

WAHKIAKUM COUNTY 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 non-project proposals:

Complete this checklist for non-project proposals, even though questions may be answered "does not apply". IN ADDITION, complete the SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET FOR NONPROJECT ACTIONS (part D).

For non-project 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.

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A. BACKGROUND

1. Name of proposed project, if applicable:

Wahkiakum County Comprehensive Flood Hazard Management Plan (CFHMP)

2. Name of applicant:

Wahkiakum County

3. Address and telephone number of applicant and/or contact person:

4. Date checklist prepared:

November 1, 2004

5. Agency requesting checklist:

Department of Ecology

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

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

Upon plan adoption, it is anticipated that the County will implement the Action Items identified in the plan that include both structural and non-structural measure to reduce flooding risk in the County.

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

Not directly applicable to this proposed plan.

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.

No projects directly related to this proposal.

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

Wahkiakum County Adoption of plan.

Washington Department of Ecology review and acceptance of plan.

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.

The CFHMP takes a watershed approach to address the diversity of local community and State flood hazard concerns in Wahkiakum County. The County encompasses the major watersheds of Watershed Resource Inventory Area (WRIA) 25, which includes 3 major watershed areas: Grays River (includes Crooked River and Deep River), Skamokawa (includes Jim Crow Creek) and Elochoman. Significant portions of other basins, like Abernathy Creek, are located in Wahkiakum County, but to date, no flooding issues were identified within the jurisdiction of Wahkiakum County. The CFHMP also encompasses the unique flood-related issues on Puget Island that are in part, attributable to the landscape processes of the Columbia River Estuary. Using existing information developed from previous assessments, studies, and analyses, the focus of this document is to characterize the nature of flood events in these sub-basins. This characterization helps inform the development of flood hazard alternatives and action items consistent with the Revised Code of Washington (RCW) Chapter 86.26

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and Washington Administrative Code (WAC) Chapter 173-145.

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 river values, flood plains, and drainages of Wahkiakum County, Washington

B. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS

NOTE: The CFHMP directs a multitude of actions to reduce flood hazard risk to private and public interests in Wahkiakum County. Specifics can't be given for each of the elements because of the nature and breadth of the plan itself.

1. EARTH

- a. General description of the site (circle one): flat, rolling, hilly, steep slopes, mountains,
other _____.
- b. What is the steepest slope on the site (approximate percent slope)?
Not applicable to this proposal
- 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.
Not applicable to this proposal
- d. Are there surface indications or history of unstable soils in the immediate vicinity? If so, describe.
Not applicable to this proposal
- e. Describe the purpose, type and approximate quantities of any filling or grading proposed. Indicate source of fill.
None
- f. Could erosion occur as a result of clearing, construction, or use? If so, generally describe.
No
- 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:
Not applicable to this proposal

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.
Not applicable to this proposal
- b. Are there any off-site sources of emissions or odors that may affect your proposal? If so, generally describe.
Not applicable to this proposal
- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control emissions or other impacts to air, if any:

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Not applicable to this proposal

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 streams or rivers it flows into.

All drainages, rivers, creeks, and floodways of Wahkiakum County, WA. General drainages include Grays River –Deep River drainages, Skamokawa Creek drainages, Elochoman River Drainages, and Columbia 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.

Proposed plan supplies proposed projects within described water drainages.

3) Estimate the amount the 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.

Not applicable to this proposal

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

Not directly elements of plan may recommend projects which could require surface water withdrawals.

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

Yes, all Flood Insurance Rate Map designated flood plains within Wahkiakum County, WA.

6) Does the proposal involve any discharge of waste materials to surface water? If so, describe the type of waste and anticipated volume of discharge.

Not applicable to this proposal

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.

Not applicable to this proposal

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 to this proposal

c. Water Runoff (including storm water):

1) Describe the source of runoff (including storm water) and method of collection and disposal, if any (including quantities, if known. Where will this water flow? Will this water flow into other water? If so, describe.

Not applicable to this proposal

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

Not applicable to this proposal

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

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Not applicable to this proposal

4. PLANTS

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

- deciduous tree: alder, maple, aspen, other
- evergreen tree: fir, cedar, other
- shrubs
- grass
- pasture
- crop or grain
- wet soil plants: cattail, buttercup, bullrush, skunk cabbage, other
- water plants: water lilly, eelgrass, milfoil, other
- other types of vegetation

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

Not applicable to this proposal

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

All Department of Natural Resources Natural Heritage Program designated plants falling within boundaries of Wahkiakum County.

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

Not applicable to this proposal

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: hawks, 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.

All federal and state listed species within the boundaries of Wahkiakum County.

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

Not applicable to this proposal

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

Not applicable to this proposal

6. ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

a. What kind 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 to this proposal

b. What your project affect the potential of solar energy by adjacent properties? If so, generally describe.

Not applicable to this proposal

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c. What kind of energy conservation feature are included in the plans of this proposal? List other proposed measures to reduce or control energy impacts, if any:

Not applicable to this proposal

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?

Not applicable to this proposal

1) Describe special emergency services that might be required.

Not applicable to this proposal

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

Not applicable to this proposal

b. Noise

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

Not applicable to this proposal

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.

Not applicable to this proposal

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

Not applicable to this proposal

8. LAND AND SHORELINE USE

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

Wahkiakum County consists of forestry land, agricultural land, residential areas, and corporate areas.

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

Not applicable to this proposal

c. Describe any structures on the site.

Not applicable to this proposal

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

Not applicable to this proposal

e. What is the zoning classification of the site?

Un-incorporated areas of Wahkiakum County has no current zoning regulations

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

Specific Forestry, Specific Agricultural, Rural Service Areas, Rural Residential, Urban Development Areas, Low Density Residential, High Density Residential, Commercial, Industrial Public/Quasi-Public, Wetland

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

Natural, Conservancy, Rural, and Urban

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

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Not applicable to this proposal

- i. Approximately how many people would reside or work in the completed project?
Not applicable to this proposal
- j. Approximately how many people would the completed project displace?
Not applicable to this proposal
- k. Proposed measures to avoid or reduce displacement impacts, if any:
Not applicable to this proposal
- l. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with existing and projected land uses and plans, if any:
Not applicable to this proposal

9. HOUSING

- a. Approximately how many units would be provided, if any? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.
Not applicable to this proposal
- b. Approximately how many units, if any, would be eliminated? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.
Not applicable to this proposal
- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control housing impacts, if any:
Not applicable to this proposal

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?
Not applicable to this proposal
- b. What views in the immediate vicinity would be altered or obstructed?
Not applicable to this proposal
- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control aesthetic impacts, if any:
Not applicable to this proposal

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 to this proposal
- b. Could light or glare from the finished project be a safety hazard or interfere with views?
Not applicable to this proposal
- c. What existing off-site source of light or glare may affect your proposal?
Not applicable to this proposal
- d. Proposed measures to reduce or control light and glare impacts, if any:
Not applicable to this proposal

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12. RECREATION

- a. What designated and informal recreational opportunities are in the immediate vicinity?
Not applicable to this proposal
- b. W **Not applicable to this proposal**
- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts on recreation, including recreation opportunities to be provided by the project or applicant, if any:
Not applicable to this proposal

13. HISTORIC AND CULTURAL PRESERVATION

- a. Are there any places or objects listed on, or proposed for, natural, state, or local preservation registers known to be on or next to the site? If so, generally describe.
Skamokawa Historic District and all structures within the un-incorporated areas of Wahkiakum County
- b. Generally describe any landmarks or evidence of historic, archeological, scientific, or cultural importance known to be on or next to the site.
Not applicable to this proposal
- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts, if any:
Not applicable to this proposal

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.
Not applicable to this proposal
- b. I site currently served by public transit? If not, what is the approximate distance to the nearest transit stop?
Not applicable to this proposal
- c. How many parking spaces would the completed project have? How many would the project eliminate?
Not applicable to this proposal
- 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).
Not applicable to this proposal
- e. Will the project use (or occur in the immediate vicinity of) water, rail, or air transportation? If so, generally describe.
Not applicable to this proposal
- f. How many vehicular trips per day would be generated by the completed project? If known, indicate when peak volumes would occur.
Not applicable to this proposal
- g. Proposed measures to reduce or control transportation impact, if any:
Not applicable to this proposal

15. PUBLIC SERVICES

- a. Would the project result in an increased need for public services (for example: fire protection, police protection,

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health care, schools, other)? If so, generally describe.

Not applicable to this proposal

b. Proposed measures to reduce or control direct impacts on public services, if any.

Not applicable to this proposal

16. UTILITIES

a. Circle utilities currently available at the site: electricity, natural gas, water, refuse service, telephone, sanitary sewer, septic system, other.

Not applicable to this proposal

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.

Not applicable to this proposal

C. SIGNATURE

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

Signature: _____

Date submitting: _____

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D. SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET FOR NONPROJECT ACTIONS

(do not use this sheet for project actions)

Because these questions are very general, it may be helpful to read them in conjunction with the list of the elements of the environment.

When answering these questions, be aware of the extent the proposal, or the types of activities likely to result from the proposal, would affect the item at a greater intensity or at a faster rate than if the proposal were not implemented. Respond briefly and in general terms.

1. How would the proposal be likely to increase discharge to water; emissions to air; production, storage, or release of toxic or hazardous substances; or production of noise?

Implementing actions in the CFHMP will not likely increase discharge to water or release of toxic or hazardous substances.

Proposed measures to avoid or reduce such increases are: **None proposed.**

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

The plan is a watershed-based approach to flood hazard mitigation. Action items are intended to parallel larger landscape processes that maintain and, in certain cases, benefit existing habitat for both aquatic and terrestrial species.

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

Examples include Action Items for land acquisitions in the floodplain, the installation of fish-friendly tidegate structures, and the development of a riparian planting program. The incorporation of woody material for protecting streambanks also provide potential habitat benefits for a variety of aquatic species.

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

Proposal will not likely deplete energy or natural resources

Proposed measures to protect or conserve energy and natural resources are:
SEE ABOVE RESPONSES TO #2

4. How would the proposal be likely to use or affect environmentally sensitive areas or areas designated (or eligible or under study) for governmental protection; such as parks, wilderness, wild and scenic rivers, threatened or endangered species habitat, historic or cultural sites, wetlands, floodplains, or prime farmlands?

Environmental sensitive areas and areas under governmental protection are highlighted in this plan as potential areas for restoration and/or acquisition. These area are critical for maintaining and/or restoring floodplain connectivity. Doing so restores stability to natural processes which promotes floodplain equilibrium thereby reducing long term risk to lives and property.

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

- Action Items for land acquisition
- Action Items for setback levees
- Action Items for tidegate replacements
- Action Items for riparian plantings

5. How would the proposal be likely to affect land and shoreline use, including whether it would allow or encourage land or shoreline uses incompatible with existing plans?

All structural measures proposed in the CFHMP are compatible with the Counties Shoreline Master Plan. Nothing in the plan recommends activities incompatible with existing plans.

Proposed measures to avoid or reduce shoreline and land use impacts are: **None Proposed**

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

Proposal is not likely to increase demands on transportation or public services and utilities.

Proposed measures to reduce or respond to such demand(s) are: **Not applicable to this proposal.**

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

It is not anticipated that any actions proposed in the CFHMP will conflict with local, state, and federal regulatory statutes.

