

SEPA ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

Purpose of checklist:

Governmental agencies use this checklist to help determine whether the environmental impacts of your proposal are significant. This information is also helpful to determine if available avoidance, minimization or compensatory mitigation measures will address the probable significant impacts or if an environmental impact statement will be prepared to further analyze the proposal.

Instructions for applicants:

This environmental checklist asks you to describe some basic information about your proposal. Please answer each question accurately and carefully, to the best of your knowledge. You may need to consult with an agency specialist or private consultant for some questions. You may use "not applicable" or "does not apply" only when you can explain why it does not apply and not when the answer is unknown. You may also attach or incorporate by reference additional studies reports. Complete and accurate answers to these questions often avoid delays with the SEPA process as well as later in the decision-making process.

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.

Instructions for Lead Agencies:

Please adjust the format of this template as needed. Additional information may be necessary to evaluate the existing environment, all interrelated aspects of the proposal and an analysis of adverse impacts. The checklist is considered the first but not necessarily the only source of information needed to make an adequate threshold determination. Once a threshold determination is made, the lead agency is responsible for the completeness and accuracy of the checklist and other supporting documents.

Use of checklist for nonproject proposals:

For nonproject proposals (such as ordinances, regulations, plans and programs), complete the applicable parts of sections A and B plus the [SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET FOR NONPROJECT ACTIONS \(part D\)](#). Please completely answer all questions that apply and note that the words "project," "applicant," and "property or site" should be read as "proposal," "proponent," and "affected geographic area," respectively. The lead agency may exclude (for non-projects) questions in Part B - Environmental Elements –that do not contribute meaningfully to the analysis of the proposal.

A. Background

1. Name of proposed project, if applicable: **Peterson Road Irrigation Development**
2. Name of applicant: **Department of Natural Resources (DNR)**
3. Address and phone number of applicant and contact person:

**Ryan Cloud, Southeast Region DNR
713 Bowers Road
Ellensburg, WA 98926
509-925-8510**

4. Date checklist prepared: **July 23, 2020**
5. Agency requesting checklist: **Department of Natural Resources**
6. Proposed timing or schedule (including phasing, if applicable):
**Construction and Land Preparation to begin summer/fall of 2020.
Project Completion fall 2020**

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

The parcel once construction is completed will be leased for Irrigated Row Crop Agriculture. It is anticipated that initially organic crops will be grown on the site. Additional expansion or additions is not planned however, there is a possibility of future conversions from Irrigated Row Crops to Orchard or Vineyard.

8. List any environmental information you know about that has been prepared, or will be prepared, directly related to this proposal. **None**

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. **Department of Ecology approval of water transfer.**

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 project will utilize an existing water delivery system to provide water to the DNR ownership. The land will be irrigated under center pivot circles. Exact number of acres to be irrigated will be determined based on feasibility of soils and leveling associated with topographic constraints. The planned development is approximately 461 irrigated acres +/- . DNR is apply for a new water right from Department of Ecology using Permanent Trust Water and Temporary Trust Water as mitigation. The total c.f.s. will be determined during the application process.

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.

All of Section 16, Township 9 North, Range 31 East W.M.

B. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS

Earth

a. General description of the site:

(circle one): Flat, **rolling**, hilly, steep slopes, mountainous, other _____

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

Approximately 40%

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 agricultural land of long-term commercial significance and whether the proposal results in removing any of these soils.

Warden very fine sandy loam (464.3 Acres, 71.8%), Quincy loamy fine sand (131.1 Acres, 20.3%), Hezel loamy fine sand (32 acres, 4.9%), Quincy-Dune land complex (9.4 acres, 1.4%), Other silt loams or very fine sandy loams (10.2 Acres, 1.5%).

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

None.

e. Describe the purpose, type, total area, and approximate quantities and total affected area of any filling, excavation, and grading proposed. Indicate source of fill.

There will be underground irrigation pipe installed 36" to 48" deep. Exact location and size of the pipe will be determined following project design and engineering. Concrete pads will be installed at the center pivot location. All backfill will come from on site. Grading will be completed to allow for irrigation and farming practices. The leveling is anticipated ground disturbance will be from one (1) foot to a maximum of five (5) feet. Compost will be brought in from off site and spread across disturbed sites.

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

There could be some minor erosion during construction. Following construction there erosion should be limited to rare events. Crop Residue and cover crops will be required to help reduce these events.

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

None. 0%.

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

A combination of actions such as avoiding work during major storm events and temporary berms to control runoff, will be used if erosion is experienced. Revegetation will occur as soon as possible to reduce the risk of an erosion event (i.e. replanting crops or revegetation with native seed mix as appropriate). We will be replacing the organic top soil as the top layer of backfill so where leveling so it will have no greater chance of erosion than typical agricultural practices in the area allow where dry land fields are left fallow and bare every other year and Irrigated ground may be left with limited cover over the winter.

2. Air

a. What types of emissions to the air would result from the proposal during construction, operation, and maintenance when the project is completed? If any, generally describe and give approximate quantities if known.

Dust and equipment emissions during construction. None following completion of construction except for standard emissions associated with farming.

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:

None.

3. Water

a. Surface Water:

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.

The Snake River is approximately 3/4 of a mile to the South at its closest point. There are no natural streams or other natural surface water bodies in the vicinity of the site. There is a man made irrigation pond on the eastern edge of this property.

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.

No.

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.

N/A

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

The project will deliver irrigation water via existing irrigation infrastructure from the Snake River. An average of 2.5 to 3.2 acre/ft per irrigated acre will be used. Exact number of irrigated acres will be determined upon final design and layout of the project. The estimated irrigated acreage is 461 +/- . Withdraw rates will be based upon existing water rights that will be transferred to this project.

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

No.

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 Water:

1) Will groundwater be withdrawn from a well for drinking water or other purposes? If so, give a general description of the well, proposed uses and approximate quantities withdrawn from the well. Will water be discharged to groundwater? 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.

There should be no changes in any runoff water from existing.

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

No.

3) Does the proposal alter or otherwise affect drainage patterns in the vicinity of the site? If so, describe.

No.

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

None.

4. Plants

Check the types of vegetation found on the site:

___deciduous tree: alder, maple, aspen, other

___evergreen tree: fir, cedar, pine, other

___**X** shrubs

___**X** grass

___**X** pasture

___crop or grain

___ Orchards, vineyards or other permanent crops.

___ 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?

Vegetation including sagebrush, native and non-native grasses, will be removed in locations converted to irrigated agriculture.

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

None were found on the site using DNR Specials Concerns tool.

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

None.

e. List all noxious weeds and invasive species known to be on or near the site.

Cheat grass, Yellow Star Thistle, Rush Skeleton weed, knapweed.

5. Animals

a. List any birds and other animals which have been observed on or near the site or are known to be on or near the site.

Examples include:

**birds: hawk, heron, eagle, songbirds,
mammals: deer, coyote
fish: none**

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

DNR's special concerns tools was queried and no threatened or endangered species are reported.

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

Northwest Migratory Bird Flyway.

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

NONE.

e. List any invasive animal species known to be on or near the site.

None known.

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 will be used to operate pumps and pivots necessary to deliver irrigation water.

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:

Use of variable frequency drive pumps for irrigation.

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.

No.

Describe any known or possible contamination at the site from present or past uses.

None known.

Describe existing hazardous chemicals/conditions that might affect project development and design. This includes underground hazardous liquid and gas transmission pipelines located within the project area and in the vicinity.

None.

Describe any toxic or hazardous chemicals that might be stored, used, or produced during the project's development or construction, or at any time during the operating life of the project.

Fuel and oil associated with construction equipment will be used on site during construction. Following construction there will be none.

Describe special emergency services that might be required.

None.

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

None.

b. Noise

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.

Equipment noise during construction. Electric motor noise following construction.

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

None.

8. Land and Shoreline Use

a. What is the current use of the site and adjacent properties? Will the proposal affect current land uses on nearby or adjacent properties? If so, describe.

The current land use is livestock grazing. Adjacent properties to the South and East are irrigated agriculture orchards, The lands to the west are irrigated center pivot and rural residential. The lands to the north are currently grazing.

b. Has the project site been used as working farmlands or working forest lands? If so, describe. How much agricultural or forest land of long-term commercial significance will be converted to other uses as a result of the proposal, if any? If resource lands have not been designated, how many acres in farmland or forest land tax status will be converted to nonfarm or nonforest use?

No.

1) Will the proposal affect or be affected by surrounding working farm or forest land normal business operations, such as oversize equipment access, the application of pesticides, tilling, and harvesting? If so, how:

No.

c. Describe any structures on the site.

None.

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

N/A

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

AP-20 (Ag. Production 20 Acre)

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

The Franklin County 2008 Comprehensive Plan lists it as Agriculture.

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

N/A

h. Has any part of the site been classified as a critical area by the city or county? If so, specify.

No.

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:

None.

m. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with nearby agricultural and forest lands of long-term commercial significance, if any:

None.

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?

The tallest height will be the irrigation circle. Depending on the model it can be up to 12' +/-

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

None.

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?

None.

b. Would the proposed project displace any existing recreational uses? If so, describe.

None.

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 buildings, structures, or sites, located on or near the site that are over 45 years old listed in or eligible for listing in national, state, or local preservation registers? If so, specifically describe.

None.

b. Are there any landmarks, features, or other evidence of Indian or historic use or occupation? This may include human burials or old cemeteries. Are there any material evidence, artifacts, or areas of cultural importance on or near the site? Please list any professional studies conducted at the site to identify such resources.

None.

c. Describe the methods used to assess the potential impacts to cultural and historic resources on or near the project site. Examples include consultation with tribes and the department of archeology and historic preservation, archaeological surveys, historic maps, GIS data, etc.

Stacie Sexton, a Professional Archaeologist with GRAM Northwest, LLC completed a cultural resources review report that included an literature review, a geomorphologic review, a review of previous disturbances, data for GIS, and acrhaological field work. A pedestrian survey and of shovel tests throughout

the project area were also conducted. As a result 2 sites were recored as part of this project. Both sites have been recommended as not eligible for the National Register of Historcial Places.

d. Proposed measures to avoid, minimize, or compensate for loss, changes to, and disturbance to resources. Please include plans for the above and any permits that may be required.

In the event that any unknown archeological resources are encountered, the ground disturbing activities would be halted and a Department of Natural Resources Archeologist will be contacted to survey the site and develop a Site Protection Plan. The Department's Inadvertent Discovery Plan is available at the Region Office.

14. Transportation

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

The project will be accessed via existing farm roads. County Roads that currently service the property are: Alan Road, Green Road.

b. Is the site or affected geographic area currently served by public transit? If so, generally describe. If not, what is the approximate distance to the nearest transit stop?

No. approximately 7 miles.

c. How many additional parking spaces would the completed project or non-project proposal have? How many would the project or proposal eliminate?

None will be created or eliminated.

d. Will the proposal require any new or improvements to existing roads, streets, pedestrian, bicycle or state transportation facilities, not including driveways? If so, generally describe (indicate whether public or private).

No improvements will be required to any of the above. New farm access roads will be built consisting of a base corse and top lay of gravel.

e. Will the project or proposal 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 or proposal? If known, indicate when peak volumes would occur and what percentage of the volume would be trucks (such as commercial and nonpassenger vehicles). What data or transportation models were used to make these estimates?

On the average one to two trips per day except during peak planting and harvesting times where depending on the crop could peak for 3 to 5 days.

g. Will the proposal interfere with, affect or be affected by the movement of agricultural and forest products on roads or streets in the area? If so, generally describe.

No.

h. 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, public transit, 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 _____

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.

Under ground electrical service will need to be extended to each center pivot.

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:  _____

Name of signee 4C3444D2C2E84D2... Kathryn Mink _____

Position and Agency/Organization SE-ARM, State of Washington DNR

Date Submitted: 7/30/2020