

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:

Rattlesnake Creek Side Channel Restoration

2. Name of applicant:

Robert Inouye, landowner

Jennifer Scott, WDFW

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

1780 Nile Road

1701 S. 24th Avenue

Naches, WA 98937

Yakima, WA 98902

(509) 574-2717

(509) 457-9307

bobinouye@gmail.com

jennifer.scott@dfw.wa.gov

4. Date checklist prepared:

December 29, 2011

5. Agency requesting checklist:

WDFW

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

June 1, 2012-October 31, 2013

7. Do you have any plans for future additions, expansion, or further activity related to or connected with this proposal? If yes, explain.
Not other than routine maintenance.

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

Water Right Permit Application 2010

Annual water use report for Ecology’s temporary water right

Amended Water Right Permit Application 2011

Salmon Recovery Funding Board project application

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.

An application for a permanent water right for this side channel is under review at Ecology for the amounts below. This water use will be non-consumptive and will benefit fish, wildlife, and their habitats.

Table 1. Proposed diversion amounts in water right application for side channel.

Purpose(s) of Use	Rate (check one box only)		Acre-Feet per Year (AF/YR) (If known)	Period of Use (Continuously or Seasonal)
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cubic Feet per Second (CFS)	<input type="checkbox"/> Gallons per Minute (GPM)		
Create side channel habitat for fish and wildlife, and conveyance loss	8 cfs November through February =		1,920 AFY	Continuously
	12 cfs March through June =		2,905 AFY	
	8 cfs in July =		492 AFY	
	6 cfs August and September =		726 AFY	
	4 cfs October =		246 AFY	
TOTAL:	12 cfs max	8.7 cfs average	6,289 AFY	

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

Yakima County Shorelines, Critical Areas, and Floodplain Management review

Washington Department of Ecology Water Right Permit and Clean Water Act Section 401 Review

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Hydraulic Project Approval


US Army Corps of Engineers Clean Water Act Section 404 Permit

National Historic and Preservation Act Section 106 Compliance (SHPO and THPO)

Endangered Species Act Section 7 Compliance (NOAA Fisheries and USFWS)

11. Give brief, complete description of your proposal, including the proposed uses and the size of the project and site. There are several questions later in this checklist that ask you to describe certain aspects of your proposal. You do not need to repeat those answers on this page. (Lead agencies may modify this form to include additional specific information on project description.)

The proposed project will allow fish access to a 1.3 km side channel providing excellent rearing habitat for juvenile salmonids.

Project components will include  modifying existing headgate and wingdam to improve fish passage, replacing existing fish screen with a smaller screen meeting water rights of Rattlesnake Ditch users further down the ditch, creating hardened ford or other crossing structure across channel to maintain vehicular access to screen facilities for maintenance, adjust ditch and side channel elevations, install flow regulation and measuring devices in irrigation ditch and side channel, and plant and seed disturbed areas with native vegetation. Figure 1 shows the existing layout and where the side channel and irrigation ditch run. Figure 2 shows the proposed layout for the headworks and new screen; the hardened ford is not shown in Figure 2, but its location will not change from where it currently crosses the side channel in Figure 1.

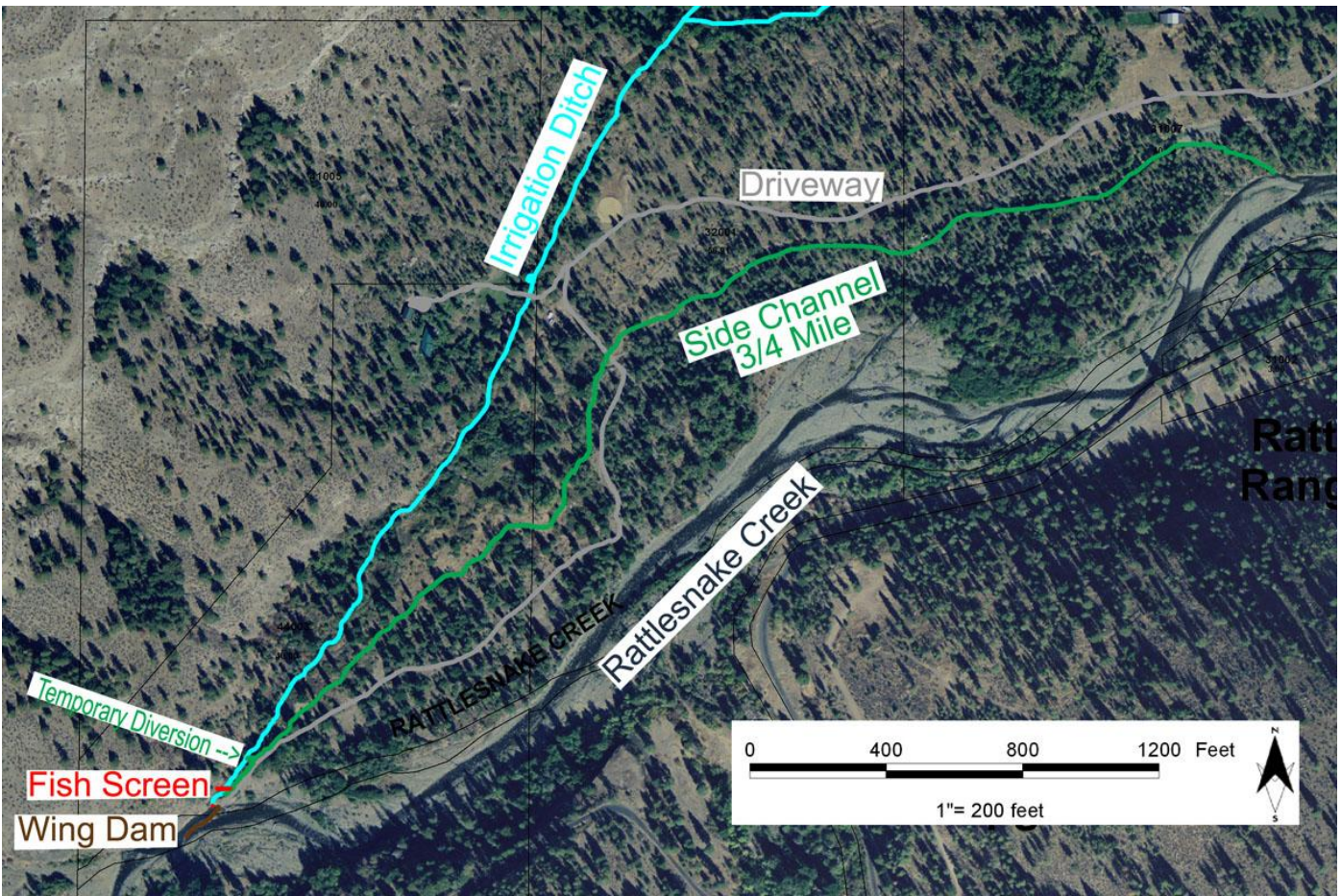


Figure 1. This aerial photo shows the existing layout and how things are currently laid out.

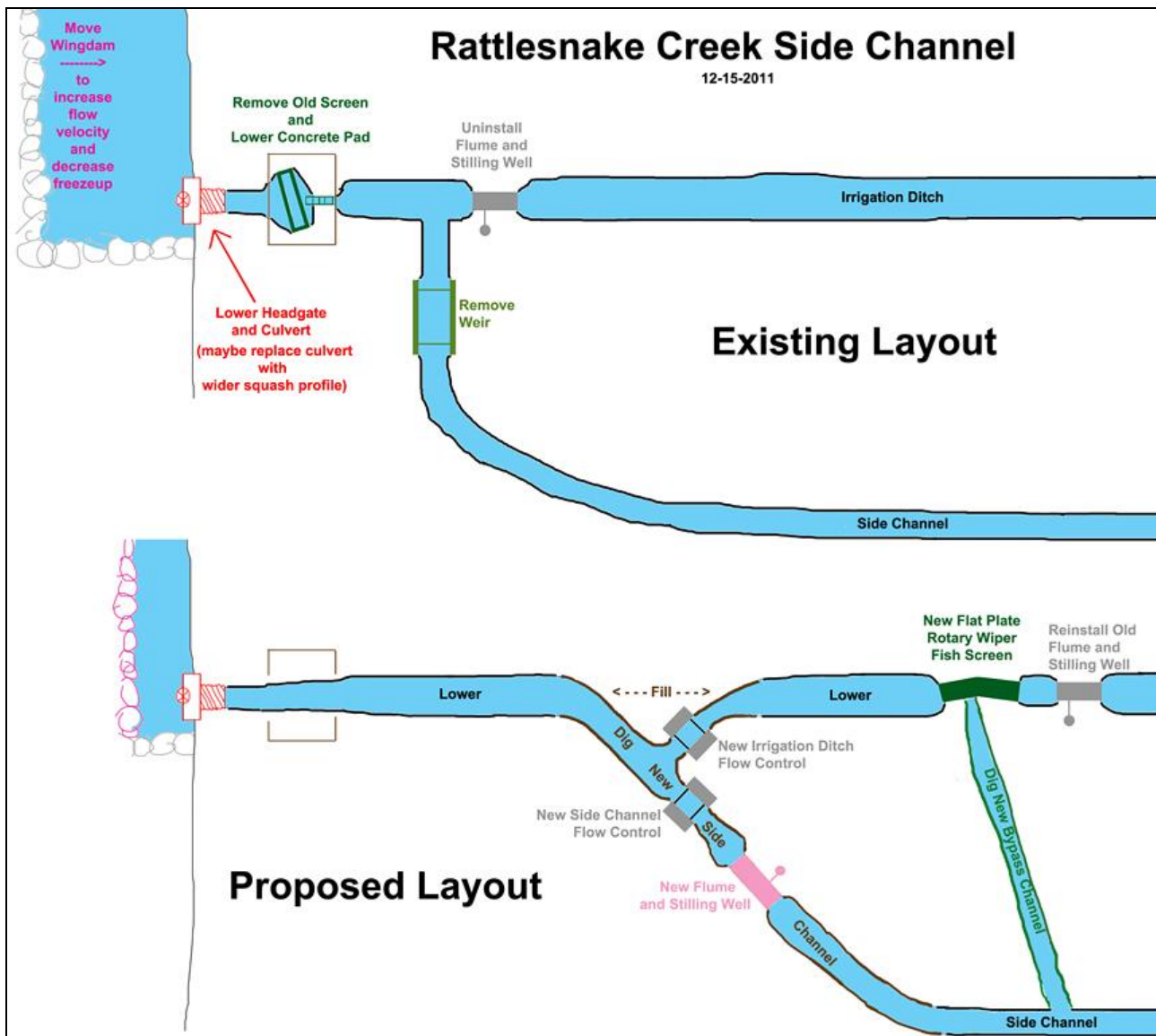


Figure 2. This schematic shows the existing configuration and proposed layout of headworks and new fish screen. There are no changes proposed to the senior water rights in Rattlesnake Ditch.



12. Location of the proposal. Give sufficient information for a person to understand the precise location of your proposed project, including a street address, if any, and section, township, and range, if known. If a proposal would occur over a range of area, provide the range or boundaries of the site(s). Provide a legal description, site plan, vicinity map, and topographic map, if reasonably available. While you should submit any plans required by the agency, you are not required to duplicate maps or detailed plans submitted with any permit applications related to this checklist.

1. Yakima County
2. Township 15, Range 15, Sections 3 & 4
3. Parcel # 15150444003, 15150332001
4. 1780 Nile Road Naches, WA 98937
5. 120° 56' 59.5" W; 46° 48' 60.0" N
6. WRIA 38
7. The above locations are the headgate and where the vehicular access road crosses the side channel of Rattlesnake Creek (see Figure 1).

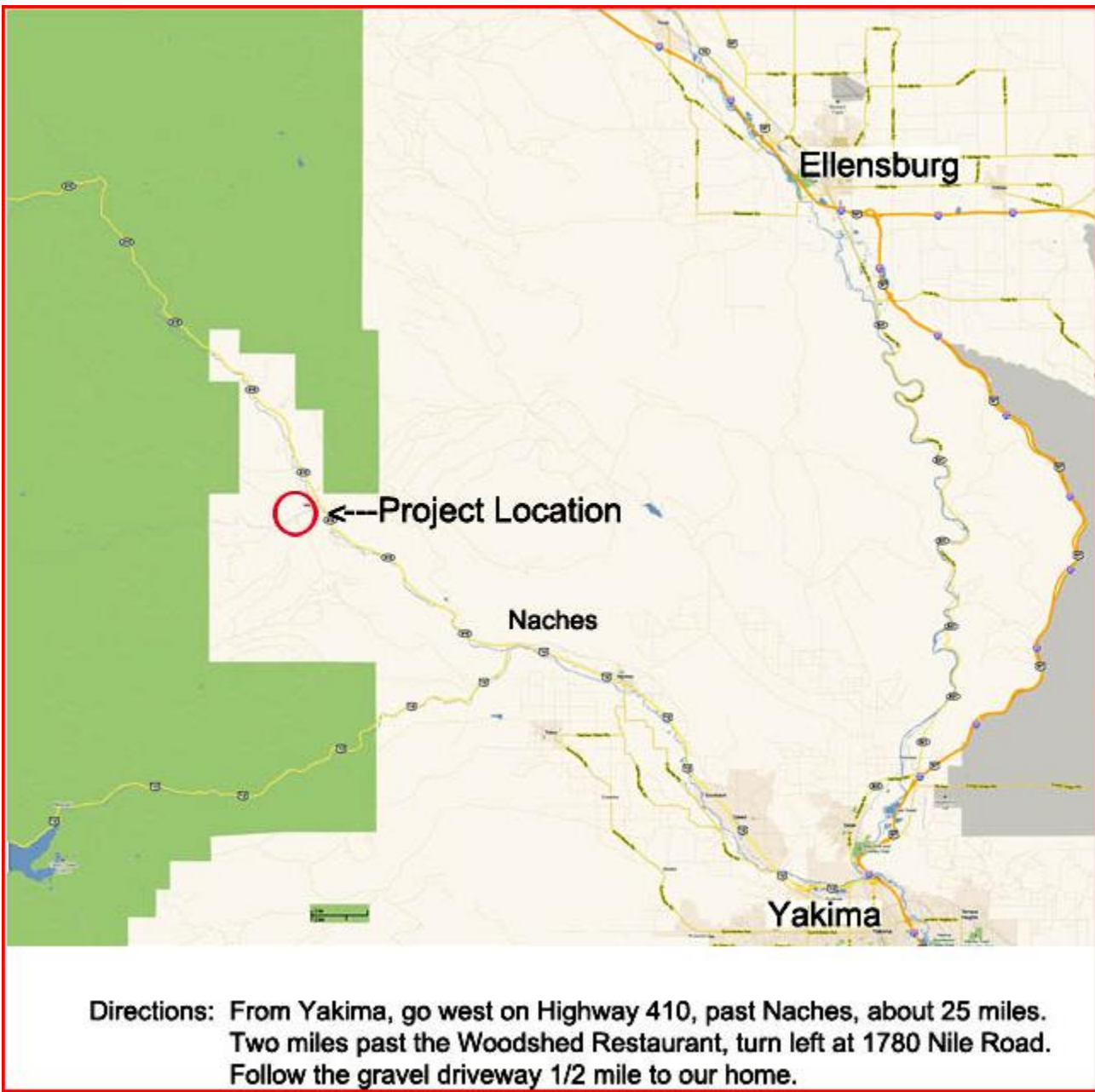


Figure 3. Project location in relation to nearby Cities and highways.

B. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS

1. Earth

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

All work areas are generally flat and on the floodplain of Rattlesnake Creek. Steep cliffs and mountains are upstream of this project area.

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

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.

Weirman Sandy Loam, Channeled—not prime farmland

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

The floodplain was last activated in the floods of 1996, otherwise, the area has been stable. The temporary water right for the side channel was acquired in October 2010 and water began flowing down the relict side channel to test its ability to remain watered up its entire length. Conveyance loss was minimal as described in the report to Ecology.

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

Approximately 20 to 30 cubic yards of quarry spalls will be used for the approaches at the hardened ford, about 14 cubic yards of material will be excavated to deepen the ditch/side channel at the upstream extent and to construct the bypass from the new screen, and construct the flow control structures. About 50 cubic yards of material will be moved and/or placed to reshape the wingdam in Rattlesnake Creek.

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

Erosion is not likely to occur because work will occur during the dry time of year and appropriate erosion control measures will be applied during implementation. There will be slight increases in turbidity when the water is turned into the newly constructed portions of the side channel, but they will be minor and short in duration.

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

Two to four ecology blocks may be incorporated into the flow control structures where the side channel splits from the ditch. This will amount to less than 1% of the entire project area.

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

The side channel is sized to convey up to 12 cfs such that major erosion does not occur. A hardened ford or culvert will be constructed where the access road crosses the side channel to reduce erosion at this point. Additionally, work will occur during the dry summer season when flows are lowest in Rattlesnake Creek and the side channel. Best management practices will be applied during construction to minimize erosion and all disturbed areas will be reseeded with native vegetation upon completion.

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 tractors, backhoes, trackhoes, and dump trucks will be associated with this project. No more than two pieces of equipment plus a dump truck are expected to be operating at the same time and construction is expected to last no more than two months total.

b. Are there any off-site sources of emissions or odor that may affect your proposal? If so, generally describe.

No


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

Equipment will be appropriately sized and will be turned off when not in operation.

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, Rattlesnake Creek is a tributary to the Naches River, which is a tributary to the Yakima River. The proposed side channel shares a headgate and diversion structure from Rattlesnake Creek with an irrigation ditch, Rattlesnake Ditch. 

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 or within 200 feet of Rattlesnake Creek or the new side channel.

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.

About 50 cubic yards of material will be reconfigured and supplemented with additional large rock if needed to construct a more efficient wingdam in Rattlesnake Creek (see Figure 2). Approximately 1200 cubic yards of material will be excavated from the shared ditch/side channel at the upstream extent to ensure the appropriate grade is achieved for proper screen function. About 20 to 40 cubic yards of quarry spalls will be obtained from local sources to harden the approaches where the driveway crosses the side channel, or about 100 yards if a culvert is used instead.



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

Yes. There will be no change to the existing water rights or diversion associated with the irrigators on Rattlesnake Ditch. The side channel is requesting a permanent water right ranging from 4 cfs to 12 cfs year round (see Table 1) in addition to the existing Rattlesnake Ditch water rights. The new side channel will divert water from Rattlesnake Creek to enhance fish and wildlife habitat and will return to Rattlesnake Creek through the side channel (1.3 km) and/or hyporheic flows via floodplain storage.

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

Yes, the majority of the project area is within the 100 year floodplain for Rattlesnake 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.

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.

There are no plans for any groundwater withdrawals or discharges. Water diverted for the side channel will charge the floodplain and potentially increase hyporheic exchange with Rattlesnake Creek.

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 from rural homes is first intersected by Rattlesnake Ditch which does not return to Rattlesnake Creek, but serves irrigated fields. Stormwater or runoff from other areas will flow through a well vegetated floodplain prior to reaching the side channel or Rattlesnake Creek. The driveway and access roads produce very little runoff because they are graveled and level with the surrounding topography for the most part.

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

Not likely.

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

During construction, best management practices will be applied to ensure runoff does not enter waterbodies. These measures will be kept in place until disturbed areas are well vegetated.

4. Plants

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

— deciduous tree: alder, maple, aspen, other

— evergreen tree: fir, cedar, pine, other

— shrubs

— grass

_____ pasture

_____ crop or grain

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

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

— other types of vegetation

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

There will be minimal shrub disturbance associated with completion of this project and no trees greater than 4” in diameter will be altered or removed except one 10” Ponderosa might be removed. The location of the new channel was selected to provide the appropriate grade while minimizing disturbance to existing vegetation. All trees removed will be incorporated into the side channel complex to provide instream cover for fish.

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

Ute Ladies'-Tresses (not known to occur in Yakima County or at this site, but are listed for the County)

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

Existing vegetation will be preserved to the greatest extent possible and disturbed areas will be seeded with a native grass mix and planted with native stakes from local sources.

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: _____

fish: bass, salmon, trout, herring, shellfish, other: _____

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

Middle Columbia River Steelhead, Columbia River Bull Trout, Gray Wolf, and Canada Lynx.

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

Yes, this is a known migration corridor for bull trout that generally spawn higher in the watershed. Additionally, steelhead, Chinook salmon, and coho salmon migrate through, spawn, and rear in this reach of Rattlesnake Creek. This is also prime winter range for elk and deer. Migratory birds are also present throughout the seasons on this property.

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

The proposed side channel will provide excellent rearing conditions for juvenile salmonids by providing sufficient refuge from high and low flows as well as increasing ground water storage and moderating stream temperatures in the winter and summer. The side channel already has a resident beaver colony at its downstream extent that took hold when the temporary water right was issued and began flowing down the partial side channel in 2010.

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.

Solar panels will provide power to the water measuring devices for the ditch and the side channel.

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:

All equipment and materials will be sized to the minimum necessary to successfully complete the project.

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.

There is always a slight risk of a petroleum spill or a fire during construction. The risks are minimized when best management practices are implemented as they will be for this project.

1) Describe special emergency services that might be required.

In the event of an emergency, Yakima County Sheriff's and the Fire District may respond. In the event of a chemical spill, the Departments of Military, Ecology, Health, and Fish and Wildlife would likely respond.

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

Equipment will be kept clean and in good working order and will be inspected daily to minimize risks of petroleum spills. All local, state, and federal laws will be adhered to ensuring a safe working environment.

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.

During construction, noise from heavy equipment and dump trucks would occur during daylight hours. Upon completion, traffic and equipment used for routine maintenance will not change from current conditions.

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

Equipment will be turned off when not in use and the amount of equipment used will be kept to a minimum.

8. Land and shoreline use

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

This site is currently used as an irrigation diversion for irrigated parcels north of Rattlesnake Creek. The property surrounding the side channel is managed for fish and wildlife habitat with some forest health thinning ongoing. Properties upstream are owned by state and federal land managers and much of the upper watershed is within the William O. Douglas Wilderness. Downstream properties are rural homes with irrigated agriculture.

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

Yes, this site currently serves as an agricultural irrigation diversion. Additionally, the property has been logged in the past.

c. Describe any structures on the site.

A rock wingdam extends into Rattlesnake Creek to divert water through the existing headgate and rotary drum fish screen feeding Rattlesnake Ditch and the preliminary side channel. A vehicular access road serves the headgate and fish screen area for routine maintenance. Water measuring devices are present in the ditch and the side channel.

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

Yes, the winddam will be reconfigured as will the headgate to provide better fish passage conditions. The existing screen and part of its concrete base will be removed and replaced with  flat plate screen further down the ditch. The water measuring devices will be replaced with the proposed project.

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

Remote/Extremely Limited Development Potential

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

Rural Remote/Limited Development

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.

Yes, Rattlesnake Creek and its associated floodplain are sensitive areas as are the associated wetlands.

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

There will be no change.

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

None

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

Not applicable

1. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with existing and projected land uses and plans, if any:
The proposed project is designed to enhance fish and wildlife habitat, consistent with the Conservancy designation for the shoreline of Rattlesnake Creek. Additionally, all local, state, and federal reviews will occur to ensure the project is consistent with existing and proposed future land uses.

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?

Poles for solar panels to power the water measuring devices are not likely to exceed 7 feet in height.

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

None, the side channel proposal will enhance natural features of the floodplain.

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

Disturbance will be minimized to the greatest extent possible and vegetation restored as quickly as possible.

11. Light and glare

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

There will be minimal glare from the screen structure and water measuring devices that would only occur during direct daylight hours.

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:

All infrastructure (headgate, fish screen, water measuring devices) will be sized appropriately to minimize glare throughout the project site.

12. Recreation

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

The property surrounding this site is privately owned and used to watch wildlife, hike and ride horses. Anglers frequently fish this reach of Rattlesnake Creek and hunters and hikers use the public lands upstream of the private lands.

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:

This project is designed and proposed to enhance fish and wildlife habitat and may improve recreational fishing opportunities in Rattlesnake Creek and the Naches River by providing excellent rearing conditions for juvenile 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.

None known at this time

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

None known at this time

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

Compliance with NHPA Section 106 will ensure that any historic or cultural items of significance will be preserved.

14. Transportation

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

The property is accessed from Nile Road, then through a private drive way and vehicular access road to the headgate.

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

No, public transit is more than five miles away.

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, the vehicular access road will have  new hardened ford or culvert, but it is a private road.

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.

Routine maintenance will continue and vehicular trips are not anticipated to be any greater than currently exists.

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

Not applicable

15. Public services

- a. Would the project result in an increased need for public services (for example: fire protection, police protection, health care, schools, other)? If so, generally describe.

Not likely

- 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.

Utilities are available to the nearby residences, but not at the project location and they will not be needed.

- 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 needed

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:  (Inouye)

Signature:  (Scott)

Date Submitted: Dec 30, 2011