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:
   Similkameen – Chopaka WLA Access and Trails

2. Name of applicant: Jim Olson, WDFW Wildlife Area Manager
3. Address and phone number of applicant and contact person:

   1514 Conconully Road

   509-826-4430

   Jim Olson

4. Date checklist prepared: 9/5/2013
5. Agency requesting checklist: WDFW
6. Proposed timing or schedule (including phasing, if applicable):

   We will begin with demolition of corrals and site prep in November 2013, pending SEPA and Cultural Resource Survey. Begin road and parking lot construction May, 2014. Completed project by November 2014.

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. Cultural Resource surveys will be scheduled by fall 2013 if possible.

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.

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

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.)

WDFW proposes to improve the access road from Chopaka road to a new 9 car graveled parking area adjacent to the oxbow pond. The parking will include 1 stall for ADA accessibility. From this site a short ADA trail (200 feet) will lead to a new viewing blind overlooking the pond. From the other side of the parking area a short access path to the pond will be constructed for launching small boats. The new parking will have a two rail wood fence and reader board installed. The 10 acre site will be cleared of weeds and debris, chemical fallowed and seeded to a native grass mix. 4.5 miles of trails will be cleared of debris, mowed and sprayed to remove noxious weeds where needed. Trail markers will be used to identify the route; however no soil disturbance will occur. These trails will mostly follow existing two track field roads.

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.
14 miles west of Oroville Washington, in T40N, R26E, S8, Government Lot 3. (Maps attached).

B. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS

1. **Earth**

a. General description of the site (circle one): Flat, rolling, hilly, steep slopes, mountainous, other . . . . . .The access road is slightly sloped down to the flat parking area. The rest of the project is Flat.

b. What is the steepest slope on the site (approximate percent slope)? 5%.

c. What general types of soils are found on the site (for example, clay, sand, gravel, peat, muck)? If you know the classification of agricultural soils, specify them and note any prime farmland. Primarily Sandy Loam (Soil Survey map attached). The parking and road access will not affect prime farmland. Trials will use existing farm roads and not disturb soils.

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. Commercial crushed rock will be delivered for parking and road surface. No fill for trails.

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

No. The slope is negligible and not on loose farmed fields.

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:

None expected.

a. **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. Dust may be produced during road and parking construction. No emissions will occur after the construction period.

b. Are there any off-site sources of emissions or odor that may affect your proposal? If so, generally describe. None.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control emissions or other impacts to air, if any: None necessary.

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, parking, ADA trail and viewing blind and small boat launching will occur adjacent to an unnamed pond, which is an oxbow of the Similkameen River. The Similkameen flows into the Okanogan River at Oroville.

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. Parking improvements will be adjacent to the described waters. Map attached.

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. None.

4) Will the proposal require surface water withdrawals or diversions? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known. None.

5) Does the proposal lie within a 100-year floodplain? If so, note location on the site plan. Location is noted on the attached site plan. The entire valley floor is flat, however the parking site is slightly elevated. Not sure if it is in a 100 year floodplain.

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. None.

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. Runoff and storm water should peculate. The entire project is pervious.

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: None needed.

4. **Plants**

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

X deciduous tree: alder, maple, aspen, other

——— evergreen tree: fir, cedar, pine, other

X shrubs

X grass

X 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? Noxious weeds will be mowed, sprayed and chem fallowed until a native grass seed mix can be planted. No other plant removal should be necessary.

c. List threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the site. None known.

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

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:

X birds: hawk, heron, eagle, songbirds, other: Waterfowl, upland birds
X mammals: deer, bear, elk, beaver, other: Cougar, bobcat
X fish: bass, salmon, trout, herring, shellfish, other:

b. List any threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the site. Possibly Grey Wolves traveling through.

c. Is the site part of a migration route? If so, explain. The valley provides a north/south migration corridor for neo-tropical birds and waterfowl. Mule Deer migrate south through this valley if winter conditions are severe.

d. Proposed measures to preserve or enhance wildlife, if any: No trees or shrubs will be removed. A wildlife viewing blind is planned on the banks of the pond, where numerous waterfowl congregate in the spring. Trails are planned on the old Railroad grade, adjacent to good Riparian habitat. This should enhance bird viewing possibilities.

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: None needed.

7. **Environmental health**

a. Are there any environmental health hazards, including exposure to toxic chemicals, risk of fire and explosion, spill, or hazardous waste, that could occur as a result of this proposal? If so, describe. The use of herbicides could potentially harm the environment. Our crews are skilled and experienced and will spray at appropriate times and will stay away from surface water.

1) Describe special emergency services that might be required. None.

2) Proposed measures to reduce or control environmental health hazards, if any: None needed.

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. Road and parking construction will produce noise. Potentially between 8 5, Monday through Friday.

3) Proposed measures to reduce or control noise impacts, if any: Confine to daylight hours. No long term noise will be produced.

8. **Land and shoreline use**

a. What is the current use of the site and adjacent properties? Current use is DFW access site in need of improvements. Adjacent land is state wildlife area. Private lands in the valley are used for hay and cattle production.

b. Has the site been used for agriculture? If so, describe. Yes, hay production adjacent to the parking area, and corrals built to manage cattle.

c. Describe any structures on the site. Corrals and loading chute.

d. Will any structures be demolished? If so, what? Yes, part of the corrals will be demolished and part retained for use by the existing lessee.

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

f. What is the current comprehensive plan designation of the site? Not known.

g. If applicable, what is the current shoreline master program designation of the site? Not known.

h. Has any part of the site been classified as an "environmentally sensitive" area? If so, specify. Wetlands adjacent to the project site would be "sensitive".

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: None

l. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with existing and projected land uses and plans, if any: The proposal will enhance public access, trails, water access and ADA opportunities. All of which are included in the Similkameen – Chopaka Wildlife Area Management Plan.

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: None

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? 6 feet tall with cedar siding exterior.

b. What views in the immediate vicinity would be altered or obstructed? None, the wildlife viewing blind will enhance viewing.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control aesthetic impacts, if any: None

11. **Light and glare**

a. What type of light or glare will the proposal produce? What time of day would it mainly occur? None

b. Could light or glare from the finished project be a safety hazard or interfere with views? No

c. What existing off-site sources of light or glare may affect your proposal? None

d. Proposed measures to reduce or control light and glare impacts, if any: None

12. **Recreation**

a. What designated and informal recreational opportunities are in the immediate vicinity? Hunting, fishing, hiking and biking.

b. Would the proposed project displace any existing recreational uses? If so, describe. No, it will enhance access.

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. None

b. Generally describe any landmarks or evidence of historic, archaeological, scientific, or cultural importance known to be on or next to the site. None, but a cultural resource survey will be performed prior to any ground disturbing activities.

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

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. Chopaka Road is a county maintained gravel surface road. We will improve the gravel access road leading to the parking area.

b. Is site currently served by public transit? If not, what is the approximate distance to the nearest transit stop? No. 3 miles to a school bus stop. No county transportation available.

c. How many parking spaces would the completed project have? How many would the project eliminate? The project will add 9 parking spaces, one with ADA accessibility.

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). A public access road and the parking area are both improvements to existing conditions.

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. The condition exists now, we are just enhancing the public facility.

g. Proposed measures to reduce or control transportation impacts, if any: None

15. **Public services**

a. Would the project result in an increased need for public services (for example: fire protection, police protection, health care, schools, other)? If so, generally describe. No

b. Proposed measures to reduce or control direct impacts on public services, if any. None

16. **Utilities**

a. Circle utilities currently available at the site: electricity, natural gas, water, refuse service, telephone, sanitary sewer, septic system, other. None

b. Describe the utilities that are proposed for the project, the utility providing the service, and the general construction activities on the site or in the immediate vicinity which might be needed. None

C. SIGNATURE

The above answers are true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that the lead agency is relying on them to make its decision.

Signature: .....

Date Submitted: 9/6/2013 .....

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?

Proposed measures to avoid or reduce such increases are:

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

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

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

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

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?

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

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?

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

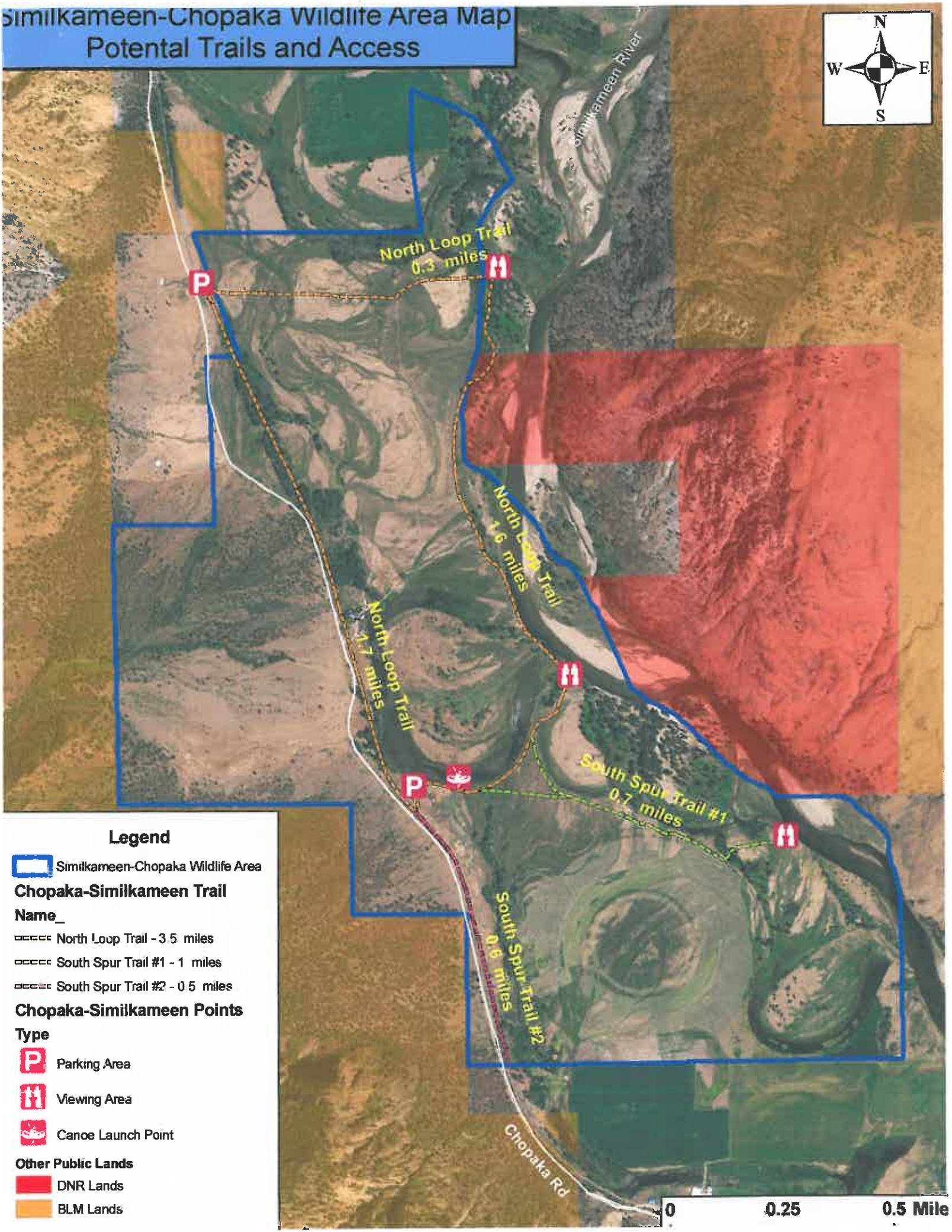
6. How would the proposal be likely to increase demands on transportation or public services and utilities?

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

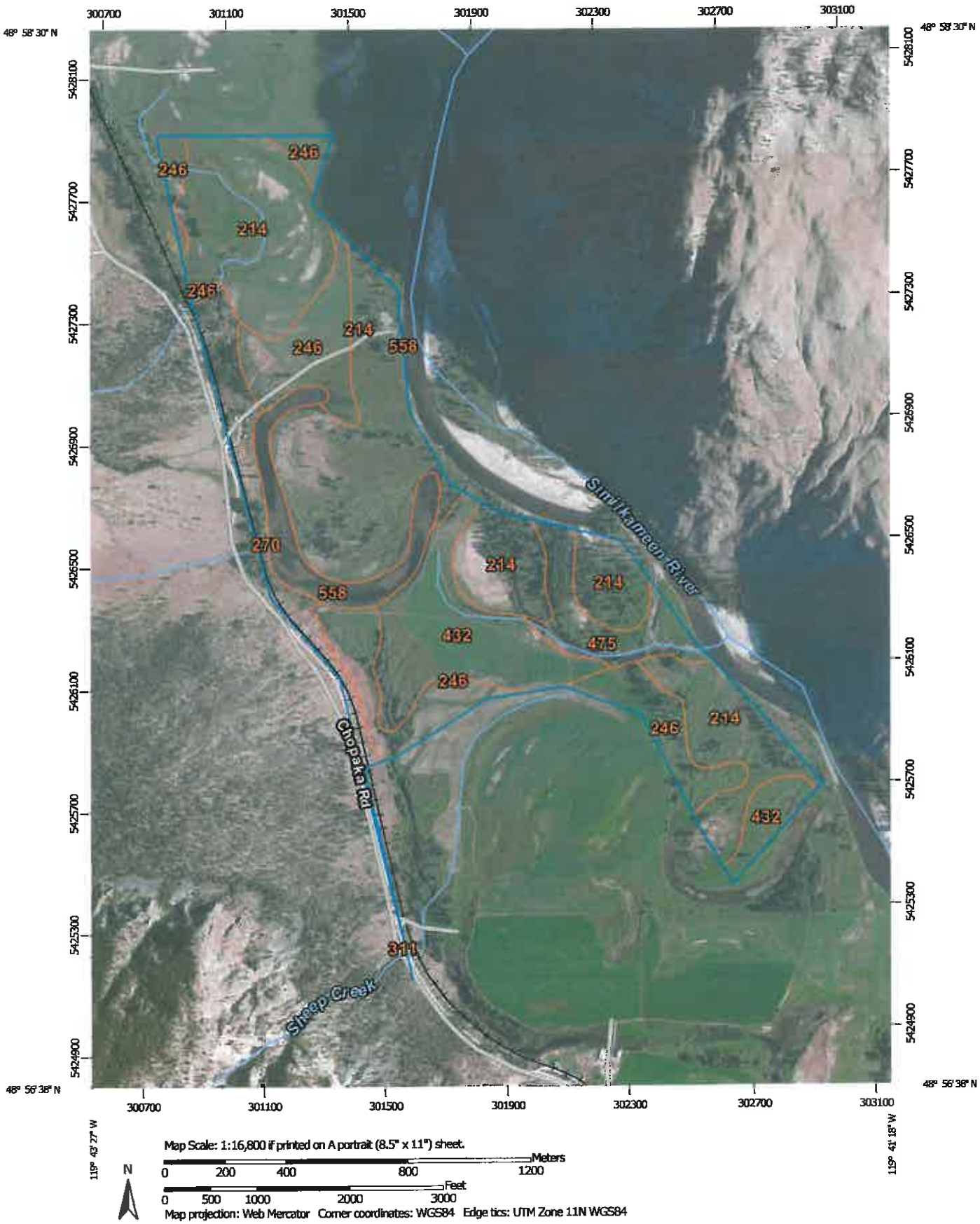
7. Identify, if possible, whether the proposal may conflict with local, state, or federal laws or requirements for the protection of the environment.

12-1339 Similkameen River Chopaka Trail

Site Map


Similkameen-Chopaka Wildlife Area Map
Potental Trails and Access
N
W
E
S
Similkameen River
North Loop Trail
0.3 miles
North Loop Trail
1.6 miles
North Loop Trail
1.7 miles
South Spur Trail #1
0.7 miles
South Spur Trail #2
0.6 miles
Chopaka Rd
P
P
Legend
Similkameen-Chopaka Wildlife Area
Chopaka-Similkameen Trail
Name_
North Loop Trail - 3 5 miles
South Spur Trail #1 - 1 miles
South Spur Trail #2 - 0 5 miles
Chopaka-Similkameen Points
Type
Parking Area
Viewing Area
Canoe Launch Point
Other Public Lands
DNR Lands
BLM Lands
0
0.25
0.5 Mile


This portion of the corrals will be demolished, weeds eradicted, and the new 9-car parking area developed. A short ADA trail and viewing blind will be built on the bank of the pond, and an area for picnic tables landscaping will be added.
08/28/2012


119° 43' 27" W
119° 41' 18" W
48° 58' 30" N
48° 56' 38" N
300700
301100
301500
301900
302300
302700
303100
5428100
5427700
5427300
5426900
5426500
5426100
5425700
5425300
5424900
246
214
270
558
432
475
311
Similkameen River
Chopaka Rd
Sheep Creek
Map Scale: 1:16,800 if printed on A portrait (8.5" x 11") sheet.
Meters
0 200 400 800 1200
Feet
0 500 1000 2000 3000
N
Map projection: Web Mercator Corner coordinates: WGS84 Edge tics: UTM Zone 11N WGS84

Map Unit Legend

Okanogan County Area, Washington (WA649)			
Map Unit Symbol	**Map Unit Name**	**Acres in AOI**	**Percent of AOI**
214	Boesel fine sandy loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes	212.4	48.5%
246	Colville silt loam, moderately wet, 0 to 3 percent slopes	82.0	18.7%
270	Donavan ashy loam, 0 to 25 percent slopes, extremely stony	30.5	7.0%
311	Kartar cobbly ashy sandy loam, 0 to 25 percent slopes, extremely stony	0.1	0.0%
432	Okanogan loam, sandy substratum, 0 to 3 percent slopes	62.4	14.3%
475	Riverwash	24.4	5.6%
558	Water	25.9	5.9%
Totals for Area of Interest		**437.6**	**100.0%**

MAP LEGEND

Area of Interest (AOI)
- Area of Interest (AOI)

Soils
- Soil Map Unit Polygons
- Soil Map Unit Lines
- Soil Map Unit Points

Special Point Features
- Blowout
- Borrow Pit
- Clay Spot
- Closed Depression
- Gravel Pit
- Gravelly Spot
- Landfill
- Lava Flow
- Marsh or swamp
- Mine or Quarry
- Miscellaneous Water
- Perennial Water
- Rock Outcrop
- Saline Spot
- Sandy Spot
- Severely Eroded Spot
- Sinkhole
- Slide or Slip
- Sodic Spot
- Spoil Area
- Stony Spot
- Very Stony Spot
- Wet Spot
- Other
- Special Line Features

Water Features
- Streams and Canals

Transportation
- Rails
- Interstate Highways
- US Routes
- Major Roads
- Local Roads

Background
- Aerial Photography

MAP INFORMATION

The soil surveys that comprise your AOI were mapped at 1:24,000.

Please rely on the bar scale on each map sheet for map measurements.

Source of Map: Natural Resources Conservation Service
Web Soil Survey URL: http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov
Coordinate System: Web Mercator (EPSG:3857)

Maps from the Web Soil Survey are based on the Web Mercator projection, which preserves direction and shape but distorts distance and area. A projection that preserves area, such as the Albers equal-area conic projection, should be used if more accurate calculations of distance or area are required.

This product is generated from the USDA-NRCS certified data as of the version date(s) listed below.

Soil Survey Area: Okanogan County Area, Washington
Survey Area Data: Version 7, Jun 25, 2012

Soil map units are labeled (as space allows) for map scales 1:50,000 or larger.

Date(s) aerial images were photographed: Aug 6, 2011—Aug 8, 2011

The orthophoto or other base map on which the soil lines were compiled and digitized probably differs from the background imagery displayed on these maps. As a result, some minor shifting of map unit boundaries may be evident.