

ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

EA 2014-015

A. BACKGROUND

1. Name of proposed project, if applicable:

Benton County Comprehensive Shoreline Master Program Update

2. Name of applicant:

Benton County Planning Department, Attn: Susan Walker

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

P.O. Box 910 / 1002 Dudley Avenue, Prosser, WA 99350; 509-786-5612 Ext. 5690

4. Date checklist prepared:

March 19, 2014

5. Agency requesting checklist:

Benton County

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

Benton County proposes to locally adopt the updated Shoreline Master Program (SMP) in June 2014, after which the SMP and supporting documentation will be delivered to Washington Department of Ecology for its formal review and approval.

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

Under the current SMA, the County is required to review and update the SMP every 8 years (Chapter 90.58.080(4)(a) RCW), following the completion of the current process.

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

Final Shoreline Analysis Report for Shorelines in Benton County: Yakima and Columbia Rivers. April 2013.

Shoreline Restoration Plan for Shorelines in Benton County: Yakima and Columbia Rivers. June 2013.

Cumulative Impacts Analysis for Benton County's Shoreline Master Program. December 2013.

Project-specific reviews will be prepared for individual development or restoration proposals.

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 pending.

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

*Board of County Commissioners Adoption
SEPA Review
Washington Department of Ecology Approval*

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 proposal is to update the Benton County Shoreline Master Program to be consistent with state law as required by the Washington Department of Ecology pursuant to SMP Grant Agreement No. G1200022.

The SMP includes goals and policies (which will become part of the County's Comprehensive Plan), and development regulations, and shoreline jurisdiction maps with shoreline environment designations (which will become part of Title 15 of Benton County's Code). Project elements also include a programmatic Shoreline Restoration Plan and a Cumulative Impacts Analysis (CIA). The CIA evaluates the cumulative impacts of reasonably foreseeable future development on shoreline ecological functions, and concludes with a statement that the SMP will not result in a net degradation of those functions (see attached).

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.

The updated SMP will apply to shoreline jurisdiction within Benton County's unincorporated areas, including: Yakima and Columbia Rivers; land within 200 feet of the ordinary high water mark (OHWM); floodplains up to 200 feet from the floodway edge; and associated wetlands. Lands within City boundaries will be governed under each City's SMP (their updates are currently underway as well).

B. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS

1. Earth

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

Benton County's shoreline jurisdiction includes a wide variety of topographic terrain and relief. More detailed information at the County scale can be found in the County's Shoreline Analysis Report. When required, site-specific information will be provided by applicants at the time of submittal for a project.

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

Not applicable – this is not a site-specific project 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 – this is not a site-specific project proposal.

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

Not applicable – this is not a site-specific project proposal.

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

Not applicable – this is not a site-specific project proposal.

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

Not applicable – this is not a site-specific project proposal.

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

Not applicable – this is not a site-specific project proposal.

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

This proposal is a non-project action. The SMP contains policies and regulations addressing fill within shoreline jurisdiction (see Section 15.07.070 - Fill), as well as a variety of other regulations that require appropriate stabilization of disturbed soils

(e.g., Section 15.05.040 – Water Quality, Stormwater and Nonpoint Pollution).
When required, site-specific information will be provided by applicants at the time of
submittal for a project.

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 know.

Not applicable – this is not a site-specific project proposal.

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

Not applicable – this is not a site-specific project proposal.

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

This project is a non-project action. The SMP does not contain any specific policies or regulations governing air quality. When required, site-specific information will be provided by applicants at the time of submittal for a project.

3. **Water**

- a. Surface:

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

The updated SMP addresses all waters meeting the shoreline minimum flow requirement within unincorporated Benton County, which includes the Yakima and Columbia Rivers. Non-shoreline streams and waterbodies within shoreline jurisdiction are regulated by the critical areas regulations incorporated as Section 15.06 of the SMP. The Yakima River is a tributary of the Columbia River, which flows into the Pacific Ocean. More detailed information about each waterbody can be found in the County's Shoreline Analysis Report.

- 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 proposal is a non-project action. All project-specific proposals that include work over, in or adjacent to the Columbia and Yakima Rivers would

be subject to the policies and regulations of the SMP. When required, site-specific information will be provided by applicants at the time of submittal for a project.

- 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.

Not applicable – this is not a site-specific project proposal.

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

Not applicable – this is not a site-specific project proposal.

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

Shoreline jurisdiction includes portions of the 100-year floodplain within 200 feet of the OHWM and within 200 feet of floodways, as shown in the Official Shoreline Maps that accompany the SMP. When required, site-specific information will be provided by applicants at the time of submittal for a project.

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

Not applicable – this is not a site-specific project proposal.

b. Ground:

- 1) Will ground water be withdrawn, or will water be discharge to ground water? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if know.

Not applicable – this is not a site-specific project proposal.

- 2) Describe waster 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 – this is not a site-specific project proposal.

c. Water Runoff (including storm water):

- 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.

Not applicable – this is not a site-specific project proposal.

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

Not applicable – this is not a site-specific project proposal.

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

This proposal is a non-project action. The entire SMP contains policies and regulations governing uses and modifications in and adjacent to the shoreline waterbodies. Some of the key regulatory sections include Section 15.05.020 – Environmental Protection, Section 15.05.040 – Water Quality, Stormwater and Nonpoint Pollution, and Section 15.06.020 – Rivers and Creeks, among others. Applicants will be required to comply with applicable sections of Benton County’s Hydrology Manual. When required, site-specific information will be provided by applicants at the time of submittal for a project.

4. **Plants**

- a. Circle types of vegetation found on the site: deciduous tree: alder, maple, aspen, other; evergreen tree: fir, cedar, pine, other; shrubs; grass; pasture' crop or grain; wet soil plants: cattail, buttercup, bulrush, skunk cabbage, other; water plants: water lily, eelgrass, milfoil, other; other types of vegetation.

Not applicable – this is not a site-specific project proposal. Detailed information at the County scale can be found in the County’s Shoreline Analysis Report.

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

Not applicable – this is not a site-specific project proposal.

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

Not applicable – this is not a site-specific project proposal. Benton County contains numerous sensitive plant species. When required, site-specific information will be provided by applicants at the time of submittal for a project.

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

This proposal is a non-project action. The SMP contains policies and regulations governing alterations to shoreline vegetation, and requiring suitable mitigation, in Section 15.05.030 – Shoreline Vegetation Conservation and Section 15.06.020 –

Rivers and Creeks, among others. When required, site-specific information will be provided by applicants at the time of submittal for a project.

5. Animals

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

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

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

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

The Yakima and Columbia River corridors are home to at least 51 species of fish, including thirty native species; at least 258 species of birds; at least 44 species of mammals; and at least 21 species of reptiles and amphibians. The middle Columbia River mainstem and the Yakima River subbasin support some of the largest Northwest concentrations of wintering waterfowl. The rivers are an important migratory stopover and staging area for many species of shorebird as well.

More detailed information about each wildlife use in or adjacent to each waterbody can be found in the County's Shoreline Analysis Report.

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

The Yakima and Columbia River corridors may contain the following state or federally listed threatened or endangered species: coho salmon, Chinook salmon, chum salmon, bull trout, steelhead trout, sockeye salmon, American white pelican, ferruginous hawk, sage grouse, sandhill crane, snowy plover, upland sandpiper, western gray squirrel, pygmy rabbit, western pond turtle, and northern leopard frog.

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

The rivers are migratory corridors for anadromous salmonids. Benton County is also located in the Pacific Flyway migratory route, traveled by birds moving to and from wintering and breeding grounds.

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

This proposal is a non-project action. The SMP contains a number of policies and regulations that directly or indirectly protect ecological functions and wildlife habitat. Some of the key regulatory sections include Section 15.05.020 – Environmental Protection, Section 15.06.020 – Rivers and Creeks, and Section 15.06.070 – Fish and Wildlife Conservation Areas among others. This proposal also includes a programmatic Shoreline Restoration Plan that identifies opportunities and mechanisms for achieving improvements in wildlife habitat. When required, site-specific information will be provided by applicants at the time of submittal for a project.

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.

Not applicable – this is not a site-specific project proposal.

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

Not applicable – this is not a site-specific project proposal.

- c. What kinds 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 – this is not a site-specific project proposal. The SMP does not govern energy or energy conservation. Building codes would address this topic.

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.

Not applicable – this is not a site-specific project proposal.

- 1) Describe special emergency services that might be required.

Not applicable – this is not a site-specific project proposal.

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

Not applicable – this is not a site-specific project proposal. When required, site-specific information will be provided by applicants at the time of submittal for a project.

b. Noise

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

Not applicable – this is not a site-specific project proposal.

- 2) What types and levels of noise would be created by or associate 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 – this is not a site-specific project proposal.

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

Not applicable – this is not a site-specific project proposal. The proposed SMP does not govern noise. When required, site-specific information will be provided by applicants at the time of submittal for a project.

8. Land and Shoreline Use

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

There are a variety of uses in Benton County's shoreline jurisdiction. The most prevalent use is agriculture (including pasture/rangeland). Other common uses include Hanford, parks/open space, and residences. An important use that makes up a small fraction of the shoreline jurisdiction is related to ports and industry.

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

Most of the County's shoreline jurisdiction is presently or was historically in some sort of agricultural use.

- c. Describe any structures on the site.

Not applicable – this is not a site-specific project proposal.

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

Not applicable – this is not a site-specific project proposal.

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

Not applicable – this is not a site-specific project proposal. The Benton County shoreline jurisdiction includes multiple zones. The most common zone by acreage is Rural Lands 5, followed by Park District.

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

Same as 8.e.

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

Not applicable – this is not a site-specific project proposal. Most of the shoreline area is currently designated as Rural or Conservancy, with small areas of Urban and

Natural. The proposed SMP includes eight designations, retaining Natural, Conservancy and Rural, and adding Aquatic, Hanford, Residential, Rural Industrial and Urban Transition Area (applies to City UGAs). By acreage, the top three designations are Rural, Conservancy and Hanford, in descending order. See the proposed shoreline environment designation maps that accompany the SMP.

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

The Benton County shoreline jurisdiction includes areas of wetlands, frequently flooded areas, rivers and creeks, geologically hazardous areas, critical aquifer recharge areas, and fish and wildlife conservation areas. Maps of many of these features are included in the Shoreline Analysis Report.

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

Not applicable – this is not a site-specific project proposal.

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

Not applicable – this is not a site-specific project proposal.

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

Not applicable – this is not a site-specific project proposal.

- l. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with existing and projected land uses and plans, if any:

The SMP policies, regulations and proposed shoreline designations have been analyzed by the County and compared to the policies, regulations and designations in the Comprehensive Plan and County regulations and codes, and have been deemed compatible.

Site-specific development proposals will be reviewed for compliance with the Benton County SMP and other County codes and ordinances.

9. **Housing**

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

Not applicable – this is not a site-specific project proposal.

However, the CIA projects that 198 future single-family dwellings could be developed in shoreline jurisdiction under the proposed SMP, mostly along the Yakima River.

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

Not applicable – this is not a site-specific project proposal.

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

This proposal is a non-project action. The SMP contains a number of policies and regulations that determine how and where residential development can be constructed, and require mitigation for any adverse impacts. Some of the key regulatory sections include Section 15.05.020 – Environmental Protection, Section 15.06.020 – Rivers and Creeks, and Section 15.07.120 – Residential Development. When required, site-specific information will be provided by applicants at the time of submittal for a project.

10. **Aesthetics**

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

Not applicable – this is not a site-specific project proposal. Height limits in the SMP are generally consistent with upland zoning, and have an upper limit of 35 feet except when certain criteria are met and a Shoreline Variance is obtained. The SMP does not govern the choice of building materials, other than certain chemical treatments are prohibited in or over water.

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

Not applicable – this is not a site-specific project proposal.

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

The SMP does not govern the appearance of structures specifically, although there are provisions to protect views.

11. **Lights and Glare**

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

Not applicable – this is not a site-specific project proposal.

- b. Could light or glare from the finished project be a safety hazard or interfere with views?

Not applicable – this is not a site-specific project proposal.

- c. What existing off-site sources of light or glare may affect your proposal?

Not applicable – this is not a site-specific project proposal.

- d. Proposed measures to reduce or control light and glare impacts, if any:

Not applicable – this is not a site-specific project proposal. The SMP contains a few provisions limiting glare from boating facilities and overwater structures, but does not otherwise regulate light or glare. When required, site-specific information will be provided by applicants at the time of submittal for a project.

12. Recreation

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

Not applicable – this is not a site-specific project proposal. Benton County's shoreline jurisdiction contains a variety of recreational opportunities, including boating and fishing on the waterways, and active and passive recreational activities at numerous public parks. The total shoreline area of parks and open spaces is 4,765 acres.

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

Not applicable – this is not a site-specific project proposal.

- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts or recreation, including recreation opportunities to be provided by the project or applicant, if any:

Not applicable – this is not a site-specific project proposal. Public access on public lands, including recreation, is an important goal of the Shoreline Management Act, and it is supported in a variety of ways in the SMP. Policies and regulations have been specifically crafted to facilitate appropriate expansion of existing private and public water-oriented recreation facilities (see Section 15.05.050 – Public Access). For example, existing and potential public access/park lands have been given their own environment designation (Conservancy) that has a unique set of development standards to allow flexible design of facilities in lieu of a traditional buffer.

13. Historic and Cultural Preservation

- a. Are there any places or objects listed on, or proposed for, national, state, or local preservation registers known to be on or next to the site? If so, generally describe.

Not applicable – this is not a site-specific project proposal. More detailed information at the County scale can be found in the County's Shoreline Analysis Report. When required, site-specific information will be provided by applicants at the time of submittal for a project.

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

Same as 13.a.

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

This proposal is a non-project action. The SMP contains a number of policies and regulations governing protection of historic and cultural resources (see Section 15.05.010 – Archaeological and Historic Resources). When required, site-specific information will be provided by applicants at the time of submittal for a project.

14. **Transportation**

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

Not applicable – this is not a site-specific project proposal.

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

Not applicable – this is not a site-specific project proposal.

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

Not applicable – this is not a site-specific project 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 – this is not a site-specific project proposal.

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

Not applicable – this is not a site-specific project proposal. The County's shoreline jurisdiction contains and/or is parallel to water and rail transportation along the Columbia River. Some of the uses and modifications allowed by the SMP may use water or rail transportation during construction or operation.

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

Not applicable – this is not a site-specific project proposal.

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

Not applicable – this is not a site-specific project proposal. Given the consistency of the SMP with the Comprehensive Plan, any increases in traffic associated with allowed development would be no greater than assessed during the Comprehensive Plan update. In addition to regulations found in the SMP to control the impacts of transportation facilities on ecological functions and other land uses (see Section 15.07.150 – Transportation), the SMP includes regulations to ensure that navigation on waterways is not impeded.

15. **Public Services**

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

Not applicable – this is not a site-specific project proposal. Policies and regulations in the SMP are not likely to increase the need for public services provided for in the Comprehensive Plan.

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

Not applicable – this is not a site-specific project 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 – this is not a site-specific project 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 – this is not a site-specific project proposal.

ESA LISTED SALMONIDS CHECKLIST

The Listed Salmonids Checklist is provided in order that the county may initially identify a project's potential impacts (if any) on salmonids that have been listed as "threatened" or "endangered" under the Federal Endangered Species Act (ESA). A salmonid is any fish species that spends part of its life cycle in the ocean and returns to fresh water. Potential project impacts that may result in a "taking" of listed salmonids must be avoided, or mitigated to insignificant levels. Generally, under ESA, a "taking" is broadly defined as any action that causes the death of, or harm to, the listed species. Such actions include those that affect the environmental in ways that interfere with or reduce the level of reproduction of the species.

If ESA listed species are present or ever were present in the watershed where your project will be located, your project has the potential for affecting them, and you need to comply with the ESA. The questions in this section will help determine if the ESA listing will impact your project. The Fish Program Manager at the appropriate Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) regional office can provide information for the following two questions. Please contact the Dept. of Fish and Wildlife at 1701 S. 24th, Yakima WA 98902-5720, Phone No. 509-575-2740.

1. Are ESA listed salmonids currently present in the watershed in which your project will be? YES NO
Please Describe.

*Threatened and endangered fish species that use the mid-Columbia River are identified in the following table. In 2005, wild populations of salmon in the Columbia River basin represented only 12% of their historic numbers. All 13 ESA-listed evolutionary significant units (ESUs) of salmon (*Oncorhynchus* spp.) and steelhead (*O. mykiss*) in the Columbia basin use the mainstem Columbia River for migration to and from freshwater natal areas to the Pacific Ocean. Most of the ESA-listed species spawn and incubate in tributaries, but some populations of fall Chinook and chum salmon spawn in the mainstem itself.*

State and federal priority fish species present in Benton County

Species	State Status	Federal Status
Pacific Lamprey		Species of Concern
River Lamprey	Candidate	Species of Concern
Bull Trout	Candidate	Threatened
Chinook Salmon	Candidate	Threatened (Upper Columbia Spring run is Endangered)
Chum Salmon	Candidate	Threatened
Coho		Threatened – Lower Columbia
Steelhead/ Inland Redband Trout	Candidate	Threatened
Westslope Cutthroat Trout		Species of Concern
Sockeye Salmon	Candidate	Endangered – Snake River

The Hanford Reach is presently designated as critical habitat for the Upper Columbia River steelhead ESU; however, little is known about the quality and quantity of steelhead spawning, rearing, and adult holding habitat in the Hanford Reach (Ward et al. 2001).

Anadromous fish in the Yakima watershed include federally threatened fall Chinook salmon, steelhead, and bull trout. Native coho, sockeye and summer Chinook salmon were extirpated from the Yakima watershed. Coho, sockeye, and summer Chinook salmon have recently been reintroduced to the watershed by the Yakama Tribe. These species primarily use the lower Yakima watershed in Benton County as a migratory corridor; however, approximately one third of adult steelhead migrating into the Yakima watershed hold between McNary Pool and Prosser for several months before finishing their upstream migrations to spawning areas. Pacific lamprey and westslope cutthroat are present in the watershed and designated as species of concern by USFWS.

See the Shoreline Analysis Report for more detailed information.

2. Has there ever been an ESA listed salmonid stock present in this watershed?
YES NO
Please Describe.

See response to Question 1 above.

If you answered "yes" to either of the above questions, you should complete the remainder of this checklist.

PROJECT SPECIFIC: The questions in this section are specific to the project and vicinity.

- A1. Name of watershed

The Shoreline Master Program (SMP) regulates shorelines and shorelands within the Alkali-Squilchuck (WRIA 40), Rock-Glade (31), Upper Yakima (WRIA 39), the Naches (WRIA 38), and the Lower Yakima (WRIA 37).

- A2. Name of nearest waterbody

Columbia and Yakima Rivers.

- A3. What is the distance from this project to the nearest body of water? Often a buffer between the project and a stream can reduce the chance of a negative impact to fish.

Adoption of an SMP is a non-project action. The SMP regulates the shoreline waterbodies (Columbia and Yakima Rivers), as well as the adjacent shorelands. As a result, most of the projects that may be approved in the future under the adopted SMP will be in or within 200 feet of the shoreline rivers.

A4. What is the current land use between the project and the potentially affected water body (parking lots, farmland, etc.)?

Not applicable – this is not a site-specific project proposal.

A5. Is the project above a:

Natural permanent barrier (waterfall)	YES _____	NO _____
Natural temporary barrier (beaver pond)	YES _____	NO _____
Man-made barrier (culvert, dam)	YES _____	NO _____
Other (explain)		

Not applicable – this is not a site-specific project proposal.

A6. If yes, are there any resident salmonid populations above the blockage?
YES _____ NO _____ Don't Know _____

Not applicable – this is not a site-specific project proposal.

A7. What percentage of the project will be impervious surface (including pavement & roof area)?

Not applicable – this is not a site-specific project proposal.

FISH MIGRATION: The following questions will help determine if this project could interfere with migration of adult and juvenile fish. Both increases and decreases in water flows can affect fish migration.

B1. Does the project require the withdrawal of

a. Surface water? Yes _____ No _____

Amount _____

Name of surface water body _____

Not applicable – this is not a site-specific project proposal. Surface water withdrawals would not be regulated by this SMP, although any associated structure or development in shoreline jurisdiction would be regulated by the SMP.

b. Ground water? Yes _____ No _____

Amount _____

From Where _____

Depth of well _____

Not applicable – this is not a site-specific project proposal. Ground water withdrawals would not be regulated by this SMP, although any associated structure or development in shoreline jurisdiction would be regulated by the SMP.

B2. Will any water be rerouted? YES _____ NO _____

If yes, will this require a channel change?

Not applicable – this is not a site-specific project proposal.

- B3. Will there be retention ponds? YES _____ NO _____
If yes, will this be an infiltration pond or a surface discharge to either a municipal storm water system or a surface water body?

If to a surface water discharge, please give the name of the waterbody.

Not applicable – this is not a site-specific project proposal. Retention pond engineering design and operation details would be subject to other County and State regulations – not the SMP.

- B4. Will this project require the building of new roads? Increased road mileage may affect the timing of water reaching a stream and may, thus, impact fish habitat.

Not applicable – this is not a site-specific project proposal. Any new roads built in shoreline jurisdiction would be subject to SMP Section 15.07.150 – Transportation. New roads in shoreline jurisdiction are strongly discouraged, and when allowed have to meet standards related to prevent of ecological function impacts.

- B5. Are culverts proposed as part of this project? Yes _____ No _____

Not applicable – this is not a site-specific project proposal.

- B6. Will topography changes affect the duration/direction of runoff flows?
Yes _____ No _____

If yes describe the changes.

Not applicable – this is not a site-specific project proposal.

- B7. Will the project involve any reduction of the floodway or floodplain by filling or other partial blockage of flows? Yes _____ No _____

If yes, how will the loss of flood storage be mitigated by your project?

Not applicable – this is not a site-specific project proposal.

The SMP requires compliance with Benton County Code 3.26 BCC (Flood Hazard Prevention) and 15.30 BCC (Frequently Flooded Areas), both of which limit fills and structures in the floodway or floodplain. SMP Section 15.05.060 – Flood Hazard Reduction and Section 15.07.070 – Fill also limits fills and structures in floodways and floodplains, and prohibits an increase in the flood hazard.

WATER QUALITY: The following questions will help determine if this project could adversely impact water quality. Such impacts can cause problems for listed species. Water

quality can be made worse by runoff from impervious surfaces, altering water temperature, discharging contaminants, etc.

C1. Do you know of any problems with water quality in any of the streams within this watershed? YES NO

If yes please describe.

The following tables identify the listed water quality parameters by category and shoreline waterbody.

Category 2 Waterbodies (Waters of Concern) by River and WRIA

River	WRIA	Temperature	Mercury	pH	Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs)	Other chemical compounds, including pesticides	Dissolved Oxygen	Ammonia	Fecal Coliform	Arsenic
Columbia	Rock-Glade 31	X	X	X	X	X				
	Alkali-Squilchuck 40		X	X		X				
Yakima	Lower Yakima 37	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X

Category 4 Waterbodies by River and WRIA

River	WRIA	Turbidity	Total Dissolved Gas	Dioxin	Instream Flow
Columbia	Rock-Glade 31		X	X	
	Alkali-Squilchuck 40			X	
Yakima	Lower Yakima 37	X			X

Category 5 Waterbodies (Impaired) by River and WRIA

River	WRIA	PCB	DDT/DDE	Other Chemicals, including pesticides	Dissolved Oxygen	pH	Temperature	Dioxin
Columbia	Rock-Glade 31						X	
	Alkali-Squilchuck 40							
Yakima	Lower Yakima 37	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

C2. Will your project either reduce or increase shade along or over a waterbody?

YES _____ NO _____ Removal of shading vegetation or the building of structures such as docks or floats often result in a change in shade.

Not applicable – this is not a site-specific project proposal.

The SMP includes detailed provisions governing management and alteration of riparian vegetation (see Sections 15.05.030 – Shoreline Vegetation Conservation and 15.06.030 – Rivers and Creeks). When paired with the Environmental Protection provisions of Section 15.05.020, it is unlikely that long-term reductions of shade would occur along or over a waterbody. The more likely long-term result of the SMP and voluntary implementation of the Shoreline Restoration Plan is a net increase in shade from vegetation. The multiple layers of regulation of docks and other overwater structures by the SMP and several other state and federal agencies severely limits the amount of new shade that may be introduced by structures. Any new overwater structures would be compensated by riparian vegetation enhancements or other mitigation measures.

- C3. Will the project increase nutrient loading or have the potential to increase nutrient loading or contaminants (fertilizers, other waste discharges, or runoff) to the waterbody?
YES _____ NO _____

Not applicable – this is not a site-specific project proposal.

- C4. Will turbidity be increased because of construction of the project or during operation of the project? In-water or near water work will often increase turbidity. YES _____ NO _____

Not applicable – this is not a site-specific project proposal.

Potential for turbidity will be minimized by application of required measures in the SMP, including those found in Section 15.05.020 – Environmental Protection, Section 15.05.040 – Water Quality, Stormwater and Nonpoint Pollution, and Section 15.06.020 – Rivers and Creeks, among others. Applicants will be required to comply with applicable sections of Benton County’s Hydrology Manual. When required, site-specific information will be provided by applicants at the time of submittal for a project.

Proposals that include in-water work will also need to comply with construction impact minimization measures imposed by other state and federal agencies with jurisdiction.

- C5. Will your project require long term maintenance, i.e., bridge cleaning, highway salting, chemical sprays for vegetation management, clearing of parking lots?
YES _____ NO _____
Please Describe.

Not applicable – this is not a site-specific project proposal.

Vegetation: The following questions are designed to determine if the project will affect riparian vegetation, thereby, adversely impacting salmon.

D1. Will the project involve the removal of any vegetation from the stream banks?
YES _____ NO _____

If yes, please describe the existing conditions and the amount and type of vegetation to be removed.

This proposal is a non-project action.

The SMP contains policies and regulations governing alterations to shoreline vegetation, and requiring suitable mitigation, in Section 15.05.030 – Shoreline Vegetation Conservation and Section 15.06.020 – Rivers and Creeks, among others. When required, site-specific information will be provided by applicants at the time of submittal for a project.

D2. If any vegetation is removed, do you plan to re-plant? YES _____ NO _____
If yes, what types of plants will you use?

See D1 above.

The regulations in Section 15.05.030 – Shoreline Vegetation Conservation require that native plant removal in shoreline buffers be mitigated with native vegetation.

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: Susan M. Walker

Print Name- SUSAN M. WALKER

Date Submitted: 3/20/2014

<p>FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY:</p> <p>Critical Area Review Completed by _____ on _____</p> <p>Application approved for processing by _____ on _____</p> <p>Zoning _____ Comp Plan Designation _____</p>

C. SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET FOR **NON PROJECT** 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?

As a non-project action, adoption of the updated SMP would not increase discharges to water; emissions to air; production of noise; or production, storage, or release of toxic or hazardous substances. Projects reviewed under the SMP will be required to comply with numerous policies and regulations designed to reduce (either directly or indirectly) environmental impacts.

There are management policies within the SMP located in the provisions for Environment Designations (Section 15.04); general regulations affecting all shoreline uses, modifications and activities (Section 15.05, such as vegetation conservation, mitigation sequencing, water quality protection, etc.); critical areas (Section 15.06, such as wetlands protection, shoreline buffers, and wildlife and habitat preservation); and specific regulations affecting all shoreline uses, modifications and activities (Section 15.07, such as shoreline stabilization, docks, dredging, fill, residential development, etc.). Many of these policies and regulations are included in the document to provide regulatory authority in support of limiting impacts to the environment, such as discharges to water and emissions to the air. Noise and air quality are not elements specifically addressed in the SMP, but the County's other regulations and project review processes would still apply.

The entire SMP has been prepared and evaluated with the intent of meeting a "no net loss of ecological functions" standard, which is required by WAC 173-26. The Cumulative Impacts Analysis (attached) documents that evaluation and concludes with a determination that the updated SMP does in fact meet that standard.

Proposed measures to avoid or reduce such increases are:

No additional measures are needed.

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

See response to Question 1 above. As documented in the Cumulative Impacts Analysis, ecological function will either remain the same as current condition, or more likely improve over time (particularly with voluntary implementation of elements of the Shoreline Restoration Plan)..

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

No additional measures are needed.

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

The preparation of an updated SMP is a non-project action. Individual projects submitted for review under the new SMP will be required to comply with the policies and regulations in the SMP and the Benton County Code. The proposed SMP contains management policies and regulations intended to encourage, and in some cases require, conservation of natural resources associated with the shoreline, in accordance with RCW 90.58 and WAC 173-26. The SMP does not have a significant effect on energy use. Consumptive new or redeveloped uses would only be allowed to the extent already planned for and evaluated in the County's Comprehensive Plan. County building codes would address energy conservation.

Proposed measures to protect or conserve energy and natural resources are:

No additional measures are needed.

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, flood plains, or prime farmlands?

The updated SMP has been prepared to comply with requirements in State law, including RCW 90.58 and WAC 173-26, for the protection of environmentally sensitive areas associated with shorelines of the State. There are policies and regulations throughout the document that are designed to protect and preserve shoreline habitat and functioning conditions. For example, the highest functioning areas (such as the Umatilla National Wildlife Refuge) have been assigned a Natural environment designation which provides a high level of protection and a 200-foot buffer. In addition, as mentioned above, the SMP includes updated regulations for the protection of critical areas in shoreline jurisdiction (Section 15.06 of the SMP), including wetlands and rivers, that meet the SMA and Washington State Growth Management Act (RCW 36.70A) requirements.

Prime agricultural land is an important feature in Benton County, and the SMP appropriately designates those lands Rural, which ensures Comprehensive Plan consistency.

Policies and regulations in the SMP will enhance public access to the shorelines and encourage continued protection of sensitive shoreline habitat, including those habitats occupied by state or federally listed fish and wildlife. Conditions for listed fish species, in particular, will remain the same or improve as a result of the updated SMP, including the Shoreline Restoration Plan, and other County and regional programs and activities targeting enhancement of the Columbia and Yakima Rivers. See additional discussion in the Cumulative Impacts Analysis.

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

No additional measures are needed.

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?

The purpose of the SMP is to manage shorelines by planning for and fostering all reasonable and appropriate uses while insuring development that will promote and enhance the public interest and protect against adverse effects to the public health, the land and its vegetation and wildlife, and the waters of the state and their aquatic life. The SMP designates eight shoreline environments: Aquatic, Natural, Conservancy, Hanford, Residential, Rural Industrial, Rural, and Urban Transition Area. . Each environment is provided designation criteria and management policies, and has been designed for consistency with existing uses and future plans.

In addition, the SMP contains general provisions, policies and regulations for a variety of resources and uses within the shoreline environments. These management policies, provisions and regulations are intended to preserve shoreline processes, habitat and functional values, while giving preference to water-dependent and water-related uses and encouraging public access. Uses with a significant adverse impact are prohibited or regulated so as to minimize impacts on the shoreline environment.

The SMP has been evaluated for consistency with the County's Comprehensive Plan and Benton County Code.

Proposed measures to avoid or reduce shoreline and land use impacts are:

No additional measures are needed.

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

The SMP would not be likely to increase demands on transportation or public services and utilities beyond that already planned for and evaluated in the County's Comprehensive Plan. The SMP would guide the location and installation of transportation and public services and utilities, and these uses

would need to follow standards for critical areas protection, vegetation conservation, and others.

Proposed measures to reduce or respond to such demands(s) are:

No additional measures are needed.

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

The adoption of an updated Shoreline Master Program will ensure County compliance with requirements in Washington State law for environmental planning and regulation within areas of shoreline jurisdiction (RCW 90.58 and WAC 173-26). Critical Areas Regulations are included in the SMP, as required by WAC 173-26. In addition, the goals and policies of the SMP will be an element of the Benton County Comprehensive Plan, and will be consistent with other elements of the Comprehensive Plan and Benton County Code. The Shoreline Master Program does not supersede other agencies' authority to regulate projects within their jurisdiction (e.g., U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Washington Department of Ecology, Washington Department of Natural Resources, etc.). All of these agencies were consulted during the SMP Update process, and were invited to participate in all public outreach events. WDFW, DOE, USFWS, and WDNR were members of the Shoreline Advisory Committee that provided extensive direction to County staff during the Update.