

DETERMINATION OF NONSIGNIFICANCE

Description of proposal: Reconstruction of two miles of paved Sellards Road by improving the vertical alignment with major excavation and embankment and providing structural strength with new base rock and asphalt. Cross drainage will also be upgraded.

Proponent Benton County Public Works
P.O. Box 1001
Prosser WA 99350

File No. **EA 13-08**

Location of proposal, including street address, if any: The site is located immediately east of SR 221 on Sellards and continues east for two miles.

Lead agency: **BENTON COUNTY**

The lead agency for this proposal has determined that it does not have a probable significant adverse impact on the environment. An environmental impact statement (EIS) is not required under RCW 43.21C.030(2)(c). This decision was made after review of a completed environmental checklist and other information on file with the lead agency. This information is available to the public on request.

This DNS is issued under WAC197-11-340(2); the lead agency will not act on this proposal for 14 days from the date below. Comments must be submitted by April 26, 2013.

If you have questions about this DNS or the details of the proposal, contact Michael Shuttleworth using the information below.

Responsible Official: Michael Shuttleworth

Position/Title: Planning Manager

Address: P.O. Box 910, Prosser WA 99350

- Email planning.department@co.benton.wa.us
- Phone/Fax: (509)786-5612/(509) 786-5629;

DATE OF ISSUE: April 12, 2013

Signature:



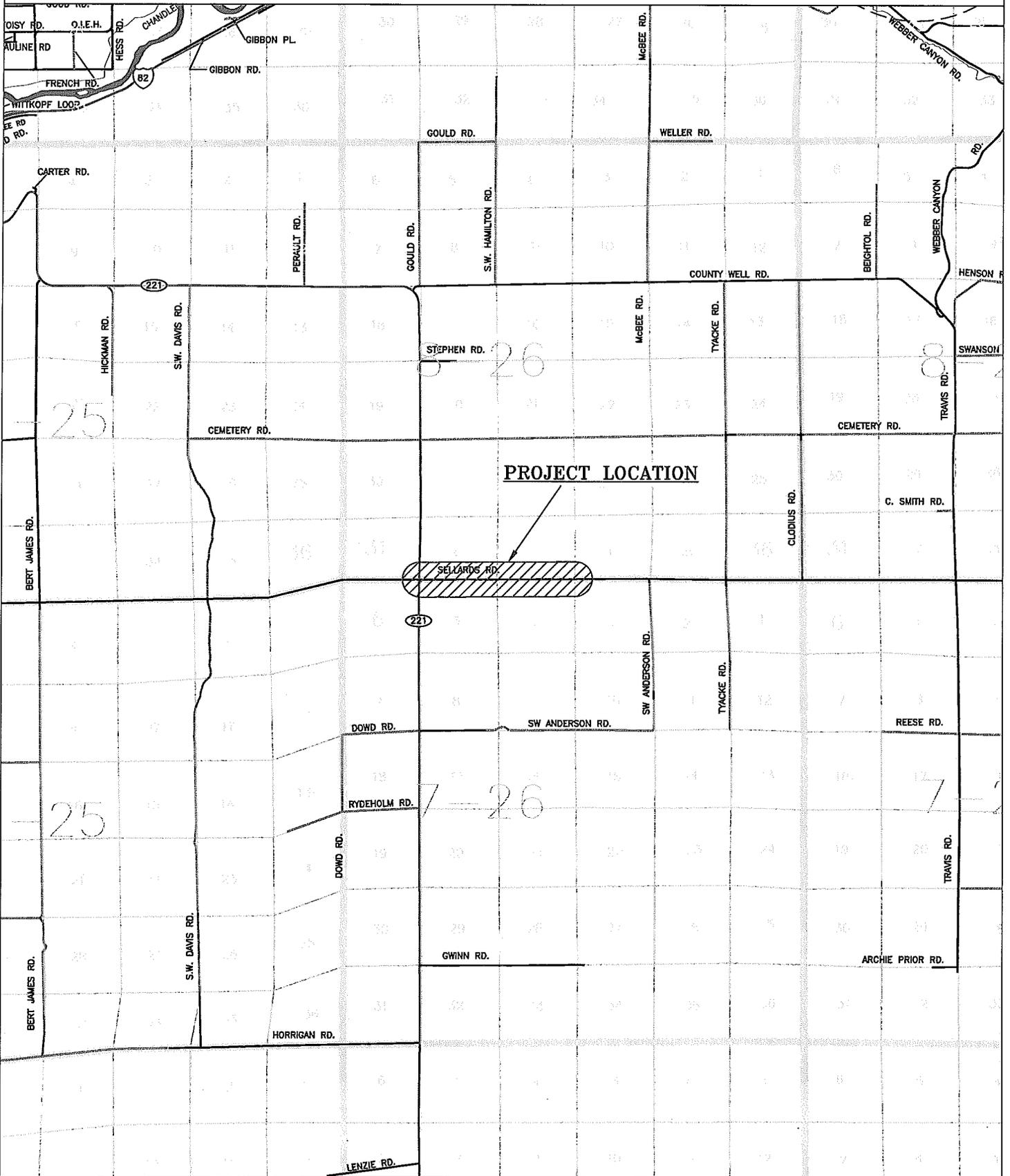
THERE IS NO AGENCY APPEAL.

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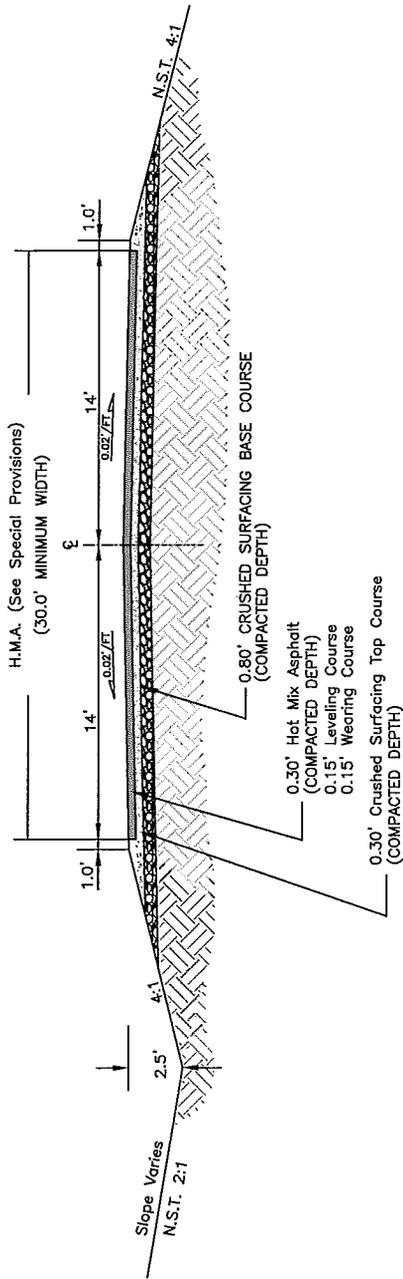
Applicant
News Media
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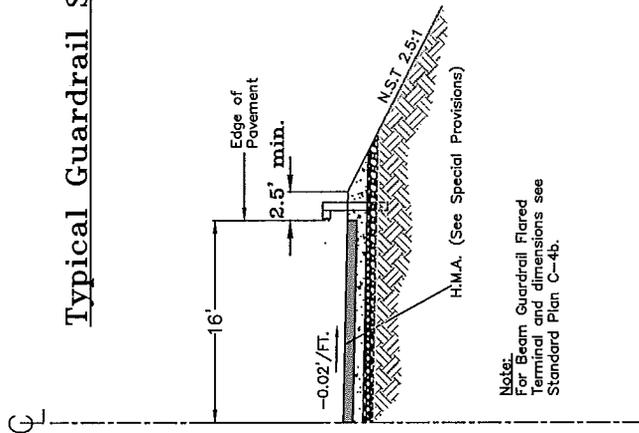
OFFICE OF COUNTY ROAD ENGINEER
BENTON COUNTY
PROSSER, WASHINGTON
SELLARDS ROAD #11020



PROPOSED ROADWAY CROSS SECTION A



Typical Guardrail Section



Note:
For Beam Guardrail Flared
Terminal and dimensions see
Standard Plan C-4b.



Benton County
Planning
Department

SECTION 4&5 TOWNSHIP 7 NORTH RANGE 26 EAST W.M.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT EA # 13-0
BENTON COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS SELLARDS ROAD PROJECT
MAP PRINTED: APRIL 10, 2013

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ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

A. BACKGROUND

1. Name of proposed project, if applicable:

**Sellard Road; SR221 East to BPA Powerlines
CE 1775 CRP**

2. Name of applicant:

Benton County Department of Public Works

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

**Address: P.O. Box 1001-Courthouse
Prosser, WA 99350
Phone: (509)786-5611
Contact: Daniel S. Ford, P.E.
County Engineer**

4. Date checklist prepared:

04/08/2013

5. Agency requesting checklist:

Benton County Planning Department

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

**Construction will be dependent on Federal Funding and the earliest start date
would be October, 2013.**

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

No.

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

**Through the WSDOT, a cultural survey (106 process), and an ECS, Environmental
Classification Summary, will be completed and approved by FHWA.**

*EA
13-08*

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Benton County
Planning Department

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

No.

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

The items listed in section 8 will be required.

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.)

Benton County Public Works proposes to reconstruct 2 miles of paved Sellards Road by improving the vertical alignment with major excavation and embankment, and providing structural strength with new base rock and asphalt to create an all weather road for year around truck traffic. Cross drainage will also be upgraded.

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 project will be along the existing Sellards Road from SR221, being the Northwest corner of Section 5, Township 7 North, Range 26 East of the Willamette Meridian, to the BPA Powerlines, two (2) miles East to the Northeast corner of Section 4, Township 7 North, Range 26 East of the Willamette Meridian. The project is 2 miles in length and follows the north lines of said Sections 4 & 5.

TO BE COMPLETED BY APPLICANT

B. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS

1. Earth

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

The entire area is flat to rolling. The steepest slopes will be found at the drainage ravine 9000 feet East of SR221.

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

The steepest slope is the ravine sides at 34%.

- 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.

The soil type is Warden-Shano Association as shown in the Soil Survey Benton County Area, Washington issued July 1971. They are gently sloping soils that are silt loam throughout and very deep to moderate deep over basalt bedrock; formed in lacustrine material and loess; precipitation zone 11 to 15 inches.

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

No.

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

The proposed preliminary quantity for roadway excavation is 65,000 cubic yards. And the roadway embankment will be 48,500 cubic yards. The excavation material will become the embankment material with zero cubic yards left over.

Crushed surfacing will be used for the structural base of the roadway. Surfacing will total 16,800 cubic yards. Crushed surfacing will be produced at a County provide quarry and would be under a different SEPA application.

Hot Mix Asphalt will be used for the surface of the roadway and will total 6,600 Tons. HMA will come from a commercial source.

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

Erosion could occur by wind or rain in the exposed areas while construction is in progress. An erosion control plan will be put in place through the construction contract to mitigate erosion.

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

Approximately 30-32% of the new right of way would be impervious due to the paved road and driveways.

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

Contractor to use best accepted practices to reduce erosion during construction and will submit a TESC plan prior to construction to be approved by the County to

mitigate erosion.

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.

During construction exposed soil would be watered to maintain compaction and keep dust down. Emissions from contractor's equipment would adhere to current standards.

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

None known.

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

Current construction practices, including keeping all exposed soil watered down to mitigate dust.

3. **Water**

- a. Surface:

1) If 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.

No, only dry seasonal drainages.

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.

N/A.

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.

Zero.

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

No.

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

plan.

No.

6) Does the proposal involve any discharge 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 will water be discharge to ground water? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if know.

No.

2) Describe waste material that will be discharged into the ground from septic tanks or other sources, if any (for example: Domestic sewage, industrial, containing the following chemicals. . . , agricultural, etc.). Describe the general size of the system, the number of such systems, the number of houses to be served (if applicable), or the number of animals or humans the system(s) are expected to serve.

None.

c. Water Runoff (including 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.

Natural storm water will run off the new impervious surface into the ditches. Cross culverts under the road will continue to allow water to drain in its natural course towards the Columbia River. The Columbia River is approximately 16 miles to the south and runoff will infiltrate into the ground.

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

No.

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

Usual construction practices will be utilized by the contractor. A Spill Prevention Plan and TESC Plan will be submitted by the contractor prior to construction.

4. **Plants**

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

water lily, eelgrass, milfoil, other; sagebrush.

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

Cut slopes and fill slopes will be seeded with native grasses.

- c. List threatened or 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:

No landscaping is proposed for this project just hydroseeding.

5. **Animals**

- a. Underline 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, crows or other: robin, starling

mammals: deer, bear, elk, beaver, other: coyote, ground squirrels, prong horned antelope

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

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

Attached is a listing of Endangered and Threatened Species.

None have been known to be on or near the site.

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

Yes, birds migrate through this area .

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

None proposed at this time, as project should have no effect on this.

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.

N/A.

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

N/A.

- 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:

Less fuel used by trucks due to the flatter grades and smoother road.

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.

None known.

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

None know.

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

Less shifting by the truck drivers reducing emissions.

- b. Noise

None known.

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

None known.

- 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.

Short-term noise would be from construction equipment. Hours would most likely be between 6 am to 6 pm. The long-term noise would from vehicular traffic, agricultural movement.

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

None known.

8. **Land and Shoreline Use**

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

The land is currently being used for agriculture.

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

Yes, but it is currently in CRP (native grasses).

- c. Describe any structures on the site.

None.

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

N/A

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

The current zoning is AG.

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

The current Comp Plan designation is AG.

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

N/A

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

No.

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

None.

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

None

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

None

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

Completion of this checklist.

9. **Housing**

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

N/A

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

None

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

None

10. **Aesthetics**

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

N/A. The project is a road.

- 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. **Lights and Glare**

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

None as the project is a road, but vehicles driving on the road at night would have lights.

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

No.

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

None.

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

None

12. Recreation

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

Possible bird and deer hunting.

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

No.

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

None known.

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.

None known.

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

None known.

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

None.

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.

Project intersects with State highway SR221.

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

No.

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

N/A

- 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).

Yes, the proposed improvement is the reconstruction of a public county road.

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

No.

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

An estimated Average Daily Traffic is 650. Approximately 50% of that is truck traffic, the main reason the road needs to be rebuilt.

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

None Known.

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.

No.

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

None at this time.

16. Utilities

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

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

**Benton REA – electricity
Frontier Telephone - telephone**

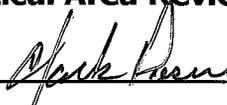
C. **SIGNATURE**

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

Signature:  Date Submitted: 4/9/2013
Daniel S. Ford, P.E.
County Engineer

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY:

Critical Area Review Completed:

BY  ON 4/10/2013

Application Approved for Processing:

BY  ON 4/10/2013

Zoning GMA AG Comp. Plan AG

D. 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?

Proposed measures to avoid or reduce such increases are:

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

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

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

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

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?

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

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?

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

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

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

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

All local, state, and federal laws and requirements will be observed in the design and construction of this project.

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 environment 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 X
Please Describe.

This project is in an area approximately 15 miles North of the Columbia River. The area is dryland. There is no year around water.

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

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 _____

A2. Name of nearest waterbody _____

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.

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

A5. Is the project above a:
Natural permanent barrier (waterfall) YES___ NO___
Natural temporary barrier (beaver pond) YES___ NO___

Man-made barrier (culvert, dam)
Other (explain)

YES _____ NO _____

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

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

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 _____

b. Ground water? Yes _____ No _____

Amount _____

From Where _____

Depth of well _____

B2. Will any water be rerouted? YES _____ NO _____
If yes, will this require a channel change?

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.

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.

B5. Are culverts proposed as part of this project?

Yes _____ No _____

B6. Will topography changes affect the duration/direction of runoff flows?

Yes _____ No _____

If yes describe the changes.

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?

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.

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.

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 ___

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 ___

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.

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.

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