9. Housing

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

None, not applicable

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

None, not applicable

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

None, 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?

No structure will be taller than the surrounding streambanks upon project completion.

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

None

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

Disturbed areas will be minimized as much as possible during construction and upon completion all disturbed areas will be stabilized and planted with native vegetation where appropriate and compatible crops seeded in areas of field disturbance. The unnatural concrete structure will be removed from the stream.

11. Light and glare

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

Glare from construction equipment and/or plastic sheeting used during construction could occur during project implementation. This will occur during daylight hours.

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

There will be no light or glare that results from the finished project.

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

None, not applicable

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

None, not applicable

12. Recreation

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

This is private property without public access. Landowners may fish or swim in Caribou Creek.

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:

Work will be coordinated with private landowners to minimize their impacts on recreational uses.

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.

The concrete structure has been recorded with the state but does not qualify for the National Register. A lithic artifact was encountered during the archaeological survey and was recorded but it's not eligible for the National Register either.

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

Some irrigation diversions are considered historic because they are older than 50 years old and are part of the agricultural development of the Kittitas Valley but the structures has been significantly modified more recently. NHPA Section 106 consultation is complete for this project.

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

Excavation will cease and authorities will be contacted if artifacts, bones, or other cultural resources are discovered.

14. Transportation

a. Identify public streets and highways serving the site, and describe proposed access to the existing street system. Show on site plans, if any.

The project will be accessed from Denmark Road; a rural road in Kittitas County.

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

No, the City of Ellensburg has the nearest public transit.

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

None, 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:

Any oversized load permits or other authorizations will be obtained from Kittitas County if necessary.

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, not applicable

16. Utilities

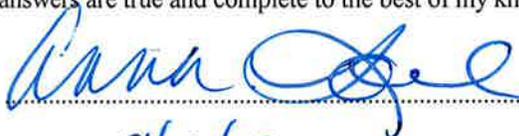
a. Circle utilities currently available at the site: electricity, natural gas, water, refuse service, telephone, sanitary sewer, septic system, other.

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.

None, 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: 

Date Submitted: 8/13/13