

SEPA¹ Environmental Checklist

Purpose of checklist

Governmental agencies use this checklist to help determine whether the environmental impacts of your proposal are significant. This information is also helpful to determine if available avoidance, minimization, or compensatory mitigation measures will address the probable significant impacts or if an environmental impact statement will be prepared to further analyze the proposal.

Instructions for applicants

This environmental checklist asks you to describe some basic information about your proposal. Please answer each question accurately and carefully, to the best of your knowledge. You may need to consult with an agency specialist or private consultant for some questions. **You may use “not applicable” or “does not apply” only when you can explain why it does not apply and not when the answer is unknown.** You may also attach or incorporate by reference additional studies reports. Complete and accurate answers to these questions often avoid delays with the SEPA process as well as later in the decision-making process.

The checklist questions apply to **all parts of your proposal**, even if you plan to do them over a period of time or on different parcels of land. Attach any additional information that will help describe your proposal or its environmental effects. The agency to which you submit this checklist may ask you to explain your answers or provide additional information reasonably related to determining if there may be significant adverse impact.

Instructions for lead agencies

Please adjust the format of this template as needed. Additional information may be necessary to evaluate the existing environment, all interrelated aspects of the proposal and an analysis of adverse impacts. The checklist is considered the first but not necessarily the only source of information needed to make an adequate threshold determination. Once a threshold determination is made, the lead agency is responsible for the completeness and accuracy of the checklist and other supporting documents.

Use of checklist for nonproject proposals

For nonproject proposals (such as ordinances, regulations, plans and programs), complete the applicable parts of sections A and B, plus the Supplemental Sheet for Nonproject Actions (Part D). Please completely answer all questions that apply and note that the words "project," "applicant," and "property or site" should be read as "proposal," "proponent," and "affected geographic area," respectively. The lead agency may exclude (for non-projects) questions in “Part B: Environmental Elements” that do not contribute meaningfully to the analysis of the proposal.

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

A. Background

[Find help answering background questions²](#)

1. Name of proposed project, if applicable:

White Salmon Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance Update

2. Name of applicant:

City of White Salmon

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

Erika Castro Guzman, Community Development/Special Projects Coordinator
White Salmon City Hall
100 N Main Street
White Salmon, WA 98672
(509) 493-1133

4. Date checklist prepared:

November 27, 2024

5. Agency requesting checklist:

Washington Department of Ecology

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

Proposed amendments to the City's ordinance update will be open for public comment starting December 11 through January 10th. Local adoption is anticipated in January 2025.

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

In the future, the City will periodically review and update the ordinance with the best available science as prescribed by state law.

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

None.

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 such applications are known.

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

The City must approve the updated ordinance for WSMC Chapter 15.28.

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

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

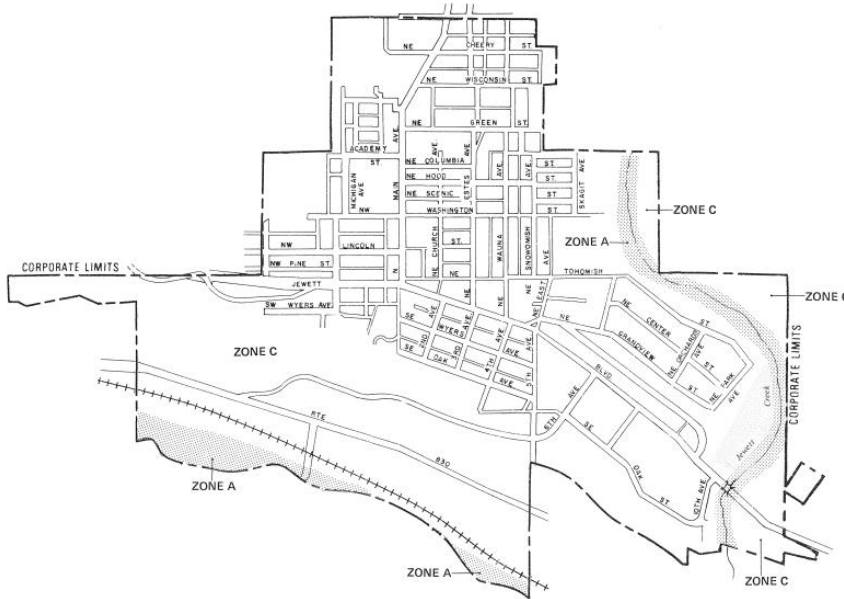
to describe certain aspects of your proposal. You do not need to repeat those answers on this page. (Lead agencies may modify this form to include additional specific information on project description.)

This is a non-project proposal. The City is updating an ordinance repealing WSMC 15.28 – Floodplain Construction Restrictions and adopting WSMC 15.28 Flood Damage Prevention to maintain compliance with the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), keep it current with best available science and consistency with state law, as well as improve administration of this chapter. Development projects within and adjacent to the City’s mapped flood hazard areas may be proposed at any time and will be reviewed for compliance with WSMC Chapter 15.28 – Flood Damage Prevention at the time of application.

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 ordinance will apply to all special flood hazard areas within the boundaries of the City of White Salmon. When base flood elevation data has not been provided (in A zones) in accordance with WSMC 15.28.030(B), the Floodplain Administrator shall obtain, review, and reasonably utilize any base flood elevation and floodway data available from a federal, state, or other source. The latest mapping within White Salmon (and greater Klickitat County) can be found here:

<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/87d9e9e783ae43578b964f16e8e43cc6>. These new maps (effective February 14, 2025) will replace the existing outdated FEMA map for Jewett Creek within city limits (see excerpt below):



B.Environmental Elements

1. Earth

[Find help answering earth questions](#)³

a. General description of the site:

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

Flood Hazard Area

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

Not applicable. This is a non-project action.

c. What general types of soils are found on the site (for example, clay, sand, gravel, peat, muck)? If you know the classification of agricultural soils, specify them, and note any agricultural land of long-term commercial significance and whether the proposal results in removing any of these soils.

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

Not applicable. This is a non-project action.

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

Not applicable. This is a non-project action.

- e. Describe the purpose, type, total area, and approximate quantities and total affected area of any filling, excavation, and grading proposed. Indicate source of fill.**

Not applicable. This is a non-project action.

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

Not applicable. This is a non-project action.

- 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 a non-project action.

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

Not applicable. This is a non-project action.

2. Air

[Find help answering air questions](#)⁴

- a. What types of emissions to the air would result from the proposal during construction, operation, and maintenance when the project is completed? If any, generally describe and give approximate quantities if known.**

Not applicable. This is a non-project action.

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

Not applicable. This is a non-project action.

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

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

Not applicable. This is a non-project action.

3. Water

[Find help answering water questions](#)⁵

a. **Surface:**

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

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

Known waterbodies that are within special flood hazard areas include Jewett Creek, a Type F stream, and The Columbia River.

- 2. Will the project require any work over, in, or adjacent to (within 200 feet) the described waters? If yes, please describe and attach available plans.**

Not applicable. This is a non-project action.

- 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 a non-project action.

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

Not applicable. This is a non-project action.

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

This is a non-project proposal. The proposal ordinance to repeal WSMC 15.28 – Floodplain Construction Restrictions and adopt WSMC 15.28 Flood Damage Prevention will impact the 100-year floodplain regulations. Development projects within and adjacent to the City’s mapped special flood hazard areas may be proposed at any time and will be reviewed for compliance with the Chapter 15.28 – Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance at the time of application.

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

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

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.

Not applicable. This is a non-project action

b. Ground:

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

1. Will groundwater be withdrawn from a well for drinking water or other purposes? If so, give a general description of the well, proposed uses and approximate quantities withdrawn from the well. Will water be discharged to groundwater? Give a general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.

Not applicable. This is a non-project action

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

Not applicable. This is a non-project action

c. Water Runoff (including stormwater):

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 a non-project action

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

Not applicable. This is a non-project action

3. Does the proposal alter or otherwise affect drainage patterns in the vicinity of the site? If so, describe.

Not applicable. This is a non-project action

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

Not applicable. This is a non-project action

4. Plants

[Find help answering plants questions](#)

- a. Check the types of vegetation found on the site:

deciduous tree: alder, maple, aspen, other

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

- evergreen tree: fir, cedar, pine, other
- shrubs
- grass
- pasture
- crop or grain
- orchards, vineyards, or other permanent crops.
- wet soil plants: cattail, buttercup, bullrush, skunk cabbage, other
- water plants: water lily, eelgrass, milfoil, other
- other types of vegetation

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

Not applicable. This is a non-project action

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

Not applicable. This is a non-project action

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

Not applicable. This is a non-project action

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

Not applicable. This is a non-project action

5. Animals

[Find help answering animal questions](#)⁸

a. List any birds and other animals that have been observed on or near the site or are known to be on or near the site.

Examples include:

- **Birds:** hawk, heron, eagle, songbirds, other:
- **Mammals:** deer, bear, elk, beaver, other:
- **Fish:** bass, salmon, trout, herring, shellfish, other:

Not applicable. This is a non-project action

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

Not applicable. This is a non-project action

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

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

There are numerous protected fish species that may migrate through creeks.

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

Not applicable. This is a non-project action

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

Not applicable. This is a non-project action

6. Energy and natural resources

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

a. What kinds of energy (electric, natural gas, oil, wood stove, solar) will be used to meet the completed project's energy needs? Describe whether it will be used for heating, manufacturing, etc.

Not applicable. This is a non-project action

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

Not applicable. This is a non-project action

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.

Not applicable. This is a non-project action

7. Environmental health

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

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

Not applicable. This is a non-project action

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

Not applicable. This is a non-project action

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

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

- 2. Describe existing hazardous chemicals/conditions that might affect project development and design. This includes underground hazardous liquid and gas transmission pipelines located within the project area and in the vicinity.**

Not applicable. This is a non-project action

- 3. Describe any toxic or hazardous chemicals that might be stored, used, or produced during the project's development or construction, or at any time during the operating life of the project.**

Not applicable. This is a non-project action

- 4. Describe special emergency services that might be required.**

Not applicable. This is a non-project action

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

Not applicable. This is a non-project action

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 a non-project action

- 2. What types and levels of noise would be created by or associated with the project on a short-term or a long-term basis (for example: traffic, construction, operation, other)? Indicate what hours noise would come from the site)?**

Not applicable. This is a non-project action

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

Not applicable. This is a non-project action

8. Land and shoreline use

[Find help answering land and shoreline use questions](#)¹¹

- a. **What is the current use of the site and adjacent properties? Will the proposal affect current land uses on nearby or adjacent properties? If so, describe.**

Not applicable. This is a non-project action.

- b. **Has the project site been used as working farmlands or working forest lands? If so, describe. How much agricultural or forest land of long-term commercial significance will be converted to other uses because of the proposal, if any? If resource lands have not been designated, how many acres in farmland or forest land tax status will be converted to nonfarm or nonforest use?**

Not applicable. This is a non-project action.

1. **Will the proposal affect or be affected by surrounding working farm or forest land normal business operations, such as oversize equipment access, the application of pesticides, tilling, and harvesting? If so, how?**

Not applicable. This is a non-project action.

- c. **Describe any structures on the site.**

Not applicable. This is a non-project action

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

Not applicable. This is a non-project action

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

Not applicable. This is a non-project action

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

Not applicable. This is a non-project action

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

Not applicable. This is a non-project action

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

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

Yes, Jewett Creek is a classified critical area mapped and delineated within city limits. Proposed development project sites will be reviewed for special flood hazard areas at the time of application.

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

Not applicable. This is a non-project action

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

Not applicable. This is a non-project action

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

Not applicable. This is a non-project action

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

The amendments to the ordinance were developed to provide greater resources on how to identify special flood hazards areas through a scientific and engineering report entitled “The Flood Insurance Study (FIS) for Klickitat County, Washington and Incorporated Areas” dated February 14, 2025. Development projects proposed within the City’s special flood hazard areas must comply with the White Salmon Municipal Code, and all other applicable local, state, and federal regulations.

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

Not applicable. This is a non-project action

9. Housing

[Find help answering housing questions](https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-B-Environmental-elements/Environmental-elements-9-Housing)¹²

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

Not applicable. This is a non-project action

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

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

Not applicable. This is a non-project action

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

Not applicable. This is a non-project action

10. Aesthetics

[Find help answering aesthetics questions](#)¹³

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

Not applicable. This is a non-project action

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

Not applicable. This is a non-project action

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

Not applicable. This is a non-project action

11. Light and glare

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

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

Not applicable. This is a non-project action

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

Not applicable. This is a non-project action

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

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

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

Not applicable. This is a non-project action

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

Not applicable. This is a non-project action

12. Recreation

[Find help answering recreation questions](#)

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

There are various recreational opportunities within City limits, including parks and trails.

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

Not applicable. This is a non-project action

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

Not applicable. This is a non-project action

13. Historic and cultural preservation

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

a. Are there any buildings, structures, or sites, located on or near the site that are over 45 years old listed in or eligible for listing in national, state, or local preservation registers? If so, specifically describe.

According to Washington State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation's WISAARD application, there are no buildings or structures within or near the City's limits that are eligible for or listed in preservation registers. There are, however, several properties that are determined eligible for preservation registers.

b. Are there any landmarks, features, or other evidence of Indian or historic use or occupation? This may include human burials or old cemeteries. Are there any material evidence, artifacts, or areas of cultural importance on or near the site? Please list any professional studies conducted at the site to identify such resources.

Given the traditional tribal presence in the area, such resources could be present in City limits

c. Describe the methods used to assess the potential impacts to cultural and historic resources on or near the project site. Examples include consultation with tribes and

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

the department of archeology and historic preservation, archaeological surveys, historic maps, GIS data, etc.

Not applicable. This is a non-project action

- d. Proposed measures to avoid, minimize, or compensate for loss, changes to, and disturbance to resources. Please include plans for the above and any permits that may be required.**

The existing and proposed ordinance amendments do not address measures to avoid, minimize or compensate for loss, changes to, and disturbance to historic and cultural resources. However, regulations within Flood Hazard Zones, as outlined in the Statement of Purpose section of the White Salmon Municipal Code, largely aligns with preservation of these archeological, historic, and cultural sites.

14. Transportation

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

- a. Identify public streets and highways serving the site or affected geographic area and describe proposed access to the existing street system. Show on site plans, if any.**

Not applicable. This is a non-project action

- b. Is the site or affected geographic area currently served by public transit? If so, generally describe. If not, what is the approximate distance to the nearest transit stop?**

Not applicable. This is a non-project action

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

Not applicable. This is a non-project action

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

No.

- e. How many vehicular trips per day would be generated by the completed project or proposal? If known, indicate when peak volumes would occur and what percentage of volume would be trucks (such as commercial and nonpassenger vehicles). What data or transportation models were used to make these estimates?**

Not applicable. This is a non-project action

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

- f. **Will the proposal interfere with, affect, or be affected by the movement of agricultural and forest products on roads or streets in the area? If so, generally describe.**

Not applicable. This is a non-project action

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

Not applicable. This is a non-project action

15. Public services

[Find help answering public service questions¹⁷](#)

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

Not applicable. This is a non-project action

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

Not applicable. This is a non-project action

16. Utilities

[Find help answering utilities questions¹⁸](#)

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

Not applicable. This is a non-project action

- 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 a non-project action

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

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

C. Signature

[Find help about who should sign](#)¹⁹

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

X

Type name of signee:

Position and agency/organization:

Date submitted:

D. Supplemental sheet for nonproject actions

[Find help for the nonproject actions worksheet](#)²⁰

Do not use this section 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?**

The proposed amendments associated with the City's ordinance update are not anticipated to increase discharge to water; emissions to air; production, storage, or release of toxic or hazardous substances; or production of noise. The proposed amendments are intended to maintain compliance with the National Flood Insurance Program, keep the White Salmon Municipal Code current Department of Ecology and FEMA Region X soon-to-be adopted floodplain maps within city limits, effective February 14, 2025, as well as provide for better administration of the code. Development projects proposed within the City's listed special flood hazard areas must comply with the White Salmon Municipal Code and all other applicable local, state, and federal regulations.

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

²⁰ <https://ecology.wa.gov/regulations-permits/sepa/environmental-review/sepa-guidance/sepa-checklist-guidance/sepa-checklist-section-d-non-project-actions>

- **Proposed measures to avoid or reduce such increases are:**

Not applicable. This is a non-project action.

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

The proposed amendments associated with the City's ordinance update are not anticipated to appreciably affect plants, animals, fish, or aquatic life. Development projects proposed within the City's listed special flood hazard areas must comply with the White Salmon Municipal Code and all other applicable local, state, and federal regulations.

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

The proposed amendments associated with the City's ordinance update that aim to protect or conserve plants, animals fish or marine life includes prohibiting the storage or processing of materials that could be injurious to human, animal, or plant life if released due to damage from flooding in special flood hazard areas.

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

The proposed amendments associated with the City's ordinance are not anticipated to deplete energy or natural resources. The proposed amendments are intended to comply with the National Flood Insurance program and better administration of the code. Development projects proposed within the City's special flood zone areas must comply with the White Salmon Municipal Code and all other applicable local, state, and federal regulations.

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

The proposed amendments to the ordinance do not include additional measures to protect or conserve energy and natural resources.

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

The proposed amendments associated with the City's ordinance do include amendments to floodplain regulations to capture best available science. Otherwise, the proposed amendments associated with the City's ordinance are not anticipated to affect other environmentally sensitive areas or areas designated (or eligible or under study) for governmental protection. Development projects proposed within the City's special flood zones must comply with the White Salmon Municipal Code and all other applicable local, state, and federal regulations.

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

The proposed amendments are intended to keep White Salmon Municipal Code current with state guidance for floodplain regulations.

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 proposed amendments associated with the City's ordinance update the Basis for Establishing the Areas of Special Flood Hazard to ensure greater guidance on how to identify special flood hazard areas. Otherwise, amendments are not anticipated to affect land uses. Development projects proposed within the City's floodplains must comply with the White Salmon Municipal Code and all other applicable local, state, and federal regulations.

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

The proposed amendments to the ordinance do not include additional measures to avoid or reduce shoreline and land use impacts.

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

The proposed amendments associated with the City's ordinance update are not anticipated to increase demands on public services and utilities. Proposed amendments are intended to keep White Salmon Municipal Code current with best available science and better administration of the code. Development projects proposed within the City's floodplains must comply with the White Salmon Municipal Code and all other applicable local, state, and federal regulations.

- **Proposed measures to reduce or respond to such demand(s) are:**

Not applicable—increased demands on transportation or public services and utilities not anticipated

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

The proposal is intended to maintain compliance with NFIP and provide greater resources on how to identify special flood hazards areas through a scientific and engineering report entitled "The Flood Insurance Study (FIS) for Klickitat County, Washington and Incorporated Areas" dated February 14, 2025. The City is performing the ordinance update to better align with recent FEMA guidance, as well as keeping it current with best available science, providing limited flexibility to eliminate uncertain areas in the code.