

SEPA¹ 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.

¹ <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/Checklist-guidance>

A. Background

[Find help answering background questions](#)²

1. Name of proposed project, if applicable:

Taneum Creek RM 5 Restoration

2. Name of applicant:

Yakama Nation - Yakima Klickitat Fisheries Project (YKFP)

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

Tara O'Rourke

(509) 830-8990

PO Box 151, Toppenish, WA 98948

4. Date checklist prepared:

7/17/2024

5. Agency requesting checklist:

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

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

Phase I:

80% Design: Target October 2024

Final Design: Target March 2025

Construction: Target Summer 2025

Phase II:

Target 2027 (Dependent on funding).

The approximate construction schedule shall be refined/finalized by YKFP in future design iterations. The in-water work window for Taneum Creek is July 15 – September 30th. Work in non-wetted areas is anticipated prior to the in-water work window.

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

The project evaluated by this SEPA checklist is Phase I of the two-phase Taneum Creek RM 5 Restoration Project. Phase I spans from river mile (RM) 4.6 – 5.0, and Phase II will span from RM 5.0 – 5.4. Both phases will involve instream and floodplain restoration, and Phase II includes the installation of a new bridge in the reach immediately upstream of Phase I. Phase II will be designed and permitted separately.

² <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-A-Background>

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

Our hired engineering firm, Natural Systems Design, has prepared a thorough Basis of Design report evaluating the past and present conditions of the channel, riparian, and floodplain zones, as well as geomorphic and hydrologic conditions. A wetland delineation was also completed for this project in 2023. There is also an environmental site assessment and a hazardous substance certification associated with the property and acquisition.

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.

BPA – HIP IV NEPA/ESA Coverage

USACE – JARPA 401/404

WDFW – HPA

Ecology - Construction Stormwater General Permit

Kittitas County- Shoreline Management

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.)

Yakama Nation - Yakima Klickitat Fisheries Project (YKFP) proposes to restore 0.4 miles of Taneum Creek and contracted Natural Systems Design (NSD) to develop design documents for aquatic/floodplain restoration actions proposed within Taneum Creek, a tributary to the Yakima River, between river mile (RM) 4.6 and 5.0. This project is part of a longer-term strategy developed by YKFP to improve habitat conditions across the Yakima River basin for salmonids, including spring Chinook (*Onchorhynchus tshawytscha*) and ESA-listed steelhead (*Onchorhynchus mykiss*). YKFP's overarching goal of the project is to address impacts of historic channel incision and to produce functioning floodplain habitat.

The restoration actions to be taken include installation of habitat forming structures, channel and floodplain earthwork for secondary channel and floodplain connectivity, setback of existing flood berm to limit flooding to downstream property, large wood and gravel placement in the incised channel for habitat formation, and 8.2 acres of riparian restoration.

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 at Taneum Creek, Kittitas County, WA, from RM 4.6 – 5.0, 47°05'08.5"N 120°46'34.9"W, approximately 5.5 miles WNW from the town of Thorp, WA. The project will take place completely on the WDFW LT Murray Wildlife Area.

Legal description: PARCEL # 346333, PTN N1/2 & LYING N OF TANEUM CREEK RD (PTN PARCEL 1, B43/P165-167); SEC 01, TWP 18, RGE 16

B.Environmental Elements

1. Earth

[Find help answering earth questions](#)³

- a. General description of the site:** *Ignoring structures and vegetation, describe the general shape or contour of the land including the project site and surrounding area. Steep or hazardous slopes. Describe hazardous slopes, including slope percentage and vertical height. Identify any large, deep-seated slumps, unstable areas, and any mass wasting features.*

Taneum Creek at the project site is a confined and straightened stream channel with a high gradient, high velocities, and large substrate that is unsuitable for salmon spawning. The alluvial valley bottom ranges from 400 to 700 feet in width, although the footprint of current river flooding and channel migration processes is limited to roughly a 70-foot-wide corridor above RM 5. The relative elevation model (REM) based on recent lidar data also shows the presence of alluvial fans along the southern valley margin, and several relict landslide areas on both valley margins. These sediment inputs are no longer connected to the active channel corridor due to channel confinement and limited floodplain engagement. The mainstem channel is currently incised approximately 3-feet and up to 6-feet and confined within artificial berms.

Circle or highlight one: **Flat**, rolling, hilly, steep slopes, mountainous, other:

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

Steepest slope found on-site: ~13%.

- 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.**

The channel bed is generally armored with cobble (median grain size of 128 mm) and small boulders (median grain size of 250 mm). Channel banks include a mix of fines,

³ <https://ecology.wa.gov/regulations-permits/sepa/environmental-review/sepa-guidance/sepa-checklist-guidance/sepa-checklist-section-b-environmental-elements/environmental-elements-earth>

sand, cobble, and small boulders and segments of bank armoring by concrete chunks or riprap. The surrounding lands are composed of Weirman complex soils and Kayak gravelly ashy loam. No commercial agricultural land.

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

There are several relict landslide areas on both valley margins. These sediment inputs are no longer connected to the active channel corridor due to channel confinement and limited floodplain engagement.

- 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.**

Floodplain material forming berms will be excavated and utilized for filling the channel for secondary channel and floodplain connectivity (approximately 10,400 cubic yards (cy) of excavation over 4.4 acres).

One existing flood berm will be set back to limit flooding to downstream private property, and boulder, cobble, and gravel from berms will be placed in incised channel for habitat formation (approximately 6,700 cy over 2.3 acres).

- f. Could erosion occur because of clearing, construction, or use? If so, generally describe.**

Yes, as the new secondary channel will be excavated prior to introduction of flow. The primary channel will have fill placed in it while dewatered. Sediments from excavation may flow downstream during rewetting and introduction of flow. However, best management practices will be implemented, and turbidity will be monitored to remain within permit parameters.

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

0%

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

Excavation and placement of fill will only occur in dewatered channels to avoid excess sedimentation of water. Additionally, best management practices will be implemented, and NTUs will be monitored to remain within permit parameters.

2. Air

[Find help answering air questions](#)⁴

- 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.**

Some greenhouse gas emissions will be produced from the operation of heavy equipment involved in the excavation and placement of floodplain fill, transportation of logs, and construction of engineered log jams. Dust will also be produced from excavation and fill.

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

None.

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

Disturbed soils will be saturated with water from the creek shortly after excavation and filling to reduce dust. Equipment will be used as efficiently as possible to minimize GHG emissions from excess operation time. Equipment access routes will be rehabilitated and seeded to prevent dust movement after project completion.

3. Water

[Find help answering water questions](#)⁵

- a. **Surface:**

[Find help answering surface water questions](#)⁶

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.**

This project will be occurring in Taneum Creek from river mile 4.6-5.0. A wetland delineation was produced for the project and identified both slope and riverine wetlands in the project reach.

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.**

This work is focused within and around the existing Taneum Creek channel. Additionally, the work will occur around the identified wetlands. Although some

⁴ <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-B-Environmental-elements/Environmental-elements-Air>

⁵ <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-B-Environmental-elements/Environmental-elements-3-Water>

⁶ <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-B-Environmental-elements/Environmental-elements-3-Water/Environmental-elements-Surface-water>

units will be assimilated into the new, expanded stream channel, as many existing wetlands will be preserved as possible, and this project will create expansive floodplain wetlands.

- 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.**

10,000 cubic feet of sorted fill will be placed in dewatered channels and will be sourced from adjacent artificial berms, which are predominantly composed of native alluvium. Non-native berm materials such as concrete blocks will be removed from the site.

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

Flow from the main channel will be diverted temporarily into the excavated side channel during main channel filling and construction of engineered log jams.

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

Yes.

- 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:

[Find help answering ground water questions](#)⁷

- 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 a 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 (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):

⁷ <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-B-Environmental-elements/Environmental-elements-3-Water/Environmental-elements-Groundwater>

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.

None.

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.

This proposal will benefit drainage patterns around the site, increasing the groundwater storage capacity by raising the water table. Drainage rates will be slowed as water is spread out over a larger area with increased roughness.

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

None.

4. Plants

[Find help answering plants questions](#)

- a. Check the 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

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?

This project involves creation of new vegetated riparian corridor and enhancement of existing riparian corridor. The creation of 2400 feet of channel length will necessitate the selective removal of vegetation along a majority of this distance, including cottonwood, alder, and maple trees with some Ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*) and fir as well as shrubs and predominantly nonnative grasses. To the extent possible, mature Ponderosa pine and mature cottonwoods along the channel margins will be kept intact.

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

None.

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

The creation of a new vegetated riparian corridor and enhancement of existing riparian corridor will be beneficial to the riparian community. The reconnection of floodplain and raising of the water table will encourage native plants to outcompete nonnatives that are not as water-tolerant.

The site will be seeded with a mixture of native grass seed to prevent invasive vegetation from establishing in disturbed areas. Planting of native riparian tree species is planned in the years following construction to allow native vegetation to re-establish on disturbed and restored areas following restoration implementation. Replanting will occur on channel banks where riparian trees are currently absent, cut areas and disturbed areas for access within the floodplain, and floodplain areas. Depending on the site, species planted will include a wet seed mix of native grasses interplanted with native tree species including Ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*) and black cottonwood (*Populus balsamifera trichocarpa* spp.).

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

Diffuse knapweed and Canada thistle

5. Animals

[Find help answering animal questions](#)⁸

a. List any birds and other animals that 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, other:
- **Mammals:** deer, bear, elk, beaver, other:
- **Fish:** bass, salmon, trout, herring, shellfish, other:

Breeding area: *Oncorhynchus mykiss* (Steelhead trout), *Oncorhynchus kisutch* (coho salmon), *Entosphenus tridentatus* (Pacific lamprey)

Occurrence: *Oncorhynchus mykiss* (Upper Yakima summer steelhead), *Onchorhynchus tshawytscha* (Chinook salmon)

Habitat: *Taxidea taxus* (American badger), *Sciurus griseus* (western gray squirrel), *Contia tenuis* (sharp-tailed snake), *Aquila chrysaetos* (Golden eagle), *Accipiter gentilis* (northern goshawk), and *Canis lupus* (gray wolf), *Odocoileus hemionus hemionus* (mule deer), *Castor*

⁸ <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-B-Environmental-elements/Environmental-elements-5-Animals>

canadensis (North American beaver), *Cervus canadensis* (elk), *Ursus americanus* (American black bear), *Ardea herodias* (great blue heron), songbirds

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

Middle-Columbia River steelhead - threatened.

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

Salmonids (steelhead, coho and Chinook) use this reach to spawn or access spawning grounds upstream as part of their migratory stage of their life cycle as anadromous fishes.

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

The additional 2400 feet of stream length will provide a significant amount of new habitat for spawning and rearing salmonids and will enhance their populations.

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

None known

6. Energy and natural resources

[Find help answering energy and natural resource questions](#)⁹

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.

None

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.

N/A

7. Environmental health

[Health Find help with answering environmental health questions](#)¹⁰

a. Are there any environmental health hazards, including exposure to toxic chemicals, risk of fire and explosion, spill, or hazardous waste, that could occur because of this proposal? If so, describe.

⁹ <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-B-Environmental-elements/Environmental-elements-6-Energy-natural-resou>

¹⁰ <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-B-Environmental-elements/Environmental-elements-7-Environmental-health>

Any environmental health hazards would originate from the operation of heavy machinery. These hazards may include use of diesel fuel and oil releasing air pollutants, leakage of any fluids from equipment, or risk of fire from operation.

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

Much of the Taneum valley bottom was historically cleared for agricultural and grazing uses.

2. 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.

3. 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.

None.

4. Describe special emergency services that might be required.

None.

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

Equipment will not be operated outside of Industrial Fire Precaution Levels requirements to reduce risk of fire. Firefighting equipment will be on-site in the event of a fire ignition.

b. Noise

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

Equipment operation will produce noise pollution throughout the duration of 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)?

Construction and equipment operation will produce moderate noise daily until construction is complete for approximately one month. Noise will be produced between 6am – 8pm.

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

None.

8. Land and shoreline use

[Find help answering land and shoreline use questions](https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-B-Environmental-elements/Environmental-elements-8-Land-shoreline-use)¹¹

- 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 majority of the floodplain is owned by WDFW as part of the LT Murray Wildlife Area managed for wildlife protection, and the southern floodplain and the valley bottom at the downstream extent of the project transitions to private property. Adjacent properties are privately owned and practice grazing.

The design will evaluate downstream landowner impacts by ensuring that flooding is not increased in the left/northern overbank across the property boundary. In addition, engineered logjams (ELJs) will be proposed to limit any erosion into unwanted areas (e.g., avulsion paths that could cross private property lines or to ensure channel does not migrate rapidly towards existing roads). Wood placements or ELJs meant to protect surfaces from erosion will be designed for stability at the 100-year event.

- 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 because 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?**

The project site has been used as working farmlands in the past. Heavy grazing was practiced on the floodplain, and the stream channel was straightened and cleared for upstream logging in the past as well. No agricultural or forest land of long-term commercial significance will be converted to other uses because of the proposal.

- 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?**

No.

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

This site is zoned as Forest and Range.

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

Commercial Forest, Allowed Use, Rural Working

¹¹ <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-B-Environmental-elements/Environmental-elements-8-Land-shoreline-use>

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

Taneum Creek at the project site is designated as a Rural Conservancy shoreline.

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

- PHS Site: TANEUM RIDGE MULE DEER HIGH CONCENTRATION
- Wetlands: R4SBC, R3UBH, PFOA
- Taneum Creek Fish and Wildlife Habitat Conservation Critical Area
- Project lies within a FEMA 100 year Floodplain
- Hazardous Slopes >35% exist alongside the project site immediately north of Taneum Rd West

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.

This project will enhance existing wetlands and riparian zones and create habitat for managed populations and threatened species by restoring hydrologic function. The Brain property was acquired using funds from RCO, specifically utilizing the RCO-WWRP Riparian Protection – Acquisition grant opportunity under Project #14-1092 – Taneum Creek Riparian. Because this project increases riparian system climate change resiliency and improves riparian habitat for protection of ESA listed fish species, the project scope accurately falls within the approved project types that the acquisition and associated funds support.

m. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts to agricultural and forest lands of long-term commercial significance, if any:

None.

9. Housing

[Find help answering housing questions](#)¹²

a. Approximately how many units would be provided, if any? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.

¹² <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-B-Environmental-elements/Environmental-elements-9-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

[Find help answering aesthetics questions](#)¹³

- a. What is the tallest height of any proposed structure(s), not including antennas; what is the principal exterior building material(s) proposed?**

N/A

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

None.

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

None.

11. Light and glare

[Find help answering light and glare questions](#)¹⁴

- 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.

¹³ <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-B-Environmental-elements/Environmental-elements-10-Aesthetics>

¹⁴ <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-B-Environmental-elements/Environmental-elements-11-Light-glare>

12. Recreation

[Find help answering recreation questions](#)

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

There is no known boating use of the project reach, therefore concerns of boater safety or access were not considered. WDFW property is accessible to the public for recreation such as fishing and hiking.

- 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 existing access to Taneum Creek in the project area is via steep, armored banks with concrete and boulders in numerous locations. Access for hiking and fishing is anticipated to improve with a re-aggraded channel with gentler banks. Birding and wildlife viewing opportunities are expected to improve after restoration with the additional floodplain wetlands and the eventual recovery of riparian forests.

13. Historic and cultural preservation

[Find help answering historic and cultural preservation questions](#)¹⁵

- 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.**

Five historic properties have been inventoried within the project area (Howard 2021a, b, c, d, e). Washington Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP) data indicate that Property 725367 is unevaluated for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Properties 725372, 725373, 725374, and 725375 are Determined Not Eligible.

- 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.**

Three archaeological resources have been identified within the project area (Barrick 2024). Smithsonian trinomial assignment and National Register eligibility for these resources is pending.

¹⁵ <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-B-Environmental-elements/Environmental-elements-13-Historic-cultural-p>

- 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.**

BPA is leading National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), Section 106 consultation with DAHP, Yakama Nation, and WDFW. A cultural resources inventory that includes archival research and archaeological survey of the project area of potential effect (APE) is in process (Barrick 2024).

- 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.**

Project implementation will adhere to BPA and DAHP stipulations determined through the Section 106 process, which is currently in progress.

References

Barrick, Wilbur

2024 *Draft Cultural Resources Inventory of the Taneum Creek, River Mile 5, Restoration Project, Kittitas County, Washington*. Prepared by Yakima-Klickitat Fisheries Project. Toppenish, Washington.

Howard, Spencer

2021a Historic Property Report, Property 725367. Washington Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation.

2021b Historic Property Report, Property 725372. Washington Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation.

2021c Historic Property Report, Property 725373. Washington Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation.

2021d Historic Property Report, Property 725374. Washington Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation.

2021e Historic Property Report, Property 725375. Washington Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation.

14. Transportation

[Find help with answering transportation questions](#)¹⁶

- 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.**

W Taneum Rd is located north of the project site and runs parallel to the project and to Taneum Creek. Access along this road will not be disrupted by the project.

- 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. The nearest public transit station is in Ellensburg 11.9 miles away.

- c. **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.

- d. **Will the project or proposal use (or occur in the immediate vicinity of) water, rail, or air transportation? If so, generally describe.**

No.

- e. **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?**

Not known. Project is not anticipated to change vehicular trips.

- f. **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.

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

None.

15. Public services

[Find help answering public service questions](#)¹⁷

- 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.

¹⁶ <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-B-Environmental-elements/Environmental-elements-14-Transportation>

¹⁷ <https://ecology.wa.gov/regulations-permits/sepa/environmental-review/sepa-guidance/sepa-checklist-guidance/sepa-checklist-section-b-environmental-elements/environmental-elements-15-public-services>

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

None.

16. Utilities

[Find help answering utilities questions¹⁸](#)

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

None.

- b. Describe the utilities that are proposed for the project, the utility providing the service, and the general construction activities on the site or in the immediate vicinity which might be needed.

None.

C. Signature

[Find help about who should sign¹⁹](#)

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.

X *Tara C. O'Rourke*

Type name of signee: Tara O'Rourke

Position and agency/organization: Yakama Nation Fisheries - YKFP Habitat Biologist

Date submitted: 8/12/2024

¹⁸ <https://ecology.wa.gov/regulations-permits/sepa/environmental-review/sepa-guidance/sepa-checklist-guidance/sepa-checklist-section-b-environmental-elements/environmental-elements-16-utilities>

¹⁹ <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-C-Signature>