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:
Coleman Creek Fish Passage, Screening and Irrigation Improvement Project-RM 1.03

2. Name of applicant:
Kittitas County Conservation District (KCCD)

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

KCCD Manager, Anna Lael

607 Mountain View

Ellensburg, WA 98926

(509) 925-8585 x4

a-lael@wa.nacdnet.org

4. Date checklist prepared:
December 1, 2008

5. Agency requesting checklist:
WDFW

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

December 15, 2008 to March 30, 2009—instream work will be complete by February 15, 2009

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.

- **An Archeological Review and Inventory of the Proposed Coleman and Cherry Creek Irrigation Projects, Kittitas County, Washington by Christopher Landreau (Reiss-Landreau Research)**
- **HIP II PNF for ESA Section 7 consultation with NMFS and BA for USFWS through BPA**

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.

- **ESA Section 7 Consultation with NMFS and USFWS**
- **NHPA Section 106 Consultation with DAHP and THPO (complete October 2, 2008)**
- **CWA Section 404 permit from US Army Corps of Engineers**
- **CWA Section 401 permit from Ecology**
- **HPA from Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife**
- **Local jurisdiction permits from Kittitas County**
- **Possibly a Stormwater Construction Permit from Ecology**

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.)
Currently, this irrigation diversion is unscreened and is a fish passage barrier. With implementation of this project, a NMFS and WDFW approved fish screen will protect fish life from entrainment and the existing barrier will be removed, providing access to another ½ mile of stream. Additional plans are underway to enhance the irrigation practices at the next unscreened diversion that is a fish passage barrier and that diversion will be abandoned such that another ½ mile of Coleman Creek is accessible to juvenile and adult fish. About four rock weirs will be constructed instream to maintain grade and allow fish passage. Scour pools will be excavated on the downstream side of each weir. With completion of this project, a mile of habitat will be opened up for juvenile and adult passage, instream flows will be enhanced with the addition of trust water, and irrigation water will be properly screened to protect fish life from entrainment.

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.

- **This project is located approximately 3 miles southeast of the City of Ellensburg**
- **River miles 1.03 and 1.60 of Coleman Creek (Figure 1)**
- **Township 17 N, Range 19 E, Sections 17 & 20**
- **120° 28’ 55.08” W; 46° 57’ 6.82” N**
- **WRIA 39**
- **Parcel # 890233 & 280233**

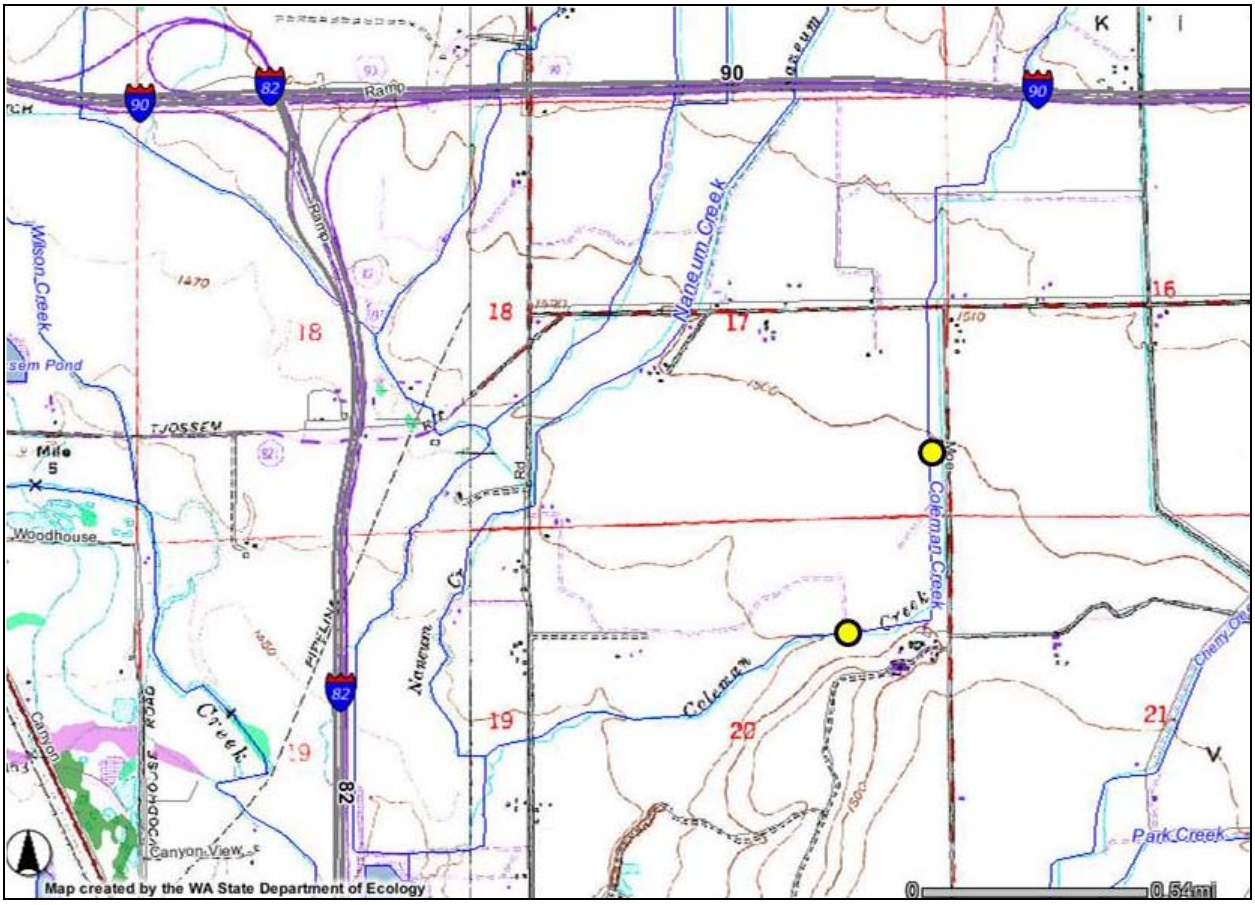

Figure 1. This map shows the two points of diversion on Coleman Creek (yellow dots). The upper most diversion will be abandoned upon completion of the project and the lower diversion will no longer be a fish passage barrier. In total, one mile of stream habitat will be newly accessible upon completion.

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)?

Coleman Creek is incised and the banks are steep. The surrounding land is flat.

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.

Deedale clay loam, Opnish ashy loam, Manastash loam, Tanaha ashy loam, Mitta ashy silt loam. Because these parcels are irrigated, they are considered prime farmland.

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

No, the banks of the creek are incised, but appear relatively stable.

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

All ground disturbing actions will be near the creek and the banks and the total project area will be about ½ acre, including staging areas. The total amount of excavation will be about 360 cubic yards of material to excavate a stream bypass channel and excavation for the instream structures. Approximately 120 cubic yards of excavation will occur below the ordinary high water mark (OHWM) and 70 cubic yards of material will be placed within the OHWM. Fill will consist of large boulders for the grade control weirs and some gravels to cover excavated areas. Upland, there will be some excavation of the existing concrete pipe and sump box, and excavation for a new pipe and pumping pad. The areas will be regraded to the existing grade upon completion. The creek bypass will be excavated on the north side of the creek and will be backfilled with native materials upon completion. All materials will be obtained from local sources.

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

Yes, it is possible that some erosion could occur as a result of project implementation. Best management practices will be applied during project planning, implementation, and site restoration to reduce impacts caused by erosion. The project will be planned and completed in accordance with the Stormwater Management Manual for Eastern Washington.

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

There will be no net change in the area of impervious surfaces upon completion. The existing concrete sump will be removed and replaced with a new precast box of nearly the same dimensions.

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

Soil disturbance will be limited to the minimum extent possible in all cases. A containment dam and lined bypass (to the north of the creek) will be used to divert Coleman Creek from its channel during construction to prevent increases in turbidity during the construction of grade controls. Upon completion of the in-channel work, Coleman Creek will slowly be allowed back in its channel reducing the likelihood of sediment plumes and/or subsurface flows. Streambanks will be protected with erosion control fabric and planted with native vegetation to aid in stabilization and site restoration.

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 excavator, generator, and vehicles moving materials to and from the site will be the main source of emissions. Dust from excavation and vehicular traffic is expected to be minimal during construction.

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 equipment emissions will meet all federal, state, and local regulations. In addition, all equipment will be shut off when not in use.

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 work will occur within Coleman Creek, a tributary to Naneum Creek, which is a tributary to Wilson Creek, and eventually to 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, nearly all aspects of this project will be within 200 feet of Coleman Creek. The project entails temporarily diverting the creek, removing the current concrete and wooden diversion structure, installing grade control structures and installing a fish screen and sump box, and revegetating the banks with native plants to prevent erosion.

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 70 cubic yards of boulders and gravels will be used to construct the rock weirs. Approximately 120 cubic yards of material will be excavated below the OHWM, including concrete that will be removed when the old diversion structure is removed. All material will be obtained from local sources.

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

The lower point of diversion will not change the amount of irrigation water withdrawn (3.8 cfs). The upper diversion will no longer be used as a pipeline will be constructed to convey Ellensburg Water Company water to the point of use. The upper diversion alterations will result in 0.43 cfs placed into the trust water program in perpetuity.

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

Yes, because of the incision in Coleman Creek, there is a narrow 100 year floodplain, and much of the project does occur within this narrow band.

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.

Construction activities and rewatering of the channel may result in slightly increased turbidity for short durations, but there will be no discharges of waste material into surface waters.

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.

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.

Precipitation will be the main cause of stormwater runoff associated with this proposed project. The instream work will occur in the dry creekbed to the maximum extent possible. If storm events should occur or are forecast to occur during project implementation, immediate best management practices would be applied according to the Stormwater Management Manual for Eastern Washington (2004).

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

During construction, accidental spills of materials and fuels are a possibility. However, spill prevention techniques, containment of accidental spills, and other best management practices will reduce the risk of ground and surface water contamination.

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

Erosion control measures will be applied during project implementation to limit the negative ecological impacts caused by stormwater runoff. The stream bypass will be of adequate size to convey the creek water even during high flow (at least 60 cfs) storm events such that the containment dam does not overtop and flowing water does not enter the construction area.

The contractor will be responsible to provide spill containment materials and must have them onsite at all times.

4. **Plants**

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

X_____ **deciduous tree**: alder, maple, aspen, other: **Pacific Willow**

_____ evergreen tree: fir, cedar, pine, other

X_____ **shrubs**

X_____ **grass**

_____ pasture

X_____ **crop** or grain

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

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

X_____ **other types of vegetation: weeds**

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

Most of the vegetation that will be disturbed is nonnative reed canary grass. Some mature Pacific Willow trees will be removed on the downstream extent of the project area. Existing vegetation will be avoided as much as possible to minimize disturbance. All disturbed areas will be planted with native vegetation.

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

None known. Ute Ladies'-tresses are federally listed as threatened, but are not likely to be present due to the current disturbance regime and habitat conditions. There are no known occurrences of Ute Ladies'-tresses in Kittitas County.

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

All disturbed areas will be replanted with native plants suitable to this habitat and environment. These plantings will be maintained for three years.

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: **raptors**
mammals: deer, bear, elk, **beaver**, other: **small rodents, coyotes**
fish: bass, **salmon, trout**, herring, shellfish, other: **native minnows, suckers, sculpin**

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

Middle Columbia River Steelhead and Columbia River Bull trout are both federally listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act. Through the efforts of YTAHP and others in the Yakima Basin, fish passage barriers have been removed and upstream passage for adults and juveniles is no longer impeded in Coleman Creek so migratory fish have access to this site. There is one, unconfirmed report of a bull trout in Coleman Creek from 1970 and no steelhead have been documented in Coleman Creek in the recent past. Juvenile spring Chinook have been documented rearing in lower Coleman Creek just below the barrier proposed for correction (2007 YTAHP monitoring). Lower Coleman Creek provides suitable rearing and forage habitat for salmonids, but no listed species are known to occur near the project site.

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

Yes, resident and anadromous fishes could migrate up lower Coleman Creek to the lowest fish passage barrier. Although limited, the riparian buffer on Coleman Creek likely provides suitable habitat for migrating birds, amphibians and mammals.

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

Native plant species will be planted in disturbed areas and the fencing will be maintained to protect the creek from grazing impacts. Project sponsors are currently working with the landowners to increase the riparian buffer along the north side of the creek.

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.

Electricity is currently available at the site and will continue to be used to power the sump pump.

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:

The pump is properly sized for the water right.

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 based fuels and lubricants will be used for equipment operation. Accidental spills and/or ignition of these materials are a possibility. The use of 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 Kittitas County Sheriff's Department and the local fire district. The Department of Ecology would likely 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 will be applied at all times. Additionally, the contractor will have a spill containment kit on site at all times.

b. **Noise**

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

Noises from traffic on county roads and agricultural equipment exist in the area but are not expected to affect the 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.

Temporary noise impacts due to construction equipment such as excavators, trucks, and generators are expected during daylight hours. Upon project completion, noise levels will return to the existing conditions.

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

All equipment will be shut down when not in use and construction activities will occur only during daylight hours.

8. **Land and shoreline use**

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

The land surrounding the project site is currently in agricultural uses of crop production and some livestock grazing. The diversion in the creek is used to check water up and divert it for irrigation on the adjacent lands.

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

Yes, the site is currently used for agriculture. See (8. a) above.

c. Describe any structures on the site.

Currently, there is a concrete and wooden check dam in the stream channel (Figure 2). A power pole and concrete sump box are located near the diversion. Fencing separates the creek from the farmed areas.

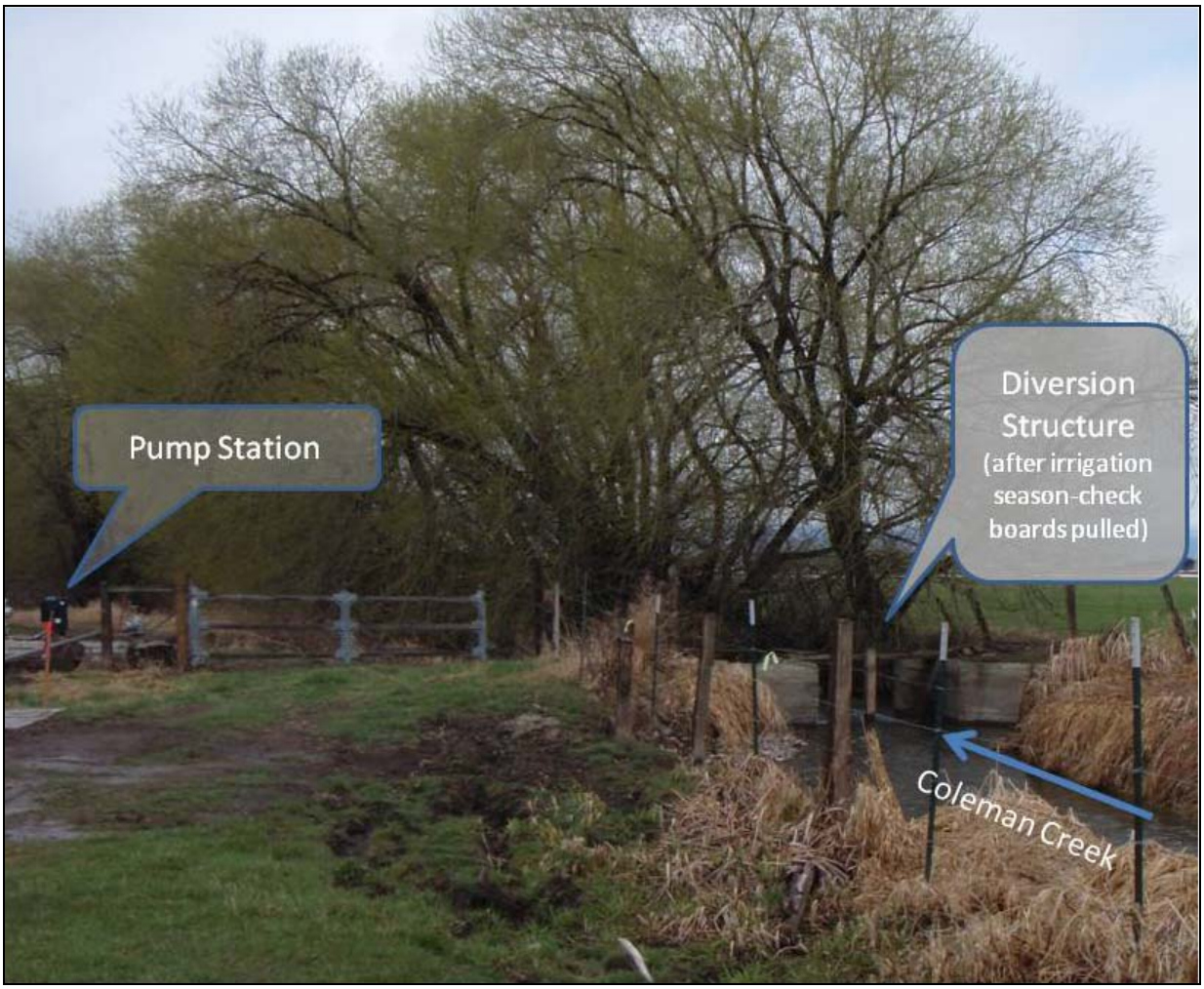

Figure 2. This is the point of diversion after irrigation season when the check boards have been removed. The proximity of the pump station is also identified in this photo. The power pole is just to the left of the pump station.

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

Yes, the concrete and wooden diversion structure will be removed as will the existing concrete sump box (pump station).

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

Commercial Agriculture

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

Agriculture

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

This is not a shoreline of the state.

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

The streambed, banks, floodplain, and riparian areas are all environmentally sensitive areas.

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

Not applicable

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

Not applicable

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:

The proposal has been peer reviewed by local and state regulatory agencies as well as engineers and biologists through the YTAHP technical review group. All necessary permits will be acquired prior to implementation to ensure compliance with land use plans in Kittitas County.

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 new structures will be taller than the existing power pole on site.

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

The nonnative materials that currently make up the diversion structure (concrete and wooden boards) will be replaced with more natural looking stream materials composed of large boulders. The point of diversion will be more low profile and the fish screens will be submerged at all times during the irrigation season. Some existing vegetation will be disturbed, but it will be replaced with native plants upon project completion.

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

Site restoration will result in native plants in the riparian buffer and both juvenile and adult fishes will be able to migrate safely above this point of diversion. The proposed structures will be low profile and conform to more natural like stream features while still maintaining an effective point of diversion.

11. **Light and glare**

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

There may be some glare associated with the fish screen, pump station, and sprinklers during bright daylight, but it is not likely to differ from current conditions.

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 known

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

Some piping will be buried and the use of nonnative materials will be minimized as much as possible. Additionally, a riparian buffer will minimize impacts from glare on the new structures.

12. **Recreation**

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

The project is located on and surrounded by private property. Some recreational angling may occur with landowner permission nearby.

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 completed project will result in fish passage through the project area to the next most upstream barrier one mile upstream. Ultimately, this may result in enhanced salmonid populations over time, due to increased fish accessibility to valuable tributary habitat. Co-managers in the Yakima Basin agree that Coleman Creek has the potential to support native salmonids.

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 downstream point of diversion and the associated valve may be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. Additionally, Olmstead State Park is located about 2 miles upstream of the project area. Historic structures are described in detail in the survey report and have been appropriately documented at the state level.

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

Please see (13.a.) above

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

Because implementation of this project may alter a site that is potentially eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, BPA has signed an MOU with the Washington SHPO to develop a historic context statement of the irrigation systems that may be updated through the YTAHP process. This MOU in addition to continued NHPA Section 106 consultation will effectively mitigate for any impacts to this historic point of diversion.

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 site can be accessed by Moe Road and through private property in Kittitas County. Construction equipment will enter the site via existing farm access roads.

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

No, Kittitas County does not have a public transit system.

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 new roads or improvements are planned. If equipment causes damage to the private access roads, they will be repaired to pre-project condition.

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.

No additional trips will be necessary upon completion of this project. The irrigator at the lower diversion will continue to maintain this point of diversion and there will no longer be maintenance required at the upper diversion because it will be abandoned with completion of this project.

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.

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.

No new utilities will be installed with this project. Housing and farm buildings nearby also have electricity, septic, and domestic well water.

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: On File ..... (**Lael**)

Date Submitted: .....