

WAC 197-11-970 Determination of nonsignificance (DNS).

DETERMINATION OF NONSIGNIFICANCE

Description of proposal: The Department of Ecology is proposing to adopt two water resource management rules, Chapter 173-525 WAC for the Grays-Elochoman River Basin (WRIA 25) and Chapter 173-526 WAC for the Cowlitz River Basin (WRIA 26). The key rule elements include:

26 AHB

- Setting instream flow levels for 24 streams to protect aquatic resources, including habitat for threatened and endangered salmonids.
- Closing specific sub-basins to new withdrawals.
- Creating limited reservations of water for future uses.
- Setting conditions for accessing the reservations to benefit stream resources and better manage available supply. The reservations created were designed to meet the community's water needs for 20 years of projected growth.

Proponent: Washington Department of Ecology, Water Resources Program

Location of proposal, including street address, if any: WRIA 25 comprises the Grays River, Skamokawa Creek, Elochoman River, Abernathy/Germany Creek, and the Coal Creek/Longview Slough. WRIA 26 comprises the Upper Cowlitz River, Cispus River, Tilton River, Mayfield Dam, Toutle River, Coweeman River, and the Lower Cowlitz River. Most of the land area is located within Cowlitz, Lewis, Wahkiakum, and Skamania counties; however, small portions extend into Pierce, Pacific, and Yakima counties. WRIA 25 and 26 basins drain into the Columbia River, but do not include the Columbia River itself.

Lead agency: Washington Department of Ecology, Water Resources Program

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.

There is no comment period for this DNS.

This DNS is issued after using the optional DNS process in WAC 197-11-355. There is no further comment period on the DNS.

This DNS is issued under WAC 197-11-340(2); the lead agency will not act on this proposal for 14 days from the date below. **Comments must be received by June 4, 2010, 5:00 pm.**

Responsible official: Ken Slattery

Position/title: Water Resources Program Manager

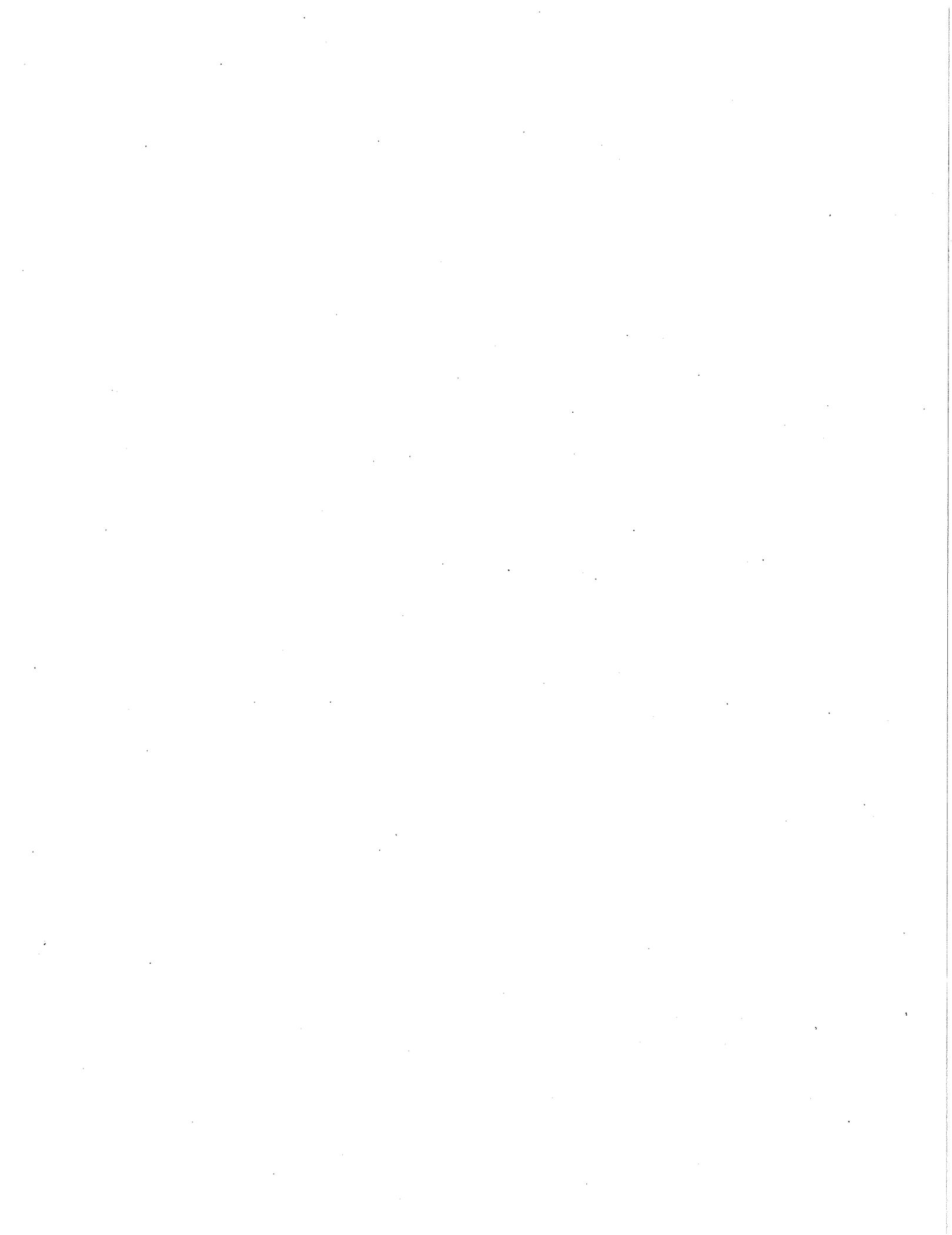
Phone: (360) 407-6602

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Date: 4/15/2010

Signature _____

Keneth O. Slattery



PART ELEVEN - FORMS

WAC 197-11-960 Environmental checklist.

ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

Purpose of checklist:

The State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA), chapter 43.21C RCW, requires all governmental agencies to consider the environmental impacts of a proposal before making decisions. An environmental impact statement (EIS) must be prepared for all proposals with probable significant adverse impacts on the quality of the environment. The purpose of this checklist is to provide information to help you and the agency identify impacts from your proposal (and to reduce or avoid impacts from the proposal, if it can be done) and to help the agency decide whether an EIS is required.

Instructions for applicants:

This environmental checklist asks you to describe some basic information about your proposal. Governmental agencies use this checklist to determine whether the environmental impacts of your proposal are significant, requiring preparation of an EIS. Answer the questions briefly, with the most precise information known, or give the best description you can.

You must answer each question accurately and carefully, to the best of your knowledge. In most cases, you should be able to answer the questions from your own observations or project plans without the need to hire experts. If you really do not know the answer, or if a question does not apply to your proposal, write "do not know" or "does not apply." Complete answers to the questions now may avoid unnecessary delays later.

Some questions ask about governmental regulations, such as zoning, shoreline, and landmark designations. Answer these questions if you can. If you have problems, the governmental agencies can assist you.

The checklist questions apply to all parts of your proposal, even if you plan to do them over a period of time or on different parcels of land. 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.

Use of checklist for nonproject proposals:

Complete this checklist for nonproject proposals, even though questions may be answered "does not apply." IN ADDITION, complete the SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET FOR NONPROJECT ACTIONS (part D).

For nonproject actions, the references in the checklist to the words "project," "applicant," and "property or site" should be read as "proposal," "proposer," and "affected geographic area," respectively.

A. BACKGROUND

1. Name of proposed project, if applicable:

Water Resources Management Programs for the Grays-Elochoman (WRIA 25) and the Cowlitz (WRIA 26) river basins

2. Name of applicant:

Washington Department of Ecology, Water Resources Program

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

Dept of Ecology
Travis Burns
PO Box 47600
Olympia WA 98504-7600
(360) 407-7207

4. Date checklist prepared:

March 2010

5. Agency requesting checklist:

Washington Department of Ecology

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

File CR-102s proposing draft rules in April 2010.
File CR-103s adopting final rules in
Rules take effect 31 days after filing the CR-103s.

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

The rule directs future water right permitting actions in the two basins. The rule will also require agreements between Ecology and the relevant counties for implementation of the rules, including tracking use of the reservations for new water uses created in the rules.

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

- Final environmental impact statement (EIS) for Watershed Planning under Chapter 90.82 RCW, 2003, Sandison, Ecology Publication #03-06-013, available at www.ecy.wa.gov/biblio/0306013.html
- Lower Columbia Salmon Recovery and Fish & Wildlife Subbasin Plan, 2004, Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board, available from www.lcfrb.gen.wa.us
- Level 1 Technical Assessment For WRIA 25/26-Final Report July, 2001
- Grays-Elochoman and Cowlitz Watershed Management Plan, July 2006, Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board and the counties of Cowlitz, Lewis, Skamania, and Wahkiakum

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.

There are 187 applications on file with Ecology for new water rights from the basins. The cities and counties also have numerous applications pending for construction and non-construction proposals within the area.

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

Rule adoption and compliance with the Administrative Procedures Act.

11. Give brief, complete description of your proposal, including the proposed uses and the size of the project and site. There are several questions later in this checklist that ask you to describe

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

The Department of Ecology is proposing to adopt two water management rules, one for the Grays-Elochoman River Basin (WRIA 25) and the other for the Cowlitz River Basin (WRIA 26).

The key rule elements include:

- Setting instream flow levels for 24 streams to protect aquatic resources, including habitat for threatened and endangered salmonids.
- Closing specific sub-basins to new withdrawals.
- Creating limited reservations of water for future uses.
- Setting conditions for accessing the reservations to benefit stream resources and better manage available supply.

The reservations created were designed to meet the community's water needs for 20 years of projected growth. The size of the reservations reflects a balance between the projected needs of people and minimizing impacts to stream flows. Within each closed sub-basin, a specific amount of water will be available to certain users, including:

- Small water systems.
- City/county systems.
- Public utility districts.
- Permit-exempt groundwater well users.

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.

WRIA 25 comprises the Grays River, Skamokawa Creek, Elochoman River, Abernathy/Germany Creek, and the Coal Creek/Longview Slough. WRIA 26 comprises the Upper Cowlitz River, Cispus River, Tilton River, Mayfield Dam, Toutle River, Coweeman River, and the Lower Cowlitz River. Most of the land area is located within Cowlitz, Lewis, Wahkiakum, and Skamania Counties; however, small portions extend into Pierce, Pacific and Yakima counties. WRIA 25 and 26 basins drain into the Columbia River, but do not include the Columbia River itself.

B. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS

1. Earth

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

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The two basins cover approximately 1,800,000 acres. The physiography of the area is widely varied, ranging from temperate lowlands near sea level to high mountainous terrain at elevations over 8,000 feet.

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

Slopes range from near horizontal to vertical.

- 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.

Soil types in the basins are typical of the variety of soils found throughout Western Washington.

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

Soil stability across the 1,800,000 acre planning area varies significantly depending upon soil type, geology and slope. The counties have identified some high-erosion risk areas in the basins as part of their critical areas ordinances.

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

The rules do not require any filling or dredging. The rules may encourage filling or dredging as part of habitat enhancement actions, most likely in an effort to restore previously degraded wetland and riparian areas. The rules may also enable some measure of filling and grading associated with development that occurs based on the new water rights issued to public water suppliers from the created reservations. Potential locations and fill sources are unknown.

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

The rules do not include any clearing or construction, but enabled development in urban and suburban areas is likely. Future habitat enhancement proposals may also result in some temporary clearing to remove undesirable vegetation.

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

The rules will cause no direct change in impervious surface, although the enabled development from the water rights issued from the created reservations will increase the amount of impervious surface in the basins by some unknown measure.

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

None

2. Air

a. What types of emissions to the air would result from the proposal (i.e., dust, automobile, odors, industrial wood smoke) during construction and when the project is completed? If any, generally describe and give approximate quantities if known.

The rules do not generate emissions to the air. Some measure of increased construction, vehicular, and other typical urban and suburban emissions are likely to result from enabled development reliant on water rights issued to public water suppliers from the created reservations.

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

None

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

None

3. Water

a. Surface:

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

The basins includes all streams, tributaries, and lakes within WRIA 25 and 26, including the Grays, Elochoman, Cowlitz, Toutle, Cispus, Mayfield, Deep, and Coweeman rivers; and Mill, Crooked, Coal, Skamokawa, Abernathy, and Germany creeks. All of these systems and their tributaries flow into 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.

Although not specifically required, the rules do encourage habitat enhancement actions as part of impact offsetting mitigation for new water right permits available to public water suppliers through the created reservations. It is likely most, if not all, of these actions will occur in or near surface water or wetlands.

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.

The rules do not require any filling or dredging. The rules may encourage filling or dredging of surface water or wetlands as part of habitat enhancement actions, although most likely this will be efforts to restore previously degraded wetland areas. The rules may also enable some measure of filling and grading in surface water or wetlands associated with development that occurs based on the new water rights issued from the created reservations. Potential locations and fill sources are unknown.

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

The rules do not require any surface water diversions or withdrawals. The rules do however allow new water right permits for seasonal interruptible uses within the "allocation limits." They also create reservations for new water right permits for public water suppliers, which require at least 50 percent water-for-water flow impact offsetting mitigation.

The created reservations allow total flow depletions of:

- 0.76 cfs from the Cispus River
- 0.62 cfs from the Upper Cowlitz River
- 0.58 cfs from the Middle Cowlitz River
- 4.98 cfs from the Lower Cowlitz River
- 0.38 cfs from the Coweeman River
- 0.38 cfs from the Tilton River
- 1.13 cfs from the Toutle River

Allocation limits for interruptible uses are:

- 50 cfs for the Coweeman River, available November 16 through May 14
- 357 cfs for the Cowlitz River, available July 1 through August 14
- 832 cfs for the Cowlitz River, available November 16 through February 29
- 50 cfs for the Elochoman River, available November 16 through April 31
- 50 cfs for the Grays River, available November 16 through April 31

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

Yes, areas within the basins are floodplains.

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

No, although enabled development may result in new waste discharges to surface waters, assumed to be that typical of urban and suburban activities.

b. Ground:

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

The rules allow continued permit-exempt well development, as would occur without the rule but with some new limitations; and new water right permits that are shown to not affect closed stream reaches. They also create reservations for new water right permits for public

water suppliers, which require at least 50 percent water-for-water flow impact offsetting mitigation.

Volumes of groundwater withdrawals are difficult to quantify before applications are made. Factors include, but are not limited to, the stream flow depletion limits described above, whether ground or surface water is withdrawn, well locations and depths, and the water-related offsets provided. Rough approximations, made by doubling the stream flow depletion limits:

- Abernathy/Germany Creek subbasin – 556 thousand gallons per day (K gpd)
- Cispus River subbasin – 982 K gpd
- Coweeman River subbasin – 491 K gpd
- Upper Cowlitz River subbasin – 801 K gpd
- Middle Cowlitz River subbasin – 750 K gpd
- Lower Cowlitz River subbasin – 6,440 K gpd
- Elochoman River subbasin – 737 K gpd
- Grays River subbasin – 1,620 K gpd
- Skamokawa Creek subbasin – 259 K gpd
- Tilton River subbasin – 491 K gpd
- Toutle River subbasin – 1460 K gpd

- 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.

The continued development of permit-exempt wells will increase the use and resulting discharge of wastewater from domestic septic systems. This is the same or less (because of the new limits on this use and the increased availability of water from public water suppliers) than what would occur without adoption of the rules.

Although the created reservations will enable some new development served by public water suppliers, we assume that the majority will have access to public wastewater systems as well. Therefore, increases in waste discharges to the ground under the rules should be relatively small viewed basin-wide.

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.

The rules will have no direct impact on stormwater runoff, but the development enabled by water rights issued from the created reservations will increase impervious surfaces in urban and suburban areas of the basins. State and local regulations related to stormwater management will mitigate the resulting increases in runoff to some extent. Wetland and riparian enhancement encouraged by the rules' offsetting requirements are also likely to provide runoff reduction benefits. Still, the rule contains no provisions to direct the collection, disposal, flow, or destination of stormwater runoff.

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

Although the rules will have no direct effect of this type, runoff from development enabled by water rights issued from the reservations is likely to contain typical urban and suburban contaminants, some of which is likely to reach surface or groundwater.

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

Wetland and riparian enhancement encouraged by the rules' offsetting requirements are likely to provide benefits of reducing runoff and removing stormwater contaminants.

4. Plants

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

- deciduous tree: alder, maple, aspen, other
- evergreen tree: fir, cedar, pine, other
- shrubs
- grass
- pasture
- crop or grain
- wet soil plants: cattail, buttercup, bullrush, skunk cabbage, other
- water plants: water lily, eelgrass, milfoil, other
- other types of vegetation: Vegetation typical in near-shore environments

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

Adopting the rules would have no direct effect on vegetation, but the offsetting actions required to gain new water rights are likely to result in the removal of invasive species and the planting of native riparian and wetland plants. Development supported by new water rights issued from the reservations created in the rule is also likely to result in vegetation removal and the planting of lawns, gardens, and other landscaping foliage.

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

Scientific Name	Common Name
<u>Agoseris elata</u>	Tall Agoseris
<u>Aster curtus</u>	White-top Aster
<u>Aster oregonensis</u>	Oregon White-top Aster
Balsamorhiza deltoidea	Puget Balsamroot
<u>Bolandra oregana</u>	Bolandra
Bromus vulgaris var. eximius	Columbia Brome
Calamagrostis canadensis var. imberbis	Blue Joint Reedgrass
<u>Cardamine penduliflora</u>	Willamette Valley Bitter-cress

Scientific Name	Common Name
<u>Carex densa</u>	Dense Sedge
<u>Carex macrochaeta</u>	Large-awn Sedge
Centunculus minimus	Chaffweed
<u>Chrysolepis chrysophylla</u>	Golden Chinquapin
<u>Cimicifuga elata</u>	Tall Bugbane
<u>Collinsia sparsiflora var. bruceae</u>	Few-flowered Collinsia
<u>Corydalis aquae-gelidae</u>	Clackamas Corydalis
<u>Cypripedium fasciculatum</u>	Clustered Lady's-slipper
<u>Delphinium leucophaeum</u>	Pale Larkspur
Erigeron aliceae	Alice's Fleabane
<u>Erigeron howellii</u>	Howell's Daisy
<u>Erigeron oregonus</u>	Gorge Daisy
<u>Erythronium revolutum</u>	Pink Fawn-lily
<u>Euonymus occidentalis</u>	Western Wahoo
<u>Githopsis specularioides</u>	Common Blue-cup
<u>Hackelia diffusa var. diffusa</u>	Diffuse Stickseed
Hedysarum occidentale	Western Hedysarum
Hierochloa odorata	Common Northern Sweet Grass
Hydrocotyle ranunculoides	Floating Water Pennywort
<u>Isoetes nuttallii</u>	Nuttall's Quillwort
<u>Juncus howellii</u>	Howell's Rush
<u>Lathyrus holochlorus</u>	Thin-leaved Peavine
<u>Lupinus sulphureus ssp. kincaidii</u>	Kincaid's Sulfur Lupine
Lycopodiella inundata	Bog Clubmoss
<u>Meconella oregana</u>	White Meconella
Microseris borealis	Northern Microseris
<u>Mimulus pulsiferae</u>	Pulsifer's Monkey-flower
Mimulus washingtonensis	Washington Monkey-flower
<u>Montia diffusa</u>	Branching Montia
Myriophyllum ussuriense	Ussurian Water-milfoil
<u>Orthocarpus bracteosus</u>	Rosy Owl-clover
<u>Parnassia fimbriata var. hoodiana</u>	Fringed Grass-of-parnassus
<u>Pedicularis rainierensis</u>	Mt. Rainier Lousewort
<u>Penstemon barrettiae</u>	Barrett's Beardtongue
Perideridia oregana	Oregon Yampah
<u>Platanthera sparsiflora</u>	Canyon Bog-orchid

Scientific Name	Common Name
<u>Poa laxiflora</u>	Loose-flowered Bluegrass
<u>Poa nervosa</u>	Wheeler's Bluegrass
<u>Polemonium carneum</u>	Great Polemonium
<u>Rorippa columbiae</u>	Persistentsepal Yellowcress
<u>Salix sessilifolia</u>	Soft-leaved Willow
<u>Samolus parviflorus</u>	Water-pimpernel
<u>Sidalcea hirtipes</u>	Hairy-stemmed Checker-mallow
<u>Sidalcea nelsoniana</u>	Nelson's Checker-mallow
<u>Silene douglasii</u> var. <u>monantha</u>	Douglas' Silene
<u>Sisyrinchium sarmentosum</u>	Pale Blue-eyed Grass
<u>Spiranthes porrifolia</u>	Western Ladies-tresses
<u>Sullivantia oregana</u>	Oregon Sullivantia
<u>Trillium parviflorum</u>	Small-flowered Trillium
<u>Utricularia gibba</u>	Humped Bladderwort
<u>Utricularia intermedia</u>	Flat-leaved Bladderwort
<u>Utricularia minor</u>	Lesser Bladderwort
<u>Wolffia columbiana</u>	Columbia Water-meal

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

None is proposed, but the rules will encourage the removal of invasive species and vegetation enhancement with native species plantings through requirements to offset the impacts of new water permits issued from the created reservations.

5. Animals

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

- ✓ birds: hawk, heron, eagle, songbirds, other:
- ✓ mammals: deer, bear, elk, beaver, other:
- ✓ fish: bass, salmon, trout, herring, shellfish, other:

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

Haliaeetus leucocephalus (Bald eagle)

Strix occidentalis caurina (Northern spotted owls)

Brachyramphus marmoratus (Marbled murrelets)

Odocoileus virginianus leucurus (Columbian white-tailed deer)

Oncorhynchus tshawytscha (Chinook salmon)

Oncorhynchus keta (Chum salmon)

Oncorhynchus mykiss (Steelhead)
Salvelinus confluentus (Bull trout)

Lynx Canadensis (Canada lynx), *Ursus arctos* (Grizzly bears), and *Canis lupus* (Gray wolves) may also occur in Skamania County

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

The two basins are part of the Pacific Flyway for waterfowl. Elk and deer migrate out of high elevations during the winter months. Chinook, chum, steelhead, and bull trout inhabit and/or migrate through these basins.

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

The instream flows created by the rules protect instream and riparian resources, including fish and wildlife habitat, by protecting stream flows.

6. Energy and natural resources

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

Not applicable

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

No

- c. What kinds of energy conservation features are included in the plans of this proposal? List other proposed measures to reduce or control energy impacts, if any:

None

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 as either a direct or indirect result of the rules.

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

Increased development enabled by new water rights issued from the created reserves is likely to require emergency services such as is typical of urban and suburban development.

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

None

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.

Enabled development is likely to create traffic, construction, etc. noise associated with typical urban and suburban development.

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

None

8. Land and shoreline use

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

Land uses in the area vary from urbanized in Longview and Kelso, to uninhabited in private forests. Land uses within the area are typical of Western Washington and include agriculture, timberland, commercial, industrial, recreational, and both rural and urban residential uses.

b. Has the site been used for agriculture?

If so, describe.

Agriculture comprises about four percent of land use types occurring in the basins. The local agriculture economy is composed mainly of hay production, livestock and dairy industries, and nurseries.

c. Describe any structures on the site.

The area covers over 1,800,000 acres so it includes structures of all types. Significant to water management are hydroelectric facilities on the Cowlitz River.

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

No

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

The basins contain most zoning classifications for Lewis, Cowlitz, Wahkiakum, and Skamania counties.

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

The basins contain most comprehensive plan designations.

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

Shoreline master program designations vary across the planning area, including urban, rural, natural, and conservancy designated areas. The proposed action will not affect Shoreline Master Program designations.

h. Has any part of the site been classified as an "environmentally sensitive" area?

If so, specify.

Yes, as part of county and city ordinances, areas may be designated as critical areas, geologic hazard areas, or critical aquifer areas.

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

Current population of the basins is about 125,000, projected to increase to 167,000 by 2030.

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

None

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:

Ecology based the rules on the recommendations contained in the Grays/Elochoman and Cowlitz Watershed Management Plan, created by the planning unit, which included representatives from a wide range of local agencies and stakeholder groups. The watershed plan was also adopted by Cowlitz, Lewis, Skamania, and Wahkiakum counties following significant public involvement efforts.

9. Housing

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

The rules do not create housing units, but the water in the created reservations can serve about 17,000 households.

- 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:

The rules allow continued permit-exempt well development in areas not served by public water systems and provide a pathway for public water suppliers to gain new water rights that might otherwise not be available.

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?

Enabled development in urban and suburban areas is apt to replace undeveloped areas, such as agricultural fields, vacant lots, or wooded areas. Rural development is likely to be the same or less than what would have occurred without the rules.

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

Closing streams to new appropriations and setting instream flows (protected minimum flow levels) protects instream functions and values, including scenic and aesthetic values. Encouraged habitat enhancement actions may also improve the natural aesthetics of wetland and riparian areas.

11. Light and glare

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

Light and glare produced by enabled development is likely to be typical of urban and suburban development.

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

Light and glare from enabled development is not likely to be a safety hazard, but may interfere with "views" from neighboring structures, as is typical of new development that replaces undeveloped areas.

- 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?

The basins offer most outdoor recreational activities through extensive national park lands, as well as many rivers, lakes, and streams.

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

No

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

Adoption of instream flow levels protects instream values, such as fish habitat, aesthetics, and recreational values.

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.

The following sites are included in the state historical and archeological site list:

Abrahms House, William	Cathlamet Hotel (New Cathlamet Hotel)
Adam Catlin House	Cathlamet Town Hall
Adams House, John	Chinook Pass Entrance Arch
Ahlberg-Sorenson House	Columbia River Gillnet Boat
Alaska Packers Association Houses	Columbia Theater
Altoona Cannery	Colwell House
Armstrong-Heron-Bradley House (Blanche Bradley Memorial Center)	Community Hall (Cathlamet)
Barnes Barn, Elmer and Clara	Cooper House
Barr House	Cosette House, Bernard
Big Four Furniture Building	Cothren House, Gad
Birnie and West Cemetery (Pioneer Cemetery)	Cottardi Station
Birnie House Site, James	County Fair Exhibition Hall (T Building)
Birnie-Roberts Home (Kimball-Butler Home)	Crown Zellerbach Logging Camp #2 (Elochoman Youth Camp)
Boat House	Deep River Bridge
Brown House	Deep River Holy Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church (Deep River Lutheran Church)
Butler Hansen House, Julia (Kimball-Butler House)	Deep River Pioneer Lutheran Church (Finnish Holy Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church)
Carlson House, Charles	
Cathlamet Fire Department	

Doumit House, Mitchell
Dray Farm, Thomas (Alex Monroe Farm)
Ferry House
First Christian Church – Longview
First Lutheran Church
Foster Farm, J. J. (Mitchell Doumit Farm)
Frank Smith House (Frank Duthie House)
Frederick Roth Barn
Freitag Round Barn
Garish Ditch System
Garish Hay Barn and Feeding Shed
Garish Shop
Grace Evangelical Church of Vader (Grace
United Methodist)
Grays River Bridge
Grays River Covered Bridge
Grays River Creamery
Grays River Grange Hall
Haslem House, Elicomen (Robert Nelson
House)
Hebeisen House (Quarters #36)
Hendricksen House, Walt and Wanda
Hendrickson Barn (Rocinante Farm)
Henry House, Chris
Hume Salmon Cannery Site (first commercial
salmon cannery)
Ingraham House, Captain David (Roy
Laberge House)
Iverson House, Bella
Lake Sacajawea Park
Lang Barn (Slow Boat Farm)
Larson Barn, Pete (The Farm on Grays River)
Laughlin Round Barn
Lindeman House, Paul C.
Longview Bridge
Longview Civic Center Historic District
Longview Community Church
Longview Community Church—St Helen's
Addition (Foursquare Gospel Church)
Longview Community House – YMCA
Longview Community Store (Twentieth
Avenue Grocery)
Longview Women's Clubhouse
McKinley Barn
Middle Valley Creek-Peterson Road Bridge
Midway Bowling Alley (Hoby's Store)
Mills Building (Tobiason's)
Monticello Convention Site
Mudd Building, W. S. (Bacon's Store)
Neville House
New England Net Rack

Norse Hall
North Fork Guard Station # 1142
Nutter Barn
Oasis Frame House
Oasis Restaurant
Odd Fellows Hall (Wright Furniture Store)
Ohanapecosh Comfort Stations # O-302 and
O-303
Oservoid Farm
Ostervold Farmhouse, John
Our Savior's Lutheran Church
Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Building
Panache Hackney Norse Farm Barn
Peterson House, Antone
Peterson House, John
Peterson House, P. O.
Pillar Rock Canning Company
Pioneer Church (Congregational Church)
Pioneer Road Site
Pounder Building
Puget Island Bridge
Randle Ranger Station – Work Center
Robert Alexander Long High School
Round Barn - Skamokawa
Sally's Well Site
Salmon Creek Bridge
Sampan building
School House Eagle Cliff
Schriner Peak Fire Lookout
Schumann Building
Scott House, Captain (Chloris Elliot House)
Sevier and Weed Building (Sevier
Apartments)
Shay Locomotive
Silverman House, Archie
Silverman's Emporium
Skamokawa Creek Bridge
Skamokawa Historic District
Skamokawa River Diversion Canal
Skamokawa School House (Skamokawa
Redman Lodge (Tribe 65))
Smalley House (Historic Frankfort Hotel)
Smith House, Nat (Rodman House)
St Catherine's Catholic Church
Stella Blacksmith Shop
Stone Walls on Old SR-12 (SR-4)
Strong House Site, Judge William
Sudar Barn, Jacob and Rose
Swanson – Markland Barn
Tennant House, J. D. (Rutherglen)
Thompson House, Johnnie

Three Lakes Patrol Cabin
Tipsoo Lake Comfort Station
Tyni Building
U. S. Post Office – Kelso main
Wahkiakum County Courthouse
Wahkiakum County Historical Museum
Warren House, Charles
Warren Salmon Cannery on the Columbia
River (Doumit Warehouse, Warren
Packing Co.)

Washington Gas and Electric Building
(General Mortgage Building)
Watson Barn, J. W. and Edna (Feusner
family farm)
West Farm
West House, John (Ted Price House)
Willard Building
Wilson House, Charles

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

In addition to the preceding list of historically significant sites, the basins include a portion of Mount Rainier and Mount St Helen's, both of scientific importance, and are likely to contain sites of significance to Native American tribes.

- 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 plans, if any.

Transportation routes in the basins include I-5, SR-7, SR-12, and highways 4, 122, 411, 432, 433, 504, 505, 506, and 508; as well as many local roadways.

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

Not applicable

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

Not applicable

- 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).

Enabled development served by new water rights issued to public water suppliers may result in new public and private street construction and improvements to existing streets.

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

There are two airports within the basins, Kelso-Longview and Toledo-Winlock. A rail line passes through the I-5 corridor. The Columbia River is a major shipping route.

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

Enabled development is most likely to occur in urban and suburban areas or designated urban growth areas and be predominately residential. Estimating 1.5 vehicular trips per day for each household, with as many as 7,130 households at full build-out, would be about 10,700 trips per day, with peaks during typical commuting hours.

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

None

15. Public services

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

Enabled development will increase demands in the basins for all public services, but this is unlikely to be above that which would have occurred without the rule. Where public water systems were unable to serve new development because of the lack of water rights, development would have continued reliant on permit-exempt wells. This would have encouraged scattered rural development, rather than focus growth in urban and designated urban growth areas, and in turn making it more difficult to provide many public services.

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

The rules provide a pathway for public water systems to acquire new water rights, so encouraging future development to occur in urban and designated urban growth areas, making it easier to provide public services.

16. Utilities

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

All of these utilities are available in locations throughout the basins, although they are not all available in all locations in the basin.

- 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.

Signature:



Date Submitted:

4/11/10

D. SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET FOR NONPROJECT ACTIONS

(Do not use this sheet for project actions)

Because these questions are very general, it may be helpful to read them in conjunction with the list of the elements of the environment.

When answering these questions, be aware of the extent the proposal, or the types of activities likely to result from the proposal, would 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 rules will encourage development in urban and suburban areas by providing pathways for public water suppliers to gain new water rights. Most of this development is likely to be residential and so will result in typical discharges associated with housing construction and maintenance, pets, vehicle use, and so on.

Proposed measures to avoid or reduce such increases are:

Overall, the rules may not result in significant increases in growth over what would occur without the rules, but are likely to redirect growth from rural areas reliant on permit-exempt wells. This also makes it more likely that this development will discharge wastewater to sewer systems, rather than rely on individual septic systems. This may have a positive effect on water quality in the basins.

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

Adopting instream flow levels into rules provides protection to instream values, such as fish, wildlife, and both aquatic and riparian plant communities. Mitigation requirements will result in further habitat enhancement projects. Any increases in growth in the basins that may result from water rights issued from the reservations is likely to convert native vegetation or farmland to residential use.

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

Adoption of instream flow levels and mitigation requirements from applicants for new water rights.

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

Any increased growth enabled by the new water rights issued from the reservations would also increase demands on energy and natural resources.

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

Adoption of instream flows and mitigation requirements from applicants for new water rights.

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 rules will protect stream flows and the ecosystems reliant on them (wetlands, rivers, threatened and endangered species, and so on), and should have little or no effect on historic and cultural sites. Enabled development may create pressure to convert prime farmlands, but by making new water rights available to public water suppliers, may reduce pressure to transfer agricultural water rights to domestic uses.

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

Adoption of instream flows, creation of reservations for future uses, making reservation water available to public water suppliers, and requiring mitigation to access new water right permits.

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 rules are likely to encourage future development to occur in urban and urban growth areas by making new water rights available to public water suppliers. This is consistent with the provisions of the Growth Management Act and local adopted comprehensive plans. The rules are not believed likely to affect shoreline uses, other than encouraging aquatic and riparian habitat enhancement through the required offset mitigation.

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

The rules provide a pathway for public water suppliers to gain new water rights and require offsetting mitigation, encouraging growth to occur in urban and designated urban growth areas. The rules set instream flow levels that help retain water in the stream. The rules also require offsetting mitigation that encourages habitat enhancement in shoreline areas.

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

The rules create reservations of water for new uses, sufficient to serve nearly 17,000 new homes in the basins. Much of this development would have occurred without the rules by accessing water through permit-exempt wells. Still, by providing a pathway for public water suppliers to gain new water rights, some increased growth and development could result from adoption of the rules—increasing demands on transportation, public services, and utilities.

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

By encouraging growth to occur in urban and urban growth areas, the rules make providing many public services easier than would have occurred without the rule. Public water suppliers are also provided a pathway to gain new water rights to serve development in their service areas.

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

The rules are not believed to conflict with any local, state, or federal laws and provide new measures to protect the natural environment.

