

SEPA ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

A. Background

1. Name of proposed project, if applicable:

Japanese Beetle Eradication in Yakima and Benton Counties

2. Name of applicant:

Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA)

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

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4. Date checklist prepared:

February 16, 2024

5. Agency requesting checklist:

Washington State Department of Agriculture

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

April 2024 – September 2024

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

Expansion of the proposed treatment area will depend on results from the 2024 Japanese beetle summer trapping survey. Emergency amendments to the proposed treatment site may be made if Japanese beetle is detected outside of the current proposal area during the 2024 trapping season.

Washington State Department of Agriculture is currently working on turning the emergency expanded internal quarantine rules into permanent internal quarantine rules under Chapter 16-470 WAC.

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

In 2022, a Nonproject SEPA was completed for potential state-wide Japanese beetle eradication activities.

The Department of Health (DOH) also prepared a website containing health, safety and environmental information about the proposed project. Information can be found at: <https://www.doh.wa.gov/CommunityandEnvironment/Pests/JapaneseBeetles>

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.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was created between WSDA and Yakama Nation in 2023. Yakama Nation is currently reviewing that MOU for any needed amendments.

Right-of-way permits will be submitted to Washington State Department of Transportation if the need arises.

11. Give a 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.)

Washington State Department of Agriculture will supervise licensed pesticide applicators to apply the pesticides Acelepryn® (EPA Reg. No. 100-1489), Acelepryn® G (EPA Reg. No. 100-1500), and Bacillus thuringiensis subsp. galleriae (grubGone! EPA Reg. No. 88347-2 and beetleGone! EPA Reg. No. 88347-3) to affected properties with suitable habitat from early April until July. Treatments may extend until September. A majority of applications will be to turfgrass, which is the preferred oviposition (egg laying) site for female JB. Applications to trees and shrubs will occur after adult flight season begins in approximately early June.

The activities within this proposal aim to eradicate Japanese beetle from Grandview, Mabton, Sunnyside, Wapato, and surrounding areas of Yakima and Benton Counties, Washington state. The proposed treatment area totals 2,793.9 acres encompassing 10,700 properties.

12. Location of the proposal. Give sufficient information for a person to understand the precise location of your proposed project, including a street address, if any, and section, township, and range, if known. If a proposal would occur over a range of area, provide the range or boundaries of the site(s). Provide a legal description, site plan, vicinity map, and topographic map, if reasonably available. While you should submit any plans required by the agency, you are not required to duplicate maps or detailed plans submitted with any permit applications related to this checklist.

This proposal is located within the incorporated and unincorporated areas of Yakima and Benton Counties, Washington state. Cities within this proposal area include Grandview, Mabton, Sunnyside, and Wapato. Proposed treatments in Wapato would be with consent from, and in cooperation with Yakama Nation.

See attached maps

B. Environmental Elements

1. Earth

a. General description of the site:

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

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

Site is generally flat from east to west and maximum percent slope is approximately 5%

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.

Generally, the project site consists of silty loams and fine sandy loams. The proposal will not result in the removal of any commercially significant soil.

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

No

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.

No filling, excavation, or grading is planned for this proposal.

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

No erosion is expected to occur during this proposals activities.

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

Not Applicable

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

No erosion or impacts to the earth are expected.

2. Air

- 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.**

No emissions are expected to result from this proposal.

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

No off-site sources of emissions or odor that may effect this proposal.

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

Not Applicable

3. Water

a. Surface Water:

- 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 Yakima River flows through two sections of the proposed project area.

-The Sunnyside Canal. It ends north of Benton City.

-The Snipes Mountain Lateral Canal.

-There are few potential wetland and stream sites within the proposal vicinity.

-Residential ponds may be located within the proposed project area.

- 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.**

Due to the property treatment consent requirement, it is not known if the proposed project will require any work over. If so, care will be taken by the applicators to follow label instructions when mixing, loading, and applying products around areas defined as waterways of Washington state.

If residential ponds are located on a property, WSDA will work with landowner(s) to mitigate any impacts.

- 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.**

No fill or dredged material will be produced as a part of this proposal.

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

No

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

Not Applicable

- 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.**

The proposal does not involve any discharges of waste materials to surface waters.

b. Ground Water:

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

No

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

No waste material will be discharged into the ground during the proposal's activities.

c. Water Runoff (including stormwater):

- a) 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.**

Runoff is collected in stormwater systems and treated in municipal and county treatment facilities. An unknown amount of runoff may enter the Yakima River.

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

Possibly, however there is no expectation of waste material being produced as part of this proposal.

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

No

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

To minimize potential runoff, no applications will be conducted when it is raining or when rain is in the immediate forecast.

4. Plants

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

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

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

No vegetation will be removed or altered.

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

A search of the Department of Natural Resources Natural Heritage Database found no threatened or endangered plant species.

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

Japanese beetle feeds on over 300 species of plants. This proposal will help preserve and enhance vegetation and agriculture throughout the lower Yakima Valley.

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

Not Applicable

5. Animals

- 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:** woodpeckers, owls, ruby-throated hummingbird, Rufous hummingbird, Anna's hummingbird, turkey vulture
- **Mammals:** deer, bear, elk, beaver, **other:** Townsend's big-eared bat, American badger, coyotes, bobcat
- **Fish:** bass, salmon, trout, herring, shellfish, **other:** Threespine stickleback, Longnose dace, Speckled dace, Channel catfish

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

Ferruginous hawk is a threatened species and has been observed outside the boundaries northeast of the proposed project site.

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

Yes, this site lies within the Pacific Flyway for migratory birds.

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

Washington State Department of Agriculture efforts to eradicate Japanese beetle will result in the preservation of native plants, landscaping and other vegetation of Washington State, therefore protecting habitat for wildlife.

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

Not Applicable

6. Energy and Natural Resources

1. 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

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

Not Applicable

3. **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

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 because of this proposal? If so, describe.**

Yes, exposure to a pesticide during loading and application, and some potential for spills. However, the products chosen for use on this proposed project have minimal potential for significant adverse impacts on human and pet health. It is the intent of WSDA to reduce that minimal potential through compliance with the label, and actions detailed in item #5 below.

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

Not Applicable

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

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.**

Pesticide(s) will be used during the proposed project. Product(s) will be locked up in a safe area off-site.

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

In the event of a major pesticide spill, a Department of Ecology Spill Response Team may be required. Ecology's Central Region Office is the contact for the proposed project.

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

All proposed project activities will be done in accordance with the label. The contractor will be required to have containment and clean-up materials on-site during applications. Property owners and/or renters will be supplied with information about the pesticide to be applied, and will be given notice before treatments. WSDA will work with daycares, schools and parks department to ensure safety of all children.

b. Noise

1. **What types of noise exist in the area which may affect your project (for example:**

traffic, equipment, operation, other)?

Not Applicable

- 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)?**

Proposed activities may create short-term noise.

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

Noise will be property specific and variable on property size.

8. Land and Shoreline Use

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

The proposed project area is currently used for residential housing, community facilities, lodging, agriculture, and business. The proposal is not expected to affect land uses of these properties.

- 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?**

Yes. Approximately 35,000 acres of the proposed project site are designated for cropland/agriculture. None of these designated lands will be converted to other uses.

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

No

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

Structures on site are predominantly residential (houses, apartments, duplexes, town homes etc.) along with community spaces (schools, parks), and some business and industry structures (shops, grocery stores, restaurants, distribution centers, and various industry factories/warehouses).

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

No

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

Yakima County

Agriculture (AG), Single Family Residential (R-1), Rural-10/5 (R-10/5), Rural Transitional (RT), Local Business (B-2), Large Convenience Center (LCC), Light Industrial (M-1), Highway/Tourist Commercial (HTC), General Commercial (GC)

Wapato

Light Industrial (M1), Public Facilities (PF), Single Family (R1), Two Family (R2), Multi Family (R3), Professional Business (B1), Local Business (B2), Central Business District (CBD)

Sunnyside

Public Facilities (PF), Planned Unit Development (PUD), Professional Business (B1), Local Business (B2), General Business District (B3), Single Family (R1), Two Family (R2), Multi Family (R3), Light Industrial (M1), Heavy Industrial (M2)

Grandview

Planned Unit Development (PUD), Neighborhood Business (C1), General Business (C2), Agriculture (AG), Low Density Residential (R1), Single Family Residential Home Park (R1S), Medium Density Residential (R2), High Density Residential (R3), Manufactured Home Park (MR), Light Industrial (M1), Heavy Industrial (M2), Public Facility (PF)

Mabton

Commercial (C1), Manufacturing (M1), Multi-Use (MU), Public Facility (PF), Park/Open Space (PK), Single-Family Residential (R1), Multi-Family Residential (R2), Rural Residential (R-R)

Benton County

Rural Lands Five Acre District (RL-5), Growth Management Act Agricultural District (GMAAD)

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

The site will fall under the following general categories: Residential, public facilities, industrial, commercial, and agriculture.

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

Not Applicable

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

Palustrine Aquatic Habitat within the site has been designated as Fish and Wildlife Habitat Conservation Areas by the WDFW.

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

Not Applicable

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

Not Applicable

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

Not Applicable

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

The proposal is not compatible with land marked as farmland and therefore those land designations are not included in this project.

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

Washington State Department of Agriculture's efforts to eradicate Japanese beetle will result in the preservation of agricultural commodity crops, forest lands, landscaping and other vegetation of Washington state.

9. Housing

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

Not Applicable

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

Not Applicable

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

Not Applicable

10. Aesthetics

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

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

Not Applicable

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

Not Applicable

11. Light and Glare

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

Not Applicable

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

Not Applicable

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

Not Applicable

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

Not Applicable

12. Recreation

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

Sports programs are the main recreational opportunities in the area. Walking trails, biking, picnic areas, golfing,, tennis courts, ballfields and swimming also exist within the project area.

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

The above-mentioned programs and activities utilize outdoor facilities that may require treatment for Japanese beetle. If treatment takes place, a short re-entry period will be required.

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

Any treatment would be coordinated between WSDA, contractor and city parks departments. Treatments would occur during a time least likely to effect the public.

13. Historic and Cultural Preservation

- 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.**

Washington Heritage Register

Snipes, Ben, Cabin- Sunnyside
Grandview City Hall- Grandview
Keck, E.O., Building- Grandview
Iowa Building- Grandview

National and State Registered

US Post Office-Sunnyside Main- Sunnyside
Grandview Road-Yellowstone Trail- Grandview
Grandview High School- Grandview
Grandview State Bank- Grandview
Grandview Herald Building- Grandview
Howay-Dykstra House- Grandview
Morse House- Grandview
Cornell Farmstead- Grandview
Mabton High School- Mabton
Yakima Valley Filipino Community Hall- Wapato
Barn (Smithsonian Number YA01612)- Grandview
Barn (Smithsonian Number BN01480)- Benton Co.

Determined Eligible

Grandview Water Tower- Grandview
Carol Shawley House- Grandview
Celia Longoria House- Grandview
Morse House- Grandview
Spring Creek-Wine Country No. 1 transmission line- Yakima County
Lateral 2 Segment- Drainage Improvement district 9-Sunnyside Valley Irrigation District- Yakima County
Roza Divion Wasteway N. 5/Sulphur Creek Wasteway Farm Bridge at approximately Station No. 254+50- Yakima County
Roza Divion Wasteway N. 5/Sulphur Creek Wasteway Farm Bridge at approximately Station No. 240-68 Yakima County
Roza Divion Wasteway N. 5/Sulphur Creek Wasteway- Yakima County
Roza Irrigation District Headquarters-Roza Division Office and Warehouse- Sunnyside
Roza Irrigation District Headquarters-Roza Division Carpenter and Lumber Shed- Sunnyside
Roza Irrigation District Headquarters-Roza Division Shop- Sunnyside
Roza Irrigation District Headquarters-Quonset Hut Storage Building- Sunnyside
Roza Irrigation District Headquarters-Roza 10 Car Storage Garage- Sunnyside
Navarro's Family Community Center Building- Sunnyside
Huertas Auto Repair- Sunnyside
H&H Furniture Building- Sunnyside
Old National Bank Building- Sunnyside
Sunnyside Telephone Exchange- Sunnyside
Pacific Power & Light Company- Sunnyside
Harrison & Miller Building- Sunnyside
Valley Hay and Grain Company Building- Sunnyside
Cascade Lumber Company's dressed lumber shed- Sunnyside

Carniceria La Barata- Sunnyside
Rosa Galindo House- Sunnyside
Joe Pineda House- Sunnyside
Morning Milk Co./Carnation Milk Co.- Sunnyside
Yakima Project Sunnyside Division Canal- Snipes Mountain Lateral- Sunnyside
Inland Empire Highway 410 in Sunnyside- Sunnyside
Su Mercadito- Mabton
Wautona-Rock Creek Transmission Line- Yakima Co.
Building (property ID 11799)- Mabton
Groff Barn- Benton Co.
Sunnyside Division Lateral 51.36- Benton Co.
Lateral 51.87- Benton Co.

- 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.**

No

- c. Describe the methods used to assess the potential impacts to cultural and historic resources on or near the project site. Examples include consultation with tribes and the department of archeology and historic preservation, archaeological surveys, historic maps, GIS data, etc.**

Consultation with Yakama Tribe and The Department of Archaeology and Preservation's WISAARD database indicated no evidence of Indian or historic use or occupation within the proposed project area.

- 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.**

Not Applicable

14. Transportation

- 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.**

Interstate 82 (I-82) is the main highway to access the proposed project site. Once off I-82 the main arterials include Wine Country Road and Euclid Street. WA-22, WA-241/Sunnyside Mabton Highway and E. Yakima Valley Highway are also used to access the northwest and southwest portions of the proposed project site. East Edison Ave. is a major street running east/west through Sunnyside. In Wapato, US-97 runs through the middle of the proposed project area. The main arterials include West Wapato Road and North Track Road.

- 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?

Current public transportation services are available for eligible elderly and handicapped citizens by People for People, a private non-profit organization. They also operate the Community Connector which has stops throughout the site.

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

No

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

No

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

Not Applicable

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

No

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

Not Applicable

15. Public Services

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

No

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

Not Applicable

16. Utilities

- a. Circle utilities currently available at the site: electricity, natural gas, 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.

Not Applicable

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.

X *Rian Wojahn*

Type name of signee: Rian C. Wojahn

Position and agency/organization: Pest Eradication Coordinator/

WSDA Date submitted: 2/20/2024

Japanese Beetle Proposed Quarantine and Treatment 2024 (Grandview Area)



