

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

**DETERMINATION OF NONSIGNIFICANCE**

**Description of proposal:** Amend Chapter 173-532 of the Washington Administrative Code (WAC), Water Resources Program for the Walla Walla River Basin—WRIA 32. The amendment will establish instream flow water rights, modify existing surface water closures, close use of the gravel aquifer with the exception of exempt wells under certain conditions, limit new surface water uses to projects with net environmental benefits, require mitigation of outdoor water use from new domestic wells in high density areas, and require metering and annual reporting for some new uses.

**Proponent:** Washington State Department of Ecology, Water Resources Program

**Location of proposal, including street address, if any:** Water Resource Inventory Area 32, which lies in Walla Walla and Columbia counties, in southeast Washington.

**Lead agency:** Washington State 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 submitted by March 23, 2007.**

**Responsible official:** Ken Slattery

**Position/title:** Water Resources Program Manager

**Contact:** Travis Burns

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**Date:** 1/30/07

**Signature** \_\_\_\_\_

*Ken 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:

- ✓ Amendment of Chapter 173-532 of the Washington Administrative Code (WAC),  
Water Resources Program for the Walla Walla River Basin—WRIA 32

2. Name of applicant:

Washington State Department of Ecology, Water Resources Program

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

Travis Burns  
Department of Ecology  
Water Resources Program  
(360) 407-7207  
300 Desmond Drive, Lacey, Washington 98503  
PO Box 47600, Olympia, Washington 98504-7600

4. Date checklist prepared:

January 2007

5. Agency requesting checklist:

Department of Ecology

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

Rule adoption expected in April 2007, and effective 30 days later.

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 allows for future environmental enhancement projects that involve above or below the ground storage of high winter flows and flood flows to supplement flows during low flow conditions and for development supported by the use of exempt wells, and requires mitigation for using water from new exempt wells for irrigation of lawn or garden.

The rule requires an annual assessment of the impacts from these environmental enhancement projects and new permit-exempt well uses, including the effectiveness of mitigation.

Enforcement of this chapter may occur, including regulation (stopping or conditioning use) of these allowed new water uses if necessary to protect senior water rights or environmental values.

The rule also contains provisions for review of the rule whenever new information, changing conditions, or statutory (law) changes make it appropriate to consider rule amendment.

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

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for Watershed Planning under Chapter 90.82 RCW has information of a general nature related to instream flows,

future water allocations, and closures. (DEIS dated March 2003, Shorelands and Environmental Assistance Program, Ecology Publication # 03-06-013).

Setting Instream Flows and Allocating Water for Future Out of Stream Uses, September 2004, (Ecology). The purpose of this agency guidance is to identify technical and rulemaking considerations for developing rules that set instream flows and allocate water for future domestic uses.

Adoption and addendum of the DEIS for Watershed Planning, for the adoption of the WRIA 32 Watershed Plan, 2005.

WRIA 32 Watershed Plan, May 2005.

Walla Walla Watershed Detailed Implementation Plan, May 2006.

Studies related to the WRIA 32 Watershed Plan (available at [www.wallawallawatershed.org](http://www.wallawallawatershed.org)):

- Level 1 Technical Assessment
- Water Quality Assessment (Level 2)
  - Review of Existing Groundwater Nitrate Studies (EES, June 2003)
  - Review of Point Source Discharges (EES, June 2003)
  - Erosion and Sediment Modeling for the Walla Walla Basin (EES, June 2003)
  - Preliminary Review of Potential Water Quality Management Actions (EES, June 2003)
- Instream Flow Assessment (Level 2)
  - New Appropriations of Flow (NAF) Recommendations (HDR/EES, November 2004)
  - Stream Closures Recommendations (HDR/EES, November 2004)
  - Flow Enhancement Recommendations (HDR/EES, November 2004)
  - Rural Water Supply Recommendations (HDR/EES, November 2004)
  - Memo to WRIA 32 Instream Flow Subcommittee (EES, May 2004)
  - Recommendations for Revisions to WAC 173-532 Instream Flow Management Strategy WRIA 32—Walla Walla Basin (EES, March 2004)
  - WRIA 32—Level 2 Instream Flow Assessment: Develop Preliminary Management Options for Instream Flows Final Draft (EES, June 2003)
  - Walla Walla River Fish Habitat Analysis Using the Instream Flow Incremental Methodology (Ecology/WDFW 2002)
  - Instream Flow Incremental Methodology Analysis and Streamflow Data Collection of the Touchet River System within Columbia County (WSU, November 2001)
  - Minimum Instream Flow Studies of Mill Creek above Blue Creek, Coppei Creek and North Fork Coppei Creek (WSU/EES, November 2003)
  - Evaluation of Instream Flow Incremental Methodology Studies Performed in the Walla Walla Basin (WSU, June 2003)

- Multipurpose Water Storage Assessment (Level 2)
  - Candidate ASR (aquifer storage and recovery) Sites Hydrology (June 2003)
  - Locher Road and Hall-Wentland SAR (shallow aquifer recharge) site work plans (October 2003)
  - Multi-Purpose Storage Assessment (June 2003)

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.

Currently 119 applications for new water rights and 167 applications for water right changes are on file, pending decision by the Department of Ecology.

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

Adoption of the rule amendment following the procedures specified in the state 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.)

Amend Chapter 173-532 WAC, Water Resources Program for the Walla Walla River Basin. The main features of the amendment include:

- Establishing instream flow water rights.
- Modifying the closure of surface waters during water-critical months.
- Closing the gravel aquifer, because of direct hydraulic continuity with surface waters. (Water flows between the two.)
- Limiting new surface water diversions to projects that divert water only during high flow periods and result in net environmental benefits.
- Limiting the quantity of water-withdrawals from the gravel aquifer from new domestic permit-exempt wells located in high density areas.
- Limiting the quantity of water withdrawal for stockwatering from all new permit-exempt wells in the gravel aquifer.
- Requiring mitigation for impacts of outdoor use of water from new permit-exempt wells in the gravel aquifer in high density areas.
- Requiring metering and annual reporting of all appropriations from the gravel aquifer in high density areas, including appropriations for stockwatering.

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.

Chapter 173-532 WAC affects water management decisions in Water resources Inventory Area (WRIA 32). WRIA 32 is the portion of the Walla Walla River basin that lies within Washington State. (This rule does not affect the 28% of the water basin that lies in Oregon.) WRIA 32 contains 1,278 square miles and is generally bounded by the Washington/Oregon border on the south, Columbia River on the west, the crests of the Blue Mountains on the east, and the Snake River basin on the north.

Approximately three-quarters of WRIA 32 is within Walla Walla County and one-quarter is in Columbia County.

## B. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS

### 1. Earth

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

WRIA 32 ranges between mountainous regions to near level areas.

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

WRIA 32 contains mountainous areas with some near vertical slopes.

- c. What general types of soils are found on the site (for example, clay, sand, gravel, peat, muck)? If you know the classification of agricultural soils, specify them and note any prime farmland.

The soils in WRIA 32 are predominately well-drained and medium textured, formed by wind-laid sands and silts. Some areas are rocky and/or underlain with bedrock or lime. Unique agricultural lands have been designated near the cities of Walla Walla and College Place, southeast of Dixie, and in smaller areas outside of Lowden.

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

Most of the soils in this area tend to be resistant to erosion until farming reduces the organic content beyond a critical threshold. Being an agricultural region, melting snow and spring rains regularly wash large quantities of silt into the rivers and streams. Areas with 25% or more sand content are also very vulnerable to wind erosion.

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

No filling or grading is proposed.

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

Does not apply.

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

Does not apply.

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

Does not apply.

## 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.

Does not apply.

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

No

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

Does not apply.

## 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 amended rule sets instream flows for the Walla Walla and Touchet Rivers, and Mill Creek. Seasonal closures affect these and other water bodies within WRIA 32 including the West Little Walla Walla river; Blue, Coppei, Cottonwood, Dry, Gardena, Garrison, Kellogg, Little Blue, Mud, Patit, Pine, Spring, Stone, Reser, Russell, Whiskey, Wilson, Wolf, and Yellowhawk creeks and their tributaries; Mill Creek Lake; Robinson Pond, and numerous named and unnamed springs.

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.

No

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.

None

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

No surface water withdrawals or diversions are required through this proposal. The rule amendment will continue to allow new permitted surface water withdrawals for environmental enhancement projects. The maximum quantity of these future diversions is limited under amended section WAC 173-532-055, but is likely to be far less.

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

WRIA 32 contains floodplain areas. Map attached.

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

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.

No groundwater withdrawals or discharges to groundwater are required through this amendment. Some types of future permit-exempt withdrawals will continue to be allowed under the amendment. These uses will be conditioned and water withdrawals for outdoor irrigation will be mitigated.

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.

Septic tank discharges from continued enabled development supported by the limited exempt well use will occur but will be no more than would occur without the rule amendment.

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.

Precipitation in WRIA 32 varies between 8 and 40 inches annually. Some change in stormwater runoff could result from enabled development, but this would be no more than and potentially less than would occur without the amendment.

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

Stormwater contamination consistent with residential and commercial activities is expected as a result of enabled development, including pet waste, vehicle fluid leakage, lawn and garden enhancement products, etc. Contamination is expected to occur at a comparable or lesser level than would occur without the amendment.

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

None.

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

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

Some amount of vegetation removal will occur from development enabled by the provisions for exempt wells. Still, as the use of exempt wells is being further restricted from existing conditions, this is likely to occur at a comparable or lesser level than would occur without the amendment.

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

The following threatened or endangered plant species have been located in Walla Walla or Columbia counties:

- *Allium campanulatum*, Sierra Onion--Threatened
- *Allium diction*, Blue Mountain Onion—Threatened
- *Hackelia diffusa* var. *diffusa*, Diffuse Stickseed—Threatened
- *Cryptantha rostellata* Beaked Cryptantha—Threatened \*
- *Gilia leptomeria* Great Basin Gilia—Threatened \*
- *Lupinus sabinii*, Sabin's Lupine—Endangered
- *Mimulus washingtonensis*, Washington Monkey-flower—Possibly extinct or extirpated from Washington
- *Trifolium plumosum* var. *plumosum*, Plumed Clover—Threatened

\*Last seen prior to 1977.

## 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.

**Fish:** Bull Trout (ESA-listed "Threatened" within the Columbia River DPS), typically migrate and rear along Mill Creek and all reaches of the Walla Walla River, including the North Fork, the South Fork, and the Main Stem. Bull Trout spawning occurs in the upper North and South Forks and Mill Creek. Spring Chinook salmon were reintroduced to the South Fork Walla Walla River starting in 2000. Adult Chinook were outplanted in Mill Creek in 2000 and 2001.

For the first time since the mid-1950s, Chinook are using the South Fork and upper Mill creek for spawning and South Fork, Main Stem and Mill Creek for rearing, and the main stem for migration.

Summer Steelhead (ESA – listed "Threatened" Mid-Columbia Evolutionary Significant Unit (ESU) utilize Mill Creek and the North and South Forks for spawning and rearing, and Main Stem for migration.

Redband trout, mountain whitefish, Pacific lamprey, and margined sculpin are listed as state "Species of Concern" and are present in the Main Stem, and the North and South Forks. Resident redband trout in anadromous waters are included in the ESA listing of steelhead and are managed the same as steelhead.

Margined sculpin are listed as sensitive and the Walla Walla and the Tucannon drainages are the only two places in Washington that they are found.

In addition, coho and chum are considered extirpated from the basin (they no longer return)

**Animals:** Some or all of the following threatened or endangered species may also be present in the WRIA:

- Northern leopard frog, *Rana pipiens*, Amphibian
- Sandhill crane, *Grus canadensis*, Bird
- Upland sandpiper, *Bartramia longicauda*, Bird
- Ferruginous hawk, *Buteo regalis*, Bird
- Sage-grouse, *Centrocercus urophasianus*, Bird—believed extirpated from Walla Walla County
- Western grey squirrel, *Sciurus griseus*, Mammal

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

The basin is used by migrating summer steelhead and newly replanted Chinook, as well as some types of birds, such as the sandhill crane. Historically, coho and chum were migratory species in the basin but they no longer return due to low flows, sedimentation, and high stream temperatures.

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

Establishing instream flows by rule helps protect instream values, including fish and wildlife habitat.

## 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.

Does not apply

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.

No

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

None

- 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)?

Does not apply

- 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.

None

- 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?

Incorporated cities within WRIA 32 are Walla Walla, College Place, Waitsburg and Prescott in Walla Walla County and Dayton in Columbia County.

Dominant land uses adjacent to the major rivers and streams include pasture, hay production, orchards, forestry, and dispersed rural residential.

Basin land uses outside of riparian areas include: forestry, cropland, orchards and vineyards, herbaceous rangeland, shrub and brush rangeland, confined feeding operations, mixed urban, residential, industrial, and commercial.

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

Much of WRIA 32 is used for agriculture, as it is the dominant industry in Walla Walla County. Wheat is the number one crop. A variety of other crops, including barley, corn, potatoes, asparagus, peas, soft fruit, onions, concord and wine grapes, vegetables, alfalfa hay, and seed generate a significant part of the annual harvest.

c. Describe any structures on the site.

Residential, commercial, industrial, agricultural, and governmental structures are present within WRIA 32. Many historical structures have been preserved.

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

No

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

Areas outside municipal areas are almost exclusively zoned rural or agricultural.

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

Outside the municipal areas, Walla Walla County has designated areas as: agriculture, residential agriculture, and rural remote.

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

In Walla Walla County, shoreline designations in the WRIA include Urban, Rural, Conservancy, and Natural. In Columbia County, shoreline designations include Rural, Urban, and Conservancy.

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

Walla Walla County has not specifically designated any area within the WRIA as an environmentally sensitive area or critical area. Columbia County has designated an area as a Watershed Protection Area where structural development is prohibited. In addition, Columbia and Walla Walla counties have adopted critical areas ordinances that apply county-wide in each respective county.

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

The 2004 census reported a combined population of 61,541 in Walla Walla and Columbia counties, although some population centers in the counties lie outside WRIA 32. Both counties have experienced a slower growth rate than Washington State as a whole between the 2000 and 2004 census taking.

j. Approximately how many people would the completed project displace?  
None. The rule amendment will not impact existing water rights.

k. Proposed measures to avoid or reduce displacement impacts, if any:  
None.

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

This rule amendment is based, in large part, on the recommendations of the Walla Walla Watershed Planning Unit which contains representation from the counties and cities with jurisdiction within the WRIA. The rule amendment used the Walla Walla County zoning to differentiate between high and low density areas.

## 9. Housing

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

No housing units will directly result from this proposal. Population growth and construction of future residential development should remain unchanged from conditions under the existing rule.

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:

Use of exempt wells for domestic uses will continue to be allowed under the rule exemption, although impacts of the use on existing water rights and stream flows will be mitigated for.

## 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?

Does not apply

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

None

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

None

## 11. Light and glare

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

None

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

No

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

None

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

None

## 12. Recreation

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

Outdoor recreational opportunities are provided by rivers, woods, mountains, hills and canyons. A host of lakes, streams and forests in the Blue Mountains make the Walla Walla basin a center for hunting and fishing. Nearby Bennington Lake offers year-round fishing and areas for hunting. Bird watching is also popular in the valley. Tent and R.V. camping facilities are available, including Lewis & Clark Trail State Park. More than 30 campgrounds are located in the Umatilla National Forest, including Jubilee Lake. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers offers many park and recreation areas at its hydroelectric and flood control facilities around the Walla Walla area. These parks offer camping, picnicking, fishing, swimming, boating and hunting. Thirty miles south of Highway 12, east of Dayton, Camp Wooten features interpretive nature trails, an indoor swimming pool, classrooms, outdoor amphitheater, camping, guest cabins, and a lake for swimming and canoeing.

The City of Walla Walla's park system contains more than 350 acres of parks. College Place provides two parks, complete with fishing ponds, playground equipment and tennis courts.

Ski Bluewood is located in the Blue Mountains. Facilities include two triple chair lifts, platter pull, day lodge, cafeteria, pub, retail shop, 21 runs, a half pipe for snowboards, ski school and equipment rentals.

Several golf courses are located within the WRIA, including the Veterans Memorial Golf Course, the Walla Walla Country Club, and the Touchet Valley Golf Course in Dayton.

The Borleske Athletic Complex features facilities for baseball, football, track and field, soccer, outdoor concerts and other large-scale events.

Outdoor pools are open from June through August at Memorial Park and Jefferson Park.

The Walla Walla Gun Club is available for skeet and trapshooting.

A running/jogging/walking/biking path stretches from Rooks Park to Eastgate Lions Park, and at Fort Walla Walla Park, from the amphitheater to Blue Ridge Elementary School. Trails and tracks are also located at the Borleske Stadium Complex, Bennington Lake, and the YMCA.

The City of Walla Walla was included in the book, "100 Best Small Art Towns in America" by John Vallani. The city offers more than a dozen art galleries, three theatres and the oldest continuous symphony west of the Mississippi River. A blues or jazz concert is available almost every weekend.

Both Dayton and the City of Walla Walla are known for their restored historical downtown areas. Other historic attractions include the Fort Walla Walla Museum and the site of the Whitman Mission.

People may also enjoy the Tree Tour in Pioneer Park or visiting one of the valley wineries.

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:

Setting instream flows in rule supports some recreational uses by providing stream flow protection.

### 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 are listed on the Washington Heritage Register and most are also listed on the National Register:

- Battle of Walla Walla Site
- Max Baumeister Building
- A.H. Bishop House
- John F. Boyer House
- John Brining House
- Norman Francis Butler House
- William Perry Bruce House
- Columbia County Courthouse
- Cummings-Goodwin Cabin
- Dacres Hotel

- Dayton Depot
- Dexter House
- Dexter House No. 1
- Dixie High School
- Downtown Dayton Historic District
- Frank Flintner House
- Fort Walla Walla Historic District
- Green Park School
- Guernsey-Sturdevant Building
- Grover J. Israel House
- Johnson Bridge
- Mancel Kelley House
- Kirkman House
- Liberty Theater
- George Ludwigs House
- Mary Hubbard House
- Maxson School
- Memorial Building, Whitman College
- Mill House
- Miles C. Moore House
- Andrew Nilsson House
- Northern Pacific Railway Passenger Depot
- Osterman House
- Dr. Marcel Pietrzycki House
- Preston Hall
- Saint Patrick Church, School and Rectory
- Saturno-Breen Truck Garden
- Small-Elliott House
- South Side Historic District
- J.A. Thronson House
- Touchet Cemetery
- Waitsburg High School
- Waitsburg Historic District
- Walla Walla Fair Pavilion
- Walla Walla Public Library
- Walla Walla US Post Office
- Walla Walla Valley Traction Company Car Barn
- Washington School
- Washington Street Historic District
- Jacob Weinhard House
- Whitehouse-Crawford Planning Mill
- Marcus Whitman Hotel
- Whitman Mission

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 historical sites listed above, archaeological sites typical to Eastern Washington are likely to be present in the basin. These include the remains of pithouses; hunting, fishing, and gathering sites; lithic scatters; pictographs and petroglyphs.

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.

In addition to city and county roads too numerous to include, WRIA 32 is accessed by Highway 12, 124, 125, and 730.

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

Columbia County Public Transportation serves all of Columbia County.

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

Does not apply

- 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).

No

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

WRIA 32 is accessed by Walla Walla Regional Airport. Rail and water shipping is available at the mouth of the Walla Walla River, where it empties into the Columbia River. None of these will be used or affected by this rule amendment.

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

Future enabled development will be comparable to that which would occur without the amendment.

- 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.

No. Future enabled development will be comparable to what would occur without the amendment. Tribes and state, federal, and local agencies will have increased responsibilities to track and report on water use, provide information and technical assistance, assess conditions, and make determinations on aspects of this rule and amendment,

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

None

**16. Utilities**

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

All of the above services are available in varying portions of the WRIA.

- 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.

None

**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: \_\_\_\_\_

1-30-07

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?

New discharges are not expected to be any greater than they would be without this amendment. The rule amendment has provisions for new development supported by exempt wells and new environmental enhancement projects, but these will be more restrictive than under the existing rule.

Proposed measures to avoid or reduce such increases are:

Does not apply

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

The amendment is expected to improve stream flow conditions, benefiting plants, fish, other aquatic life, and animals.

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

1) Setting instream flow levels, 2) closing surface water during critical months, and 3) limiting use of groundwater from the gravel aquifer, which is connected with surface water sources will provide protection for existing and restored stream flow levels. The rule also has provisions for environmental enhancement projects that would be beneficial, if implemented, for flow restoration and ultimately to fish and wildlife population. The amendment also puts in place mitigation provisions for outdoor watering from future exempt wells from May 1 to November 30, which provides further protection to stream flows during low flow conditions.

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

The proposal will not deplete energy or natural resources.

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

See part 2 of #D.2., above.

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 rule amendment will not affect existing water rights or have a negative impact on the natural environment, so its overall effects should be beneficial. There could be an increased incentive for farmland to go out of production as irrigation rights may be sought for transfer to residential and commercial uses, or acquired as mitigation for irrigation withdrawals from new exempt wells. Changing to low-water demand crops, using irrigation efficiencies, or other water conservation efforts could reduce the acreage taken from production.

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

None

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?

Land and shoreline uses shall go unchanged in large part from what would occur without this rule amendment. As acknowledged above, some irrigation water rights are likely to be transferred to other uses, which could mean a loss of cropland.

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

None

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

Some development must be serviced from a municipal water supplier that might have otherwise used an exempt well. Hook-up to municipal water supply is required for most uses within the Urban Growth Area.

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

None. The utilities are not required to provide water to these developments if it cannot be provided in a timely and reasonable manner (timely and reasonable is defined by the utility).

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

The amendment is not in conflict with local, state or federal regulations or with requirements to protect the environment.

# Walla Walla Water Resource Inventory Area (WRIA) #32

