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:
Riparian and Wetland Habitat Improvement Project-Wapato Dam Access Site

2. Name of applicant:
WDFW

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

Eric Bartrand **alternate contact: Jennifer Scott**

1701 South 24th Avenue **(509) 457-9307**

Yakima, WA 98902

(509) 457-9310

4. Date checklist prepared:
June 6, 2008

5. Agency requesting checklist:
WDFW

6. Proposed timing or schedule (including phasing, if applicable):
This project would be completed between July 15 and November 15, 2008; project duration would not exceed one month.

7. Do you have any plans for future additions, expansion, or further activity related to or connected with this proposal? If yes, explain.
There are no plans at this time. Activities associated with this proposal would include maintenance or tweaking of the new structures to ensure proper functionality.

8. List any environmental information you know about that has been prepared, or will be prepared, directly related to this proposal.
Biological Assessment and Biological Opinions for the Wapato Irrigation Project (WIP) Flood Control Project
Environmental Compliance documentation and permits for WIP Flood Control Project (completed in 2007)
Biological Assessment for proposed project

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.
Endangered Species Act Section 7 from NMFS and USFWS
National Historic Preservation Act Section 106 from THPO and DAHP
NEPA
Clean Water Act Section 404 from US Army Corps of Engineers
Clean Water Act Section 401 from Washington Department of Ecology
Shoreline Substantial Development and Critical Areas Permits/Exemptions from Yakima County
Hydraulic Project Approval from Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Hydraulic Project Approval Permit from Yakama Nation

11. Give brief, complete description of your proposal, including the proposed uses and the size of the project and site. There are several questions later in this checklist that ask you to describe certain aspects of your proposal. You do not need to repeat those answers on this page. (Lead agencies may modify this form to include additional specific information on project description.)
This project will result in enhanced wetland and riparian function, as well as providing off channel rearing habitat for juvenile salmonids from the mainstem Yakima River. The proposed project consists of punching through the existing levee at the upstream and downstream ends of the project area. The upstream end will have a 42" culvert and the roadway on the levee will be restored over the culvert to maintain vehicular access. The downstream end of this inlet channel will have a grade control structure at the downstream end to backwater the culvert and reduce scour. There will be no excavation through the wetland/pond area. The outlet at the downstream end will have three grade control structures and the levee will be breached with a hardened ford constructed for vehicular access.

Prior to the construction of Interstate 82, this project site was an orchard. During construction of the freeway, this area was mined for gravel. The project location still has the depression from the gravel pit, but has naturally vegetated and retains groundwater; serving as a low quality wetland. The proposed project will enable perennial flow through the pond and over land. Additionally, the proposed project will result in two "open" locations within the existing levee, allowing the Yakima River more access to its floodplain.

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.

- **Yakima River, downstream East Side of Wapato Dam, River Mile 106.6**
- **WRIA 37**
- **SW ¼ Section 17, Township 12, Range 19**
- **Parcel # 19121734001**
- **46° 31' North, 120° 28.5' West**

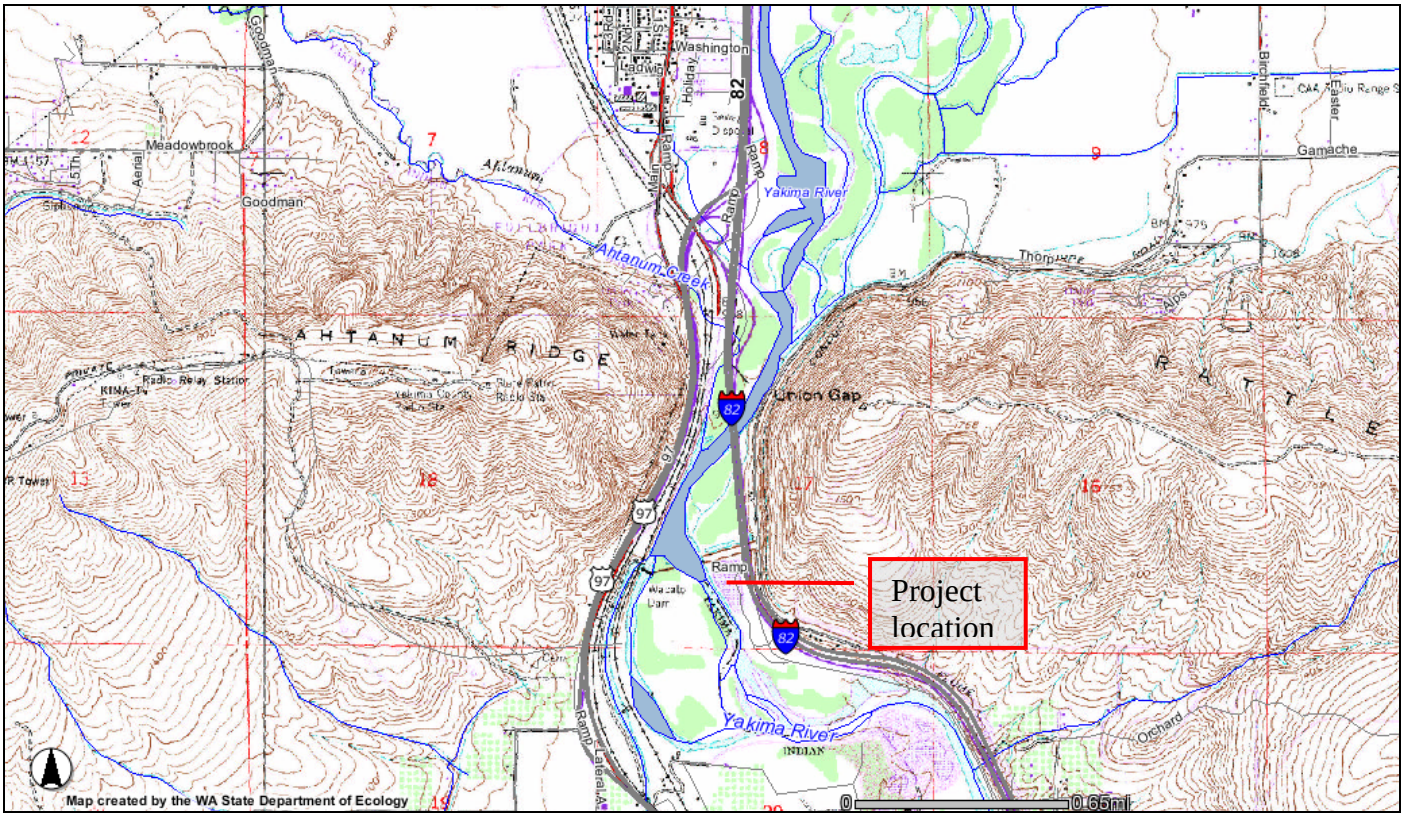

Figure 1. This map indicates the proposed project location, about one mile south of the City of Union Gap, and directly downstream from the east side of Wapato Dam.

Figure 2. This aerial photo shows the project location in relation to Wapato Dam (east) and the red dotted lines indicate the proposed inlet and outlet locations (areas of excavation) to establish perennial flow through this parcel.

B. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS

1. **Earth**

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

Project area is generally flat, with an earthen levee and old gravel pit pond near the areas of excavation

b. What is the steepest slope on the site (approximate percent slope)?
Slopes on the levees approach 50% in some locations.

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.

River gravels, cobbles, sand and silt

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.

Inlet: Up to 20 cubic yards of rock will be used to protect the face of the culvert along the Yakima River and secure the trash rack. Up to two rock grade control structures (40 cubic yards) will be placed at the outlet of the culvert to help backwater the culvert, reduce scour, and ensure fish passage criteria are met.

Outlet: Up to 1,000 cubic yards of material will be excavated from the levee. 100 cubic yards of material will be placed for the hardened ford. Additionally, three rock grade control structures (no more than 175 cubic yards) will be constructed to ensure channel stability and fish passage.

A total of 335 cubic yards of rock will be used to construct this project (70 cubic yards within ordinary high water line). All rock will be cleaned and obtained from local quarries.

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

There may be minor, short-term erosion in the areas of disturbance for the inlet and outlet through the levee.

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:

As much work as possible will be completed prior to breaching the levee and allowing flowing water to enter into the gravel pit area. The outlet at the downstream end of the work area will be constructed prior to the culvert at the upstream end. This will reduce the amount of water through the work area and reduce the need to dewater work areas. The work areas in direct contact with the Yakima River will be locally coffered and pumped to an upland area such that the areas will be free of flowing water. All areas of disturbance will be reseeded with native vegetation and mulched immediately upon completion of the project to prevent erosion. The woody riparian vegetation is vigorous in this project location and will quickly repopulate disturbed areas.

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.

Diesel exhaust from equipment and haul trucks.

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:

The equipment will be maintained in good working order and work will be completed as quickly and efficiently as possible. Much of the rock material has already been staged near the project location so fewer large trucks will need to access the site to bring in material.

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 Yakima River is within the project area. Additionally the gravel pit pond is now identified as a wetland as it is excavated such that it is in continuity with hyporheic flow of the 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 of the proposed work is within 200 feet of the ordinary high water mark of the Yakima River. Figure 3 illustrates the plan view for the project and complete design drawings are available upon request.

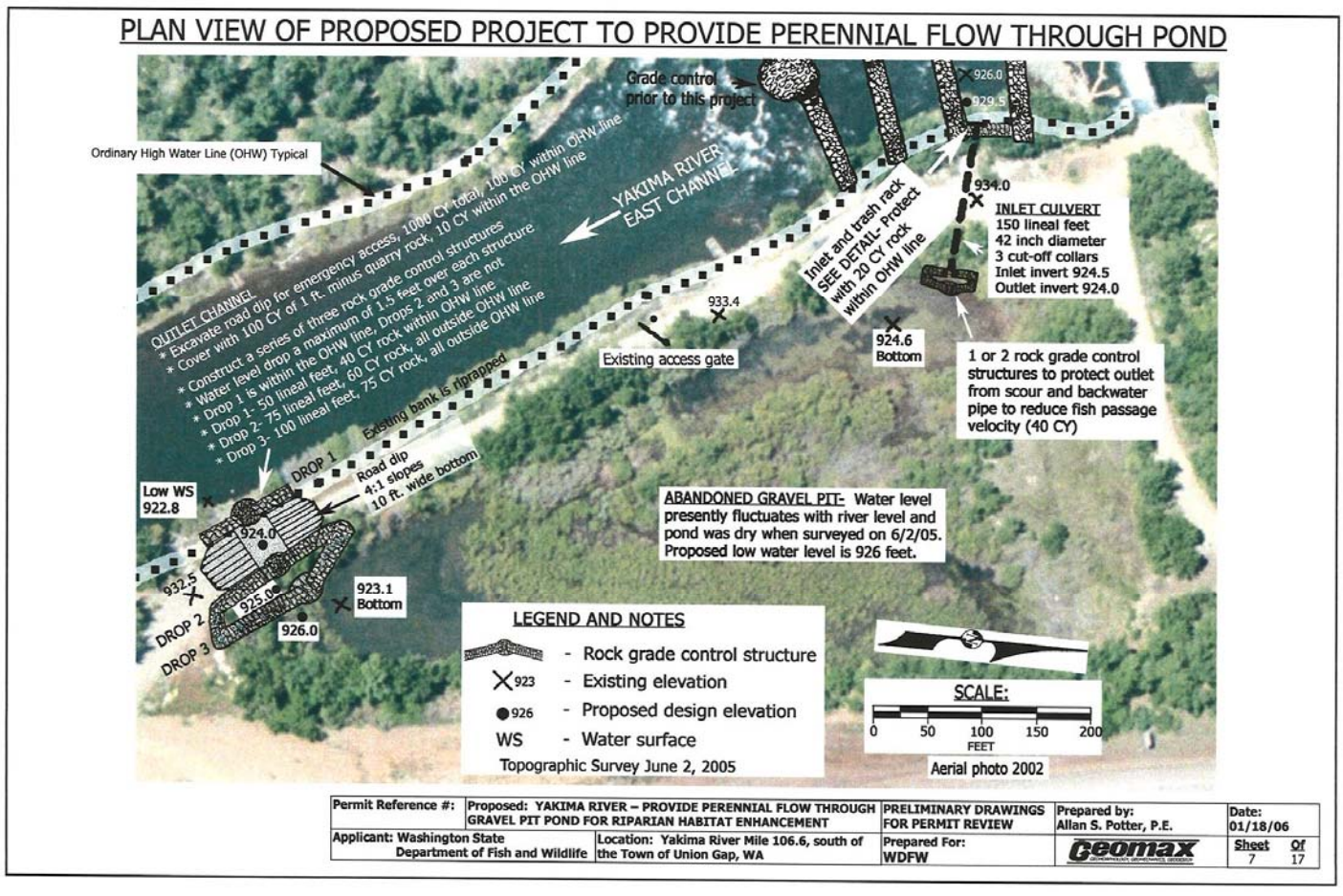

Figure 3. Plan view of the proposed project. Complete project designs are available upon request.

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.

Approximately 1000 cubic yards of material will be removed from the levee at the outlet to construct the hardened ford and outlet of the wetland area. This material will be disposed of outside of the 100 year floodplain. A total of 335 cubic yards of rock will be used to implement the project, 70 of those will be waterward of the ordinary high water line. A maximum of 0.1 acres of low quality wetland fringe habitat will be disturbed.

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

There will be no water withdrawals, but the inlet will allow between 10 - 40 cfs through the gravel pit pond/wetland area that will return to the Yakima River via the outlet controls (Figure 3).

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

Yes, the entire project is within the 100 year floodplain of the Yakima River.

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. There is a potential for spills or leaks of petroleum products during implementation but best management practices and maintaining equipment in good working condition will reduce chances of discharges into the water.

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.

During the latter stages of construction, wastewater pumped from a coffer at the downstream end of the project will be discharged upland for infiltration treatment. The wastewater will be silty drainage from the wetland.

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.

Stormwater runoff could be caused by a large storm event. Best management practices during implementation will reduce impacts from possible stormwater runoff including: construction sequencing and timing, localized coffer dams around inlet and outlet structures, and pumping water onto dry land for filtration prior to reentering the flowing water.

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

It is unlikely that waste materials will enter surface waters.

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

Construction sequencing (landward to waterward), construction timing during dry season, use of localized coffer dams and pump systems as described above will reduce impacts from runoff. Additionally, disturbed areas will be reseeded and mulched to prevent temporary erosion after construction.

4. **Plants**

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

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

_____ evergreen tree: fir, cedar, pine, other

X_____ **shrubs**

X_____ **grass**

_____ pasture

_____ crop or grain

X_____ **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?

Much of the vegetation that will be removed will be vigorous riparian shrubs. The majority will be less than 6 inches in diameter and are likely to have vigorous regrowth in the spring of 2009. There may be some mature trees that will be removed. All trees will remain on site and incorporated into the designs per the biologists recommendations.

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

Ute Ladies'-tresses are federally listed as threatened, but are not known to occur in Yakima county

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

Soil and vegetation disturbance will be minimized as much as possible. All areas of disturbance will be revegetated with native plants, including grasses.

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: **raccoons, coyotes, small mammals**
fish: bass, **salmon, trout**, herring, shellfish, other: **native cyprinids, cottids, catostomids, lamprey**

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

Middle Columbia River Steelhead are federally listed as threatened and migrate through the project area, juveniles may rear within the Yakima River project area

Columbia River Bull Trout are federally listed as threatened and migrate through the project area; adults and juveniles may rear and overwinter within the Yakima River project area

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

Yes, numerous species of fishes migrate through the Yakima River in this reach. Salmon, steelhead, and trout all utilize this reach of the river as do other native fishes.

The riparian corridor along the Yakima River also serves as an import part of the migratory patterns for various species of birds and mammals. Amphibians may use the wetland area as well.

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

Areas of disturbance will be minimized and revegetated with native plants upon completion. Work will occur in the summer to early fall, after most birds have fledged and before most of the fish have spawned. This will reduce impacts to fish and wildlife during construction, and the project upon completion will be beneficial to native fish and wildlife by providing perpetual flow through the area and providing off channel rearing habitat for juvenile salmonids.

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.

Not applicable

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.

The use of petroleum based fuels and lubricants are necessary for equipment operation. Accidental spills and/or ignition of these materials are a possibility. Using best management practices will reduce these risks.

1) Describe special emergency services that might be required.

In the event of an emergency, respondents may include Yakima County Sheriff's Department and local fire district. The Department of Ecology may respond to an accidental spill.

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

Safety practices required by federal, state, and local regulations and permit provisions will apply to all construction work.

b. **Noise**

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

No noises in the area will affect the project, but it is in close proximity to Interstate 82 so traffic noise is present near the project location.

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.

Short term increases in noise associated with trucks and construction equipment during daylight hours from approximately 6:00 AM to 8:00 PM during weekdays.

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

All trucks and equipment will be in good working condition with legal exhaust systems.

8. **Land and shoreline use**

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

The project is within a WDFW owned river access site. The Yakama Nation has traditional fishing platforms near the proposed location of the inlet culvert. The surrounding property is in open space, with minor grazing occurring on the island near the project area.

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

Historically, the project area was an orchard. The orchard was decommissioned and purchased by the State when Interstate 82 was constructed. Currently, the island in the Yakima River is lightly grazed by domestic horses.

c. Describe any structures on the site.

A levee currently separates the project location from the Yakima River. The East Branch of the Wapato Dam is a concrete structure near the project area. The area is accessed via a large culvert under Thorp Road. Within the work area, there are no structures, but due to the public access, the area has been used as a dumping area so trash will be removed during project implementation.

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

The existing levee will be breached at the lower end of the project area and a culvert will be placed through the levee at the upstream inlet. No other structures will be affected by this project.

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

Remote Extremely Limited

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?

Conservancy

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

The project will provide perpetual water flow to an existing, low quality wetland. Both the wetland and the Yakima River are environmentally important and sensitive areas.

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

None, but the area will be open to the public.

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

None, but during implementation access may be disrupted to the public for their safety.

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

The project will be completed as quickly as possible to maintain public access to the site.

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

The project is designed to enhance the wetland feature at the site and will not change any land uses or plans of the site. Local, State, and Federal authorizations will be acquired prior to implementation.

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?

No structures will exceed the height of the current levee.

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

None, not applicable

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

The disturbed areas will be revegetated with native plants immediately upon project completion.

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?

Not applicable

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:

Not applicable

12. **Recreation**

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

Fishing, water fowl hunting, bullfrog gigging, hiking, sunbathing, picnicking, boating

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:

The project will be completed as quickly as possible, keeping access site closures to a minimum.

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.

A search was completed on DAHP's WISAARD database and no hits were found. After speaking with Rob Whitlam at DAHP, the levee may be eligible for state or national listing, but a complete survey and report is necessary. The Yakama Nation Archaeologists have been contacted to complete a cultural and historical resources survey prior to implementation.

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

Native American fishing platforms are located near the project area, as is the Wapato Dam; which is important for irrigation practices on the Yakama Reservation. There are no known artifacts on site, as the project will be located within previously disturbed areas of a levee and a gravel pit.

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

Areas of disturbance will be within previously disturbed areas and/or areas of fill material.

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 access site is located just off of Thorp Road. The levee road will be disturbed during construction, but there will be no long term changes to access site availability.

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

No

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).

There will be no new roads, but the levee will be reconstructed above the inlet culvert at the upper end of the project area and a hardened ford will provide vehicular access across the lower outlet.

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:

The project will be completed as quickly as possible to provide access to the site for the public.

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.

Not applicable

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: Eric Bartrand (signature on file) .....

Date Submitted: 6/6/2008 .....