

WHATCOM COUNTY
Planning & Development Services
5280 Northwest Drive,
Bellingham, WA 98226-9097
360-676-6907, TTY 800-833-6384
360-738-2525 Fax



J.E. "Sam" Ryan
Director

Determination of Nonsignificance (DNS)

File: SEP2011-00011

Project Description: Replace illegal culvert and repair residential access road

Proponent: Dani Bates and Randy Erickson

Location: 4979 Elder Road, Ferndale, WA 98248; Tax Parcel: 390134500099

Lead Agency: Whatcom County Planning & Development Services

Zoning: Rural (R5A) **Comp Plan:** Rural

The lead agency for this proposal has determined that with proper mitigation, no significant adverse environmental impacts are likely. Pursuant to RCW 43.21C.030(2)(c), an environmental impact statement (EIS) is not required. This decision was made following review of a completed SEPA 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.

 X Pursuant to WAC 197-11-340(2), the lead agency will not act on this proposal for 14 days from the date of issuance indicated below. Comments must be received by March 25, 2011 and should be sent to:

Responsible Official: Tyler Schroeder

Title: Current Planning Supervisor

Telephone: 360.676.6907

Address: 5280 Northwest Drive
Bellingham, WA 98226

Date of Issuance: March 11, 2011

Signature: _____

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Tyler Schroeder", is written over a horizontal line.

An aggrieved agency or person may appeal this determination to the Whatcom County Hearing Examiner. Application for appeal must be filed on a form provided by and submitted to the Whatcom County Current Planning Division located at 5280 Northwest Drive, Bellingham, WA 98226, during the ten days following the comment period, concluding April 4, 2011.

You should be prepared to make a specific factual objection. Contact Whatcom County Current Planning Division for information about the procedures for SEPA appeals.

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Distribution List SEP2011-00011

Please review this determination. If you have further comments, questions or would like a copy of the SEPA checklist, phone the responsible official at (360) 676-6907. Please submit your response by the comment date noted on the attached notice of determination.

SEPA Unit, WA State Department of Ecology, Olympia

WA State Department of Ecology, Bellingham

WA State Department of Fish and Wildlife

WA Department of Natural Resources

WA State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation

Lummi Nation

Attn: Natural Resources Department
Attn: Cultural Resources Department

Nooksack Indian Tribe

Attn: Natural Resources Department
Attn: Cultural Resources Department

Charles Reynolds, Applicant

Dani Bates and Randy Erickson, property owners

WAC 197-11-960 Environmental checklist.

ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

SEP 2011-00011
Reviewed by
EBD 3/9/11

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: Residential access road repair
2. Name of applicant: Charles F. Reynolds
3. Address and phone number of applicant and contact person: 1144 Lake Samish Rd. Bellingham, Wa 98229
4. Date checklist prepared: Mar 1, 2011
5. Agency requesting checklist: Whatcom County Planning Dept.
6. Proposed timing or schedule (including phasing, if applicable):
June 2011—complete all work, approximately 3-4 days maximum
7. Do you have any plans for future additions, expansion, or further activity related to or connected with this proposal? If yes, explain.

no

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

none

9. Do you know whether applications are pending for governmental approvals of other proposals directly affecting the property covered by your proposal? If yes, explain. no

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

HPA

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.)

To repair the water damaged access road where it crosses a seasonal drainage ditch leading to the residential house. The existing road has been damaged due to a lack of adequate drainage culvert, leading to a damming of the water and the undercutting of the road surface.

The existing road will be excavated and an approved culvert will be installed, with the road surface rebuilt to match the existing road.

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.

4979 Elder Rd, Ferndale, Wa. 98264

See attached site plan

B. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS

1. **Earth**

a. General description of the site (circle one): Flat, rolling, hilly, steep slopes, mountainous, other
moderately to gentle sloped to drainage ditches

b. What is the steepest slope on the site (approximate percent slope)?
10%

- 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.

sandy clay with hard clay hardpan; adjacent to pastureland

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

only in area of road damage

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

approx. 200-300 c.y. to bury culvert and create matching surface for road
commercial quarry material and re-use of excavated material

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

no

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

Approx 30% graveled roadway

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

Armor proposed slopes with quarry spalls; replant with native plants where necessary

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.

excavator and truck exhaust fumes

- 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:

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.

Yes. A seasonal drainage ditch unnamed according to county records

- 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.

Yes. See attached plans

- 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.

Approx. 60-70 c.y. Gravel bedding and culvert backfill from commercial quarry

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

No. Work to be done during the dry season

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

No

- 6) Does the proposal involve any 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

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

None

c. Water runoff (including 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.

Will enable natural runoff from adjacent lands.

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

No

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

Use of native plants and vegetation after construction is completed

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?

native vegetation , approx 2-3 doz.

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

none

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

use of ozier dogwood, western serviceberry, salal, oregon grape, and goat's beard

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.

none

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

No

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

none

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.

none

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

none

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

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)?

none

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.

occasional heavy equipment, semi-tractor, excavator use

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?

Pastureland and unimproved woodlands

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

No.

c. Describe any structures on the site.

access road

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

Access road will be rebuilt

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

1R5

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

rural

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

N/A

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

Classed as an unnamed seasonal drainage ditch

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

none

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

none

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

none

- 1. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with existing and projected land uses and plans, if any:
Completion of SEPA process, and issuance of HPA

9. Housing

- a. Approximately how many units would be provided, if any? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.
none
- b. Approximately how many units, if any, would be eliminated? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.
none
- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control housing impacts, if any:
none

10. Aesthetics

- a. What is the tallest height of any proposed structure(s), not including antennas; what is the principal exterior building material(s) proposed?
none
- 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?

none

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

none

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

none

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.

no

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

none

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.

Elder Rd.

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

unknown

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

none

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.

No

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

8-10 vehicle trips/day

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.

none

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.

electricity

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.

PSE; the existing underground service must be temporarily moved for construction, then replaced

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:

Charles L. Rust

Date Submitted:

3-2-2011

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?

Would not affect any of the above

Proposed measures to avoid or reduce such increases are:

none

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

Temporary effects to immediate area

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

Minimize disturbed area, replant with native vegetation

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

Would not deplete resources

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

none

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?

Would not affect the above

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?

Would not affect the above

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?

Would not increase demands on the above

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

none

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

Will not conflict

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J.E. "Sam" Ryan
Director

LEGAL NOTICE

To be published one time only on: **March 11, 2011**

CHARGE TO: Whatcom County Planning & Development Services
5280 Northwest Road
Bellingham, Washington 98226.
Acct #048867.

WHATCOM COUNTY GIVES PUBLIC NOTICE THAT THE FOLLOWING SEPA THRESHOLD DETERMINATION OF NON-SIGNIFICANCE (DNS) HAS BEEN ISSUED TODAY SUBJECT TO THE 14 DAY COMMENT PERIOD CONCLUDING ON March 25, 2011.

File: SEP2011-00011

Project Description: Replace illegal culvert and repair residential access road

Proponents: Dani Bates and Randy Erickson

Location: 4979 Elder Road, Ferndale, WA 98248; Tax Parcel: 390134500099

Lead Agency: Whatcom County Planning & Development Services

Zoning: Rural (R5A) **Comp Plan:** Rural

ANY PERSON OR AGENCY MAY APPEAL THE COUNTY'S COMPLIANCE WITH WAC 197-11 BY FILING AN APPEAL WITH THE WHATCOM COUNTY CURRENT PLANNING DIVISION LOCATED AT 5280 NORTHWEST DRIVE, BELLINGHAM, WA 98226. APPEALS MUST BE MADE WITHIN 10 DAYS AFTER THE END OF THE COMMENT PERIOD.

WHATCOM COUNTY

Planning & Development Services

5280 Northwest Rd., Suite B

Bellingham, WA 98226

360-676-6907

CUSTOMER RECEIPT

Receipt: 520100000000000561

Payor: SOUTHLAKE CONSTRUCTION

Date: March 2, 2011

Description	Amount
LDP2011-00012	
Grading permit app	525.00
SEP2011-00011	
SEPA checklist review (B)	370.00
Total:	\$ 895.00
Check # 2023	Paid \$ 895.00
SOUTHLAKE CONSTRUCTION	

Thank you!