



Skagit County Planning & Development Services

1800 Continental Place • Mount Vernon, WA 98273

Inspections (360) 336-9306 • Office (360) 336-9410 • Fax (360) 336-9416

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 on the quality of the environment. The purpose of this checklist is to also provide information to help you and the agency identify impacts from your proposal (and to reduce or avoid impacts from the proposals, if it can be done) and to help the agency decide whether an EIS is required.

Required	Submitted
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<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Fees. Payment of \$ _____ review fee due at submittal. (Publishing fees will be billed to applicants later in the application process) <i>*All costs associated with the preparation of any required Environmental Impact Statements shall be borne by the applicant.</i>
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<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Pre-addressed Stamped Envelopes. Applicant shall provide pre-addressed stamped envelopes for Owners of Record within 300 feet of all subject property lines. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• One set for independent SEPA applications.• Two sets for Hearing Examiner Special Use and Variance applications.
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Instructions to the applicant

- Please describe some basic information about your proposal. Answer the questions briefly, with the most precise information known, or give the best description you can.
- 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 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 landward 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. This checklist may ask you to explain your answers or provide additional information reasonably related to determining if there may be significant adverse impacts. Attach any additional information that will help your submittal
- Please disregard **D. Supplement Sheet for Non-Project Actions** if you are proposing a project.

For Non-Project SEPA proposals

- Complete this checklist for non-project proposals, even though the questions may be answered "does not apply". In addition, complete the Supplemental Sheet for non-project 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.



ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

A. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

1. Name of proposed project, if applicable:

Proposed amendments to Skagit County Code, Sections 14.04, Definitions and 14.16.400, Zoning, Agricultural-Natural Resource Lands regarding wetland mitigation banks.

2. Name of applicant:

Skagit County

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

1800 Continental Place, Mount Vernon, WA 98273, (360) 336-9300

Contact: Ryan Walters

4. Date checklist prepared: April 2009

5. Agency requesting checklist: Skagit County Planning and Development Services

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

The proposed code amendments have been developed in accordance with Skagit County Ordinance #O20090001, Interim Ordinance Declaring an Emergency and Adopting a Moratorium on the Acceptance of Applications for Wetland Mitigation Banks on Lands Zoned Ag-NRL. A public hearing will be held before the Skagit County Planning Commission. The changes will become effective soon after adoption by the Skagit County Board of Commissioners

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

No. Not at this time.

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

This environmental checklist.

9. Do you know of pending applications for governmental approvals of other proposals directly affecting the property covered by your proposal? If yes, explain.

The affected properties are those lands within unincorporated Skagit County, excluding federal and tribal lands, that are designated Ag-NRL. No proposals that will directly affect this proposal are known at this time.

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

Adoption of the proposed Skagit County Code amendments by the Skagit County Board of Commissioners and review of the proposed amendments by the Washington State Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development. SEPA review.

11. Give a 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 which ask you to describe certain aspects of your proposal. You do not need to repeat those answers on this page.

As a legislative, nonproject action, the proposed code amendments would affect lands within unincorporated Skagit County designated Ag-NRL, except federal and tribal lands. The intent of the proposed code changes is to prohibit the siting of wetland mitigation banks on lands designated Ag-NRL.

12. Location of the proposal. Please give sufficient information for a person to understand the precise location of your proposed project, including a street address, if any. If a proposal should occur over a range of area, please provide the range or boundaries of the site(s). Please provide a legal description, site plan, vicinity map, and topographic map if possible. 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. (*Indicate if maps or plans have been submitted as part of a permit application.*)

All lands within unincorporated Skagit County, excluding federal and tribal lands, designated Ag-NRL. Please refer to Skagit County Comprehensive Plan Designations and Zoning Districts map.

B. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS

1. Earth

- a. General description of the site (*circle one*): flat, rolling, hilly, steep, slopes, mountainous, other (*describe*):

Site specific information is not applicable to this proposed legislative, nonproject action.

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

Not applicable.

- c. What general types of soils are found on the site (*i.e. clay, sand, gravel, peat, muck*) ? If you

know the classification of agricultural soils, please specify and note any prime farmland. Soils in the Ag-NRL areas are usually designated as prime agricultural soils.

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

Not applicable.

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

None as part of this proposal.

f. Could erosion occur as a result of clearing, construction, or use? If so, generally describe. Not as part of this nonproject proposal.

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:

Nothing proposed as part of 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.

No emissions would result from this proposal.

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

None known.

c. What are the proposed measures to reduce or control emissions or other impacts, if any:

None proposed.

3. Water

a. Surface:

1) Is there any surface water on or in the immediate vicinity of the site (*including year-round and seasonal stream, saltwater, lakes, ponds, associated wetlands*)? If yes, describe type, provide names, and, if known, state what stream or river it flows into.

Not applicable for this nonproject action.

2) Will the project require any work over 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.

None from this proposal.

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

No.

5) Does the proposal lie with a 100-year flood plain? Note location on the site plan, if any. Portions of the land zoned Ag-NRL are within the floodplain.

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 recharged? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.

Not as part of 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.

None.

c. Water runoff (*including storm water*):

1) Describe the source of runoff and 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 waters? If so, please describe.

None.

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

Not as a result of this proposal.

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

None proposed.

4. Plants

a. Check "X" or circle "O" 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, bulrush, 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?

None.

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

None known.

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

None.

5. Animals

a. Circle "O" any birds and animals which have been observed on or known to be on or near the site:

birds: hawk, heron, eagle, songbirds, other: _____

mammals: deer, bear, elk, beaver, other: _____

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

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

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

Yes. The Pacific Flyway.

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

None proposed.

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 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?

None.

d. What are the proposed measures to reduce or control energy impacts, if any?

None proposed.

7. Environmental Health

a. Are there any environmental health hazards, exposure to toxic chemicals, including risk of fire

and explosion, spill, or hazardous waste, that occur as a result of this proposal? If so, describe.

No.

b. Describe special emergency services that might be required.

None.

c. What are the proposed measures to reduce or control environmental health hazards, if any?

None proposed.

8. Land and Shoreline Use

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

Not applicable.

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

The affected Ag-NRL zoned lands have been used for agricultural purposes.

c. Describe any structures on the site.

Not applicable.

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

No.

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

Ag-NRL zoning.

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

Ag-NRL.

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

Affected areas may include several shoreline designations.

h. Has any part of the site been classified as an “environmentally sensitive” area? If so, specify.
Not applicable.

i. What are proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with existing and projected land uses and plans, if any:
None proposed.

j. Approximately how many people would reside or work in the completed project?
Not applicable.

k. Approximately how many people would the completed project displace?
None.

l. What are proposed measures to avoid or reduce displacement or other impacts, if any?
None proposed.

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. What are proposed measures to reduce or control housing impacts, if any?
None proposed.

10. Noise

a. What types of noise exist in the area which may affect your project (*for example: traffic, equipment, operation, other*)?
Not applicable.

b. 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*)?
None.

c. What are the proposed measures to reduce or control noise impacts, if any?
None are proposed.

11. Aesthetics

a. What is the tallest height of any proposed structure(s), not including antennas; what is the

principal exterior building material(s) proposed?

No structures are proposed.

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

None.

c. What are the proposed measures to reduce or control aesthetic impacts, if any?

None proposed.

12. 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. What are the proposed measures to reduce or control light and glare impacts, if any?

None proposed.

13. Recreation

a. What designated and informal recreational opportunities are in the immediate vicinity?
Skagit County offers a variety of recreational opportunities.

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

No.

c. What are the proposed measures to reduce or control impacts on recreation, including recreation opportunities to be provided by the project or applicant, if any?

None proposed.

14. 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.

This is not a site specific project.

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

Not applicable for this proposal.

c. What are the proposed measures to reduce or control impacts, if any?

None proposed.

15. 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.

There are federal, state, local and private roads.

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

Skagit County is served by public transit.

- c. How many parking spaces would the completed project have? How many would the project eliminate?

None.

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

no.

- e. Will the project use or occur in the immediate vicinity of water, rail, or air transportation? If so, generally describe.

Not applicable.

- f. How many vehicular trips per day would be generated by the completed project? If known, indicate when peak volumes would occur.

None.

- g. What are proposed measures to reduce or control transportation impacts, if any?

None proposed.

16. Public Services

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

No.

- b. What are proposed measures to reduce or control direct impacts on public services, if any?

None proposed.

17. Utilities

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

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

None.

C. SIGNATURE

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

Signature: _____

Date Submitted: _____

D. SUPPLEMENT 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 effect the item at a greater intensity or at a 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 or noise?
The proposed code changes should not cause an increase to any of these things.

2. How would the proposal be likely to affect plants, animals, fish or marine life?
The proposed code amendments should have no direct impacts on plants, animals, fish or marine life.

Proposed measures to protect or conserve plants, animals, fish or marine life?
There are none proposed as part of this nonproject legislative action.

3. How would the proposal be likely to deplete energy or natural resources?
The proposed code amendments should not be likely to deplete energy or natural resources.

Proposed measures to protect or conserve energy and natural resources are:
None proposed as part of this nonproject action.

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 farm lands?
It is the intent of the code amendments to prohibit the development of wetland mitigation banks on agricultural lands, thereby offering some protection of those lands.

Proposed measures to protect such resources or to avoid or reduce impacts are:
See previous response above.

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?
There will be a minimal impact on land use, by restricting the development of mitigation banks on Ag-NRL zoned lands.

Proposed measures to avoid or reduce shoreline and land use impacts are:
No measures are proposed.

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

There should not be an increase in demands on transportation, public services or utilities as a result of the proposed code changes.

Proposed measures to reduce or respond to such demand(s) are:
None proposed.

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

The proposed code amendments are not intended to conflict with any other local, state or federal environmental regulations.