

# SEPA<sup>1</sup> Environmental Checklist

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## Purpose of checklist

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

## Instructions for applicants

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

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

## Instructions for lead agencies

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

## Use of checklist for nonproject proposals

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

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

## A. Background

[Find help answering background questions<sup>2</sup>](#)

**1. Name of proposed project, if applicable:**

Kittitas County 2026 Periodic Comprehensive Plan and Development Regulations Update

**2. Name of applicant:**

Kittitas County

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

Kittitas County Community Development Services

Chad Bala and Jeremy Johnston

411 N. Ruby Street,

Suite 2

Ellensburg, WA 98926

(509)962-7506

**4. Date checklist prepared:**

February 2nd, 2026

**5. Agency requesting checklist:**

Kittitas County

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

The Board of County Commissioners' consideration of adoption in June 2026

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

Yes, the Comprehensive Plan may be amended on an annual basis pursuant to Kittitas County Code (KCC) 15B.03 and the Growth Management Act (GMA) under RCW 36.70A. To comply with the Growth Management Act, Kittitas County conducts a periodic update of its comprehensive plan every 10 years pursuant to RCW 36.70A.130. The periodic update for Kittitas County is required to be completed by December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2026.

The proposal is a non-project action. Further actions to the Kittitas County comprehensive plan, implementing development regulations, and SEPA environmental review will continue where required.

In addition to the Comprehensive Plan periodic update, Kittitas County is also updating its development regulations for consistency with the proposed comprehensive plan amendments, including zoning regulations. The development code changes are intended to

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

address recent state legislation that has been enacted since the last periodic update in 2021 and Growth Management Act periodic review requirements.

As part of this periodic update Kittitas County is also making some revisions to the Critical Areas Ordinance to address best available science and other recent changes to state law.

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

[SEPA DNS for the 2021 Comprehensive Plan update](#), September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Previous checklists have been completed for Annual and Periodic Comprehensive Plan Amendments. Additionally, an EIS was conducted in 1995 and 1996 for the 1996 Comprehensive Plan. The FEIS was issued in 1996.

[Summary of Climate Impacts, Risks, and Vulnerability, August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2025](#)

A new climate element with a resiliency sub element was developed in association with the comprehensive plan update. In addition, goal and policy changes are proposed within different elements of the comprehensive plan update including the natural environment goals and policies within the land use element.

Important supporting proposal documents can be found on the [Kittitas County 2026 Comprehensive Plan Update website](#).

**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 applications are pending for governmental approvals for other proposals directly affecting this proposal. Future development activities may submit applications and would be subject to the plans and regulations in place at that time.

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

The Kittitas County Board of County Commissioners will adopt the 2026 Comprehensive Plan and implement development regulations, following the recommendations made by the Planning Commission and a 60-day review by the Washington Department of Commerce. Corresponding opportunities to provide written and oral public testimony are being provided as part of the public hearings before both the Planning Commission and Board of County Commissioners. Kittitas County will work to address public, agency, and Tribal commentary as part of this process.

Information regarding public meetings, hearings, and opportunities to provide oral and written commentary can be found on the [Kittitas County website](#).

**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.)**

Kittitas County is conducting a periodic review of its Comprehensive Plan consistent with the Growth Management Act under RCW 36.70A.130. The proposal includes updates to the Comprehensive Plan as follows:

- Comprehensive Plan’s vision, goals, policies, background information, and appendices;
- Comprehensive Plan’s various chapters with related maps, charts, and tables, including the Housing element to reflect the updated requirements under the GMA;
- Housing element to meet recent state legislation addressing affordability of housing across all income levels and to identify and begin to undo any racially disparate impacts.
- A new Climate element with a Climate Resilience sub-element.

The County is also updating its development regulations for consistency with the proposed comprehensive plan amendments, including zoning regulations and some updates to the Critical Areas Ordinance. This includes the following:

- A new section and process for Major Industrial Developments.
- Definition additions and amendments related to recent state legislation on housing, parking, and childcare.
- Revisions to the land use table to add the following uses:
  - Family day care providers,
  - Co-living housing,
  - Special care dwellings and community residential facilities,
- Additions surrounding the clarification for the calculation of co-living sleeping units in the development process.
- Revisions to parking requirements related to recent state legislation on housing and parking.

Important proposal documents may be found on the [Kittitas County 2026 Comprehensive Plan Update website](#). This webpage includes the Draft Comprehensive Plan, development regulations, and related documents included as part of the planning process.

**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.**

Kittitas County is located in central Washington State. It is surrounded by Chelan County and Douglas County to the north, Grant County to the east, Yakima County to the south, and King County to the west. The comprehensive plan update affects all lands and land uses

within unincorporated Kittitas County. Appendix E of the Comprehensive Plan includes maps highlighting where Kittitas County is located (Map #1).

## B.Environmental Elements

### 1. Earth

[Find help answering earth questions](#)<sup>3</sup>

#### a. General description of the site:

Located in central Washington State, Kittitas County includes 1,481,814 acres (2,315 square miles) of land area. Its topography includes mountains, river valleys, and farmland. See the Land Use Element of the Comprehensive Plan for more information.

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

There is a variety of topographies in Kittitas County ranging from flat lands to mountainous terrain within the Cascade Mountain range. The areas that are more mountainous exist in the western portion of the County by the Cascade Mountain range. The more rolling areas are within the middle and eastern portions, and the flat areas are in the lower and eastern areas of Kittitas County where there is more farming.

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

The topography of Kittitas County ranges from 475 feet along the banks of the Columbia River to 7,986 feet at the highest point at Mount Daniel.

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

Kittitas County contains several soil types surveyed by the US Department of Agriculture through their [web soil survey](#). Kittitas County includes agricultural lands. No land use or zoning changes for areas designated as agricultural lands of long-term commercial significance are proposed in this Periodic Comprehensive Plan Update.

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

This is a non-project action (legislative proposal). Unstable soils are expected to exist throughout the County. Future development projects will be reviewed, as required, for compliance with the SEPA guidelines pursuant to KCC 15.04 as well as the County critical area regulations in KCC 17A.

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

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

This is a non-project action (legislative proposal) and does not propose filling or grading. However, as part of the periodic comprehensive plan update, Kittitas County is planning for a population increase of 7,280 between 2020 to 2046 within the unincorporated county. Additionally, Kittitas County is planning for 1,555 new jobs and 1,728 new housing for this planning period. The new development associated with this population, employment, and housing increases will require filling, grading, and excavation.

Any filling, grading, or excavation will be required to be completed in compliance with Kittitas County Code and all applicable state and federal permitting requirements in place at that time. The total area and quantities for filling are unknown at this time.

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

This is a non-project action (legislative proposal) and no erosion would result from this action. However, any future development will be subject to meeting stormwater requirements in KCC 12.04 and critical area requirements under KC 17A. As part of the periodic comprehensive plan update, Kittitas County is planning for a population increase of 7,280 between 2020 to 2046 within the unincorporated county. Additionally, Kittitas County is planning for 1,555 new jobs and 1,728 new housing between this planning period. Impacts from erosion which could occur due to future clearing and construction will be mitigated by application of Kittitas County stormwater requirements in KCC 12.04. These requirements implement [National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit \(NPDES\)](#) requirements, which is administered by the [Washington State Department of Ecology](#).

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

This is a non-project action (legislative proposal). However, as part of the periodic comprehensive plan update, Kittitas County is planning for a population increase of 7,280 between 2020 to 2046 within the unincorporated county. Additionally, Kittitas County is planning for 1,555 new jobs and 1,728 new housing between this planning period of 2026-2046. With this population, employment, and housing growth it is likely that impervious surfaces for asphalt and buildings will increase.

Impacts associated with additional impervious surfaces will be mitigated through the County stormwater requirements under KCC 12.04. Additionally, mitigation will occur through lot coverage maximums and application of environmental regulations, such as county critical area (KCC 17A) and shoreline regulations (KCC 17B) to protect environmentally sensitive areas.

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

This is a non-project action (legislative proposal). The County, however, will apply its regulations for geologic hazards in KCC 17A.06 and stormwater requirements in KCC 12.04 to future development proposals.

## 2. Air

[Find help answering air questions](#)<sup>4</sup>

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

This is a non-project action (legislative proposal). However, as part of the periodic comprehensive plan update, Kittitas County is planning for a population increase of 7,280 between 2020 to 2046 within the unincorporated county. Additionally, Kittitas County is planning for 1,555 new jobs and 1,728 new housing between this planning period of 2026-2046. With this population, employment, and housing growth, it is likely that construction, operation, and maintenance of projects associated with projected growth will generate additional emissions overtime.

Impacts associated with future development will include compliance with the Washington Department of Ecology [air quality requirements](#). The Washington Department of Ecology Central Regional Office is the local clean air agency for Kittitas County.

Additionally, air quality impacts will be mitigated through the implementation of Kittitas County's updated comprehensive including the new climate element and updated transportation and land use elements. The new climate element addresses how Kittitas County can address natural hazards aggravated by climate change, enhance natural areas for the purposes of hazard protection, enhance community resilience, and prioritize actions that benefit overburdened communities and promote environmental justice. The updated land use and transportation elements provide language for land use planning that enhance active transportation and multimodal transportation opportunities to reduce vehicle miles traveled and in turn aim to reduce greenhouse gas emissions over time.

Lastly, emissions from any future projects will also be mitigated through the Kittitas County Code including buffering requirements between industrial and residential uses, regulating air quality from construction under KCC 14.05.140, and coordinating air quality between all government entities under KCC 1.28.110.

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

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

This is a non-project action (legislative proposal). However, there are no known offsite sources of emissions which may impact future population and employment growth planned for within Kittitas County.

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

This is a non-project action (legislative proposal). Air quality standards of the Federal Clean Air Act will be applicable for future emissions. The Central Regional Office of the Washington State Department of Ecology will enforce federal, state and local air quality regulations working with local government departments.

Additionally, air quality impacts will be mitigated through the implementation of Kittitas County's updated comprehensive including the new climate element and updated transportation and land use elements. The new climate element addresses how Kittitas County can address natural hazards aggravated by climate change, enhance natural areas for the purposes of hazard protection, enhance community resilience, and prioritize actions that benefit overburdened communities and promote environmental justice. The updated land use and transportation elements provide language for land use planning that enhance active transportation and multimodal transportation opportunities to reduce vehicle miles traveled and in turn aim to reduce greenhouse gas emissions over time.

### 3. Water

[Find help answering water questions](#)<sup>5</sup>

**a. Surface:**

[Find help answering surface water questions](#)<sup>6</sup>

- 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.**

Kittitas County has numerous year-round and seasonal streams. Shorelines run adjacent to Cle Elum River, Columbia River, Kachess River, Little Naches River, Teanaway River, Yakima River, lakes, ponds, and wetlands. Rivers, streams, and lakes which fall under the Shoreline Master Program and shorelines of the state may be [found here](#). [Kittitas County GIS maps](#) also provide information on streams, lakes, and rivers.

- 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.**

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

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

This is a non-project action (legislative proposal) and will not require work over, in, or adjacent to the described waters. However, as part of the periodic comprehensive plan update, Kittitas County is planning for a population increase of 7,280 between 2020 to 2046 within the unincorporated county. Additionally, Kittitas County is planning for 1,555 new jobs and 1,728 new housing between this planning period.

With this population, employment, and housing growth, it is likely that future growth or related infrastructure may require work over, in, or adjacent to state shorelines. If this were to happen, any proposal for development in these areas will be required to comply with the Kittitas County Shoreline Master Program, critical areas regulations, and all state and federal permitting requirements. In addition, application of these codes would require any impacts to be mitigated and projects within lands covered by water would not be exempt from SEPA review even where the underlying permit is exempt from SEPA.

**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.**

This is a non-project action (legislative proposal). However, as part of the periodic comprehensive plan update, Kittitas County is planning for a population increase of 7,280 between 2020 to 2046 within the unincorporated county. Additionally, Kittitas County is planning for 1,555 new jobs and 1,728 new housing between this planning period.

Filling and/or dredging of material that would be placed in or removed from surface water or wetlands is not anticipated as part of this proposal. However, if proposed in the future as part of development relating to the anticipated growth, application of applicable environmental regulations, such as critical area and shoreline regulations along with state and federal regulations, would be applied to any project proposal. Projects on land covered by water would not be exempt from SEPA review even where the underlying permit is exempt from SEPA.

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

This is a non-project action (legislative proposal). However, no surface water withdrawals or diversions are anticipated because of this proposal.

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

This is a non-project action, but floodplains exist throughout Kittitas County. Most are present along major rivers as provided in question 3 above. Flood hazard data

for Kittitas County can be found through [FEMA's National Flood Hazard Layer located here.](#)

- 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.**

This is a non-project action (legislative proposal) and as such, no discharges of waste materials to surface waters are anticipated because of this proposal.

**b. Ground:**

[Find help answering ground water questions](#)<sup>7</sup>

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

This is a non-project action (legislative proposal). However, as part of the periodic comprehensive plan update, Kittitas County is planning for a population increase of 7,280 between 2020 to 2046 within the unincorporated county. Additionally, Kittitas County is planning for 1,555 new jobs and 1,728 new housing between this planning period. As such, groundwater withdrawal to support future development will occur. Most groundwater associated with this non-project action will be for future drinking water to support projected population growth. However, there may be other purposes for water withdrawn based upon future uses proposed, such as agriculture and commercial uses. Quantities for groundwater withdrawals are not known but future uses will be required to demonstrate both that sufficient and legal water exists as part of county processes to evaluate subdivisions of land or prior to issuance of building permits.

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

This is a non-project action (legislative proposal). However, as part of the periodic comprehensive plan update, Kittitas County is planning for a population increase of 7,280 between 2020 to 2046 within the unincorporated county. Additionally, Kittitas County is planning for 1,555 new jobs and 1,728 new housing between this planning period.

Public sewer is an urban governmental service and may not be provided outside of urban areas, except for very limited circumstances. This is to prevent urban sprawl and protect rural character as directed under the Growth Management Act.

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

Therefore, it is anticipated that new growth planned for areas outside of urban growth areas will utilize septic systems. The systems will be required to be reviewed and approved by Kittitas County or the Washington State Department of Health, depending on the type of system proposed.

**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.**

This is a non-project action. However, all future developments to come from this non-project action will be required to meet and mitigate any impacts through the application of stormwater requirements under Kittitas County Code 12.04.

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

This is a non-project action (legislative proposal). Any future proposal which could result in waste materials entering ground or surface water would be reviewed to ensure compliance with applicable county, state, and federal permitting requirements.

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

This is a non-project action (legislative proposal). However, the proposal does not propose to alter or otherwise affect drainage patterns in the vicinity of the site.

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

This is a non-project action (legislative proposal). Kittitas County will apply its regulations regarding critical aquifer recharge areas and stormwater for future development. Zoning regulations and updates to the Critical Areas Ordinance are included as part of this periodic update non-project action. All new developments will be required to meet and mitigate impacts through application of stormwater requirements in KCC 12.04.

## 4. Plants

[Find help answering plants questions](#)

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

- deciduous tree: alder, maple, aspen, other**
- evergreen tree: fir, cedar, pine, other**
- shrubs**
- grass**
- pasture**
- crop or grain**

- orchards, vineyards, or other permanent crops.
- wet soil plants: cattail, buttercup, bullrush, skunk cabbage, other
- water plants: water lily, eelgrass, milfoil, other
- other types of vegetation

Forested areas with various types of evergreen and deciduous trees exist throughout the Cascade Mountain range region of Kittitas County. Shrub species are prominent in the eastern portion of the county. Grass, pasture, and crops can be found in the eastern portion of the county where there is agricultural activity. Wet soil and water plants can be found in wetlands throughout the valley and mountain areas, including along the Columbia River.

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

This is a non-project action (legislative proposal). However, as part of the periodic comprehensive plan update, Kittitas County is planning for a population increase of 7,280 between 2020 to 2046 within the unincorporated county. Additionally, Kittitas County is planning for 1,555 new jobs and 1,728 new housing for this planning period. As such, it is likely that vegetation will be removed or altered over the planning period as part of future development. Any future impacts from such development will be mitigated through the application of county, state, and/or federal regulations, where applicable.

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

This is a non-project action (legislative proposal). However, in Kittitas County overall, the following sensitive, threatened, endangered species in **Exhibit 1** are reported by the [Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife](#) and [Center for Biological Diversity](#):

*Exhibit 1: Threatened or Endangered Plant Species*

Species	State Status	Federal ESA Status
Showy Stickseed	Endangered	Endangered
Ute ladies'-tresses	Endangered	Threatened
Wenatchee Mountains Checkermallow	Endangered	Endangered
Whitebark Pine	Sensitive	Threatened

The Kittitas County Code 17A provides additional information regarding State and Federal designated Endangered, Threatened, and Sensitive Species.

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

This is a non-project action (legislative proposal). The county will continue to apply its regulations relating to critical areas and landscaping for future developments. Under Kittitas County Code, impacts will be mitigated through the techniques in KCC 17A.

Additionally, policies under the Rural Element (Section 3) address the preservation of natural landscape and clustering of rural development to limit removal of natural vegetation and trees.

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

While this is a non-project action (legislative proposal), the noxious and invasive species that are known to occur within Kittitas County can be found through the County [Noxious Weed Control Board here](#). Other noxious and invasive species may be present in the County on a case-by-case basis to be determined on the project level and mitigated as directed in Kittitas County Code.

## 5. Animals

[Find help answering animal questions](#)<sup>8</sup>

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

The Kittitas County Comprehensive Plan periodic update is a non-project action (legislative proposal). Though the growth projected as part of this non-project action will affect future development in Kittitas County through the updates to the comprehensive goals, policies, and related development regulation updates.

Overall, Kittitas County is home to a range of migratory and local wildlife species including, but not limited, to hawk, heron, eagle, songbird, deer, bear, elk, beavers, bass, salmon, and trout species. A full list of habitats can be seen on the [Priority Habitats and Species \(PHS\) on the web app](#) and <https://geodataservices.wdfw.wa.gov/hp/phs/>

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

Overall, Kittitas County is home to the following reported threatened and endangered species in **Exhibit 2** as reported by the [Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife](#) and [Center for Biological Diversity](#):

*Exhibit 2: Threatened or Endangered Animal Species*

Species	State Status	Federal ESA Status
Bull Trout	Candidate	Threatened
Chinook Salmon		Threatened (Upper Columbia Spring Run is Endangered)
Coho Salmon		Threatened – Lower Columbia
Steelhead	Candidate	Threatened

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

Species	State Status	Federal ESA Status
Sockeye Salmon		Threatened – Ozette Lake Endangered – Snake River
Canada Lynx	Endangered	Threatened
Gray Wolf	Endangered	Endangered
Marbled Murrelet	Endangered	Threatened
Monarch Butterfly	Candidate	Candidate
North American Wolverine	Candidate	Threatened
Northern Spotted Owl	Endangered	Threatened
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	Endangered	Threatened

While the comprehensive plan update is a non-project action, any related development from projected growth will follow applicable county, state, and federal regulations surrounding threatened and endangered species if known to be on or near project sites.

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

The Kittitas County Comprehensive Plan periodic update is a non-project action. However, it is likely that portions of Kittitas County are part of one or more migratory routes across species. Migratory animals may include species of elk, birds, and fish. Elk are found in the southern range and hill areas. The Columbia River is a migration corridor for migratory waterfowl, the Columbia River bull trout, and the Middle Columbia River steelhead. Washington State is also part of the Pacific Flyway for migratory songbirds.

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

The Kittitas County Comprehensive Plan periodic update is a non-project action (legislative proposal). Though the growth projected as part of this non-project action will affect future development in Kittitas County through the updates to the comprehensive goals, policies, and related development regulation updates. As part of the update process, goals and policies relating to the preservation and enhancement of wildlife habitat were included in the comprehensive plan, such as NE-P25 and NE-P26. These measures will assist with wildlife populations and their related habitat/s or migratory routes.

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

This is a non-project action; however, the Washington Invasive Species Council of the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office has identified the species [linked here as priority invasive species in Washington State.](#)

While the comprehensive plan update is a non-project action, any related development from projected growth over the planning period will follow applicable mitigation

measures as set forth in county, state, and federal regulations surrounding invasive species to limit their spread.

## 6. Energy and natural resources

[Find help answering energy and natural resource questions](#)<sup>9</sup>

- 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 proposed as part of the non-project action (legislative proposal). Site development projects from any future residential or commercial developments will be reviewed, as necessary, for compliance with the SEPA guidelines pursuant to KCC 15.04, Building Code under KCC 14.04, and related Washington State Energy Code under Chapter [51-11](#) WAC, Chapter [51-11C](#) WAC (Commercial) and Chapter 51-11R (Residential). County regulations surrounding permitted utility uses can be found under KCC 17.61.

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

This is a non-project action (legislative proposal). The proposal would not affect the potential use of solar energy by future businesses as part of residential development. Future development proposals would be subject to development permit reviews as well as County Building and Energy Codes.

- 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.**

This is a non-project action (legislative proposal). However, as part of the periodic comprehensive plan update, Kittitas County is planning for a population increase of 7,280 between 2020 to 2046 within the unincorporated county. Additionally, Kittitas County is planning for 1,555 new jobs and 1,728 new housing between this planning period of 2026-2046. The future development projects will be reviewed, as necessary, for compliance with SEPA guidelines.

In addition, energy conservation measures are being addressed in Kittitas County's new comprehensive plan. This includes the addition of a new Climate Element with a climate resiliency sub-element. This element addresses how Kittitas County can address natural hazards aggravated by climate change, enhance natural areas for the purposes of hazard protection, enhance community resilience, reduce vehicle miles travel, and prioritize reductions that benefit overburdened communities and promote environmental justice.

## 7. Environmental health

[Health Find help with answering environmental health questions](#)<sup>10</sup>

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

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

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

This is a non-project action (legislative proposal). No known or possible contamination of sites associated with this proposal. Any future use will be required to meet all County, State, and Federal requirements.

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

This is a non-project action (legislative proposal). There are no known or possible contamination of sites associated with this proposal. Any future use will be required to meet all County, State, and Federal requirements.

The Washington State Department of Ecology maintains a database of sites of environmental interest, including; State Cleanup sites, Federal Superfund sites, Hazardous Waste Generators, Solid Waste Facilities, Underground Storage Tanks; Dairies, and Enforcement, <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/fs/>.

[A map of these sites from Washington Department of Ecology can be found here.](#) 188 past and present sites are identified in Kittitas County and are generally located along Interstate 90.

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

This is a non-project action (legislative proposal). No known hazardous chemicals/conditions are part of this non-project action. The use of any hazardous materials will be reviewed on a project-by-project basis and subject to federal and state law as well as Kittitas County Building Code Title 14.

The Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission [identifies one primary pipeline routes on the linked map](#) within Kittitas County from Northwest Pipeline Corp and [three Pipeline Operators within the County](#) including Northwest Pipeline, Puget Sound Energy, and City of Ellensburg.

Additional facilities or sites with potentially hazardous materials, such as underground storage tanks, state cleanup sites, and hazardous waste generators, are compiled by the Washington State Department of Ecology in a searchable database, at <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/fs/>

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

Not applicable. This is a non-project action (legislative proposal). The use of any hazardous materials will be reviewed on a project-by-project basis and subject to federal and state law as well as Kittitas County Building Code Title 14.

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

Not applicable. This is a non-project action (legislative proposal). No special emergency services are required for this non-project action.

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

This is a non-project action (legislative proposal). All future developments will be required to meet any applicable state or federal requirements. Future site-specific development will be subject to the County codes and regulations including zoning, public health, fire, and state hazardous materials regulations, as well as additional SEPA review on a case-by-case basis.

**b. Noise**

**1. What types of noise exist in the area which may affect your project (for example: traffic, equipment, operation, other)?**

This is a non-project action (legislative proposal). Various noises exist throughout the county depending on their related uses and any construction or general activity of the area. No noises have been identified that would affect the implementation of the 2026 comprehensive plan update.

**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)?**

This is a non-project action (legislative proposal). However, as part of the periodic comprehensive plan update, Kittitas County is planning for a population increase of 7,280 between 2020 to 2046 within the unincorporated county. Additionally, Kittitas County is planning for 1,555 new jobs and 1,728 new housing between this planning period. In planning for this future growth, new development may result in various short-term noise disturbances related to construction but will be mitigated for on the project level through development code regulations and additional SEPA applications for project specific actions. New development may generate additional noise from traffic and related activities on a longer term basis as growth occurs but will be mitigated on the project level at time of each application through county development code and related SEPA applications.

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

The Comprehensive Plan update is a non-project action. Any noise impacts from projected growth are to be controlled under KCC 9.45

The County applies an airport overlay zone (KCC 17.58), to promote land uses compatible with local airports within the airport's designated area. Development within the overlay is subject to building height and land use restrictions and must record title notices and avigation easements.

## 8. Land and shoreline use

[Find help answering land and shoreline use questions](#)<sup>11</sup>

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

Kittitas County supports a number of land uses as described in the Land Use and Rural elements of the Comprehensive Plan.

The Kittitas County Comprehensive Plan periodic update provides a vision for the population, housing, and job growth for 2026-2046 and fulfills the requirements under the Growth Management Act. Overall, the County and associated cities are projected to add 14,153 new residents, 5,626 new housing units, and 5,051 new jobs by 2046. The Kittitas County Comprehensive Plan is focused on the growth occurring outside of the incorporated city boundaries. Each city within the county plans for a separate comprehensive plan, with designated growth targets, and issues SEPA individually. Kittitas County is planning for a population increase of 7,280 between 2020 to 2046 within the unincorporated county. Additionally, Kittitas County is planning for 1,555 new jobs and 1,728 new housing between this planning period. However, this proposal is a legislative proposal, therefore, a non-project action. Future development will need to undergo its own separate environmental review process.

The Kittitas County Comprehensive Plan includes future land use mapping, goals, and policies that guide land use decisions, and the related development code amendments help implement this vision.

As part of this non-project action, current land uses are not impacted. Future development will need to undergo its own separate environmental review process. Possible effects to current land uses on nearby or adjacent properties will be evaluated through application of Kittitas County code and state and federal regulations, depending on the proposal.

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

This is a non-project action (legislative proposal). However, areas of Kittitas County are designated as agricultural and forest lands of long-term commercial significance. No land use or zoning changes are proposed for land designated agricultural or forest lands of long-term commercial significance as part of this proposal.

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

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

No. This is a non-project action. The growth planned for by this comprehensive plan update is not anticipated to affect or be affected by surrounding working farm or forestland business operations.

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

This is a non-project action for the Kittitas County Comprehensive Plan periodic update. There are various structures across the county that range in size and use depending on their applicable regulations, zoning, and uses.

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

This is a non-project action. No structures are being demolished as part of this proposal. Any proposed demolitions stemming from future growth will be addressed in an additional SEPA application.

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

The Kittitas County zoning map is available in Appendix E, Map #4 Zoning of the Comprehensive Plan Update.

The zoning map applies to all areas of the County not incorporated as a city. For the zoning relating to the cities within Kittitas County, refer to the appropriate city's zoning map.

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

The Kittitas County Future Land Use Map is available within the Comprehensive Plan in Appendix E, Map #3.

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

The [Kittitas County Shoreline Master Program \(2021\)](#) identifies the following shoreline environmental designations within unincorporated Kittitas County:

- All shorelines of the state;
- Upland areas (shorelands) within two hundred (200) feet of the ordinary high water mark of those waters;
- Associated wetlands and river deltas; and
- Floodways and contiguous floodplain areas landward two hundred (200) feet from such floodways.

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

This is a non-project action; however, there are several critical areas within Kittitas County. These critical areas include wetlands, aquifer recharge areas, frequently flooded areas, geologically hazardous areas, and fish and wildlife habitat conservation areas. The Growth Management Act requires Kittitas County to designate and protect critical areas.

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

The Kittitas County Comprehensive Plan periodic update provides a vision for the population, housing, and job growth for 2026-2046 and fulfills the requirements under the Growth Management Act. Overall, the County and associated cities are projected to add 14,153 new residents, 5,626 new housing units, and 5,051 new jobs by 2046. The Kittitas County Comprehensive Plan is focused on the growth occurring outside of the incorporated city boundaries. Each city within the county plans for a separate comprehensive plan, with designated growth targets, and issues SEPA individually. Kittitas County is planning for a population increase of 7,280 between 2020 to 2046 within the unincorporated county. Additionally, Kittitas County, unincorporated, is planning for 1,555 new jobs and 1,728 new housing between this planning period. However, this proposal is a legislative proposal, therefore, a non-project action. Future development will need to undergo its own separate environmental review process.

See **Exhibit 3** and **Exhibit 4** below for a summary of the population allocations by geographical area within Kittitas County.

*Exhibit 3: Kittitas County Growth and Housing Allocations*

Jurisdiction	City/UGA	Future Population (2046)	Total Housing Units Allocated
Cle Elum	City	3,005	380
	UGA	46	6
Ellensburg	City	25,631	3,012
	UGA	3,074	293
Kittitas	City	1,974	203
	UGA	76	6
Roslyn	City	1,395	210
	UGA	5	0
South Cle Elum	City	768	87
	UGA	83	6
Unincorporated Rural	Rural	24,563	1,423

*Exhibit 4: Countywide Job Projections*

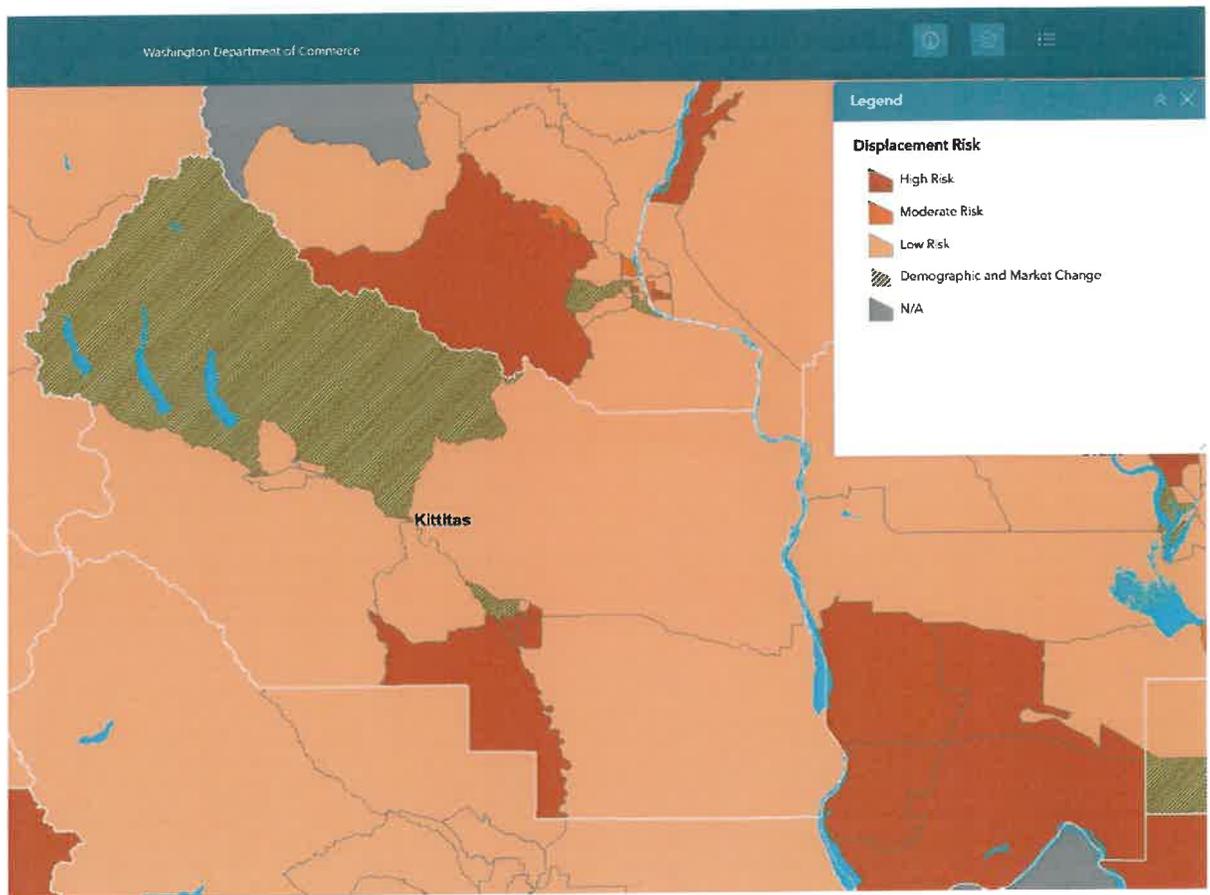
Employment Projections	2022	2046
Total All Jobs	17,932	22,983

Total Occupied Housing Units	19,975	25,601
Jobs to Housing Ratio	0.90	0.90

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

This is a non-project action (legislative proposal) and as such, this action is not anticipated to contribute to displacement. Through the comprehensive planning process, displacement risk was assessed utilizing the [Washington State Department of Commerce Displacement Risk Map](#), which found geographical areas within the County to be low in the majority of the rural unincorporated areas, but having displacement risk due to market and demographic pressures in the upper county and a mix of displacement risk due to market and demographic pressures and general high displacement risk in the southern portion of the County as shown in **Exhibit 5** below from the Washington Department of Commerce.

*Exhibit 5 Displacement Risk Map, Washington State Department of Commerce*



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

This is a non-project action (legislative proposal) and as such, this action is not anticipated to contribute to displacement. However, as discussed in subsection (j) above, areas of Kittitas County are at various risk levels for displacement. As part of the comprehensive planning process, policies to address potential displacement are included in the plan.

In addition, to protect current residents from potential displacement in rural areas due to rising housing costs, the County intends to provide some new opportunities for affordable housing types. This is intended to be addressed through development regulations and then coordinated with local housing organizations for funding and programming. Any changes are designed to align with and support the rural character and planning requirements under RCW 36.70A.070(5).

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

The Comprehensive Plan update under the land use element speaks to the existing and future land uses in the county's unincorporated areas and refers back to the countywide planning policies and Growth Management Act requirements as appropriate to ensure compatibility in land use applications. The periodic update provides the goals, policies, and implementation strategies to plan compatible land uses, plan and accommodate for affordable housing across all income bands, address community resiliency and impacts from climate change, and puts forth anti-displacement strategies as stated in subsection (k).

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

The Comprehensive Plan update does not propose any changes to existing land use patterns for agricultural and forest lands. Further, natural resource land policies advocate for the protection of agricultural and forest lands and the importance of both within Kittitas County.

## 9. Housing

[Find help answering housing questions](#)<sup>12</sup>

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

Kittitas County, including the cities in the county, anticipates the addition of 5,626 housing units through 2046. The Kittitas County Comprehensive Plan is focused on the growth occurring outside of the incorporated city boundaries. Each city within the county plans for a separate comprehensive plan, with designated growth targets, and issues SEPA individually. Kittitas County is planning for a population increase of 7,280 between 2020 to 2046 within the unincorporated county. Additionally, Kittitas County,

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

unincorporated, is planning for 1,555 new jobs and 1,728 new housing between this planning period. However, this proposal is a legislative proposal, therefore, a non-project action. Future development will need to undergo its own separate environmental review process

For housing at lower incomes, Kittitas County utilized [HAPT Method C](#) to ensure higher density growth is focused in areas where urban governmental services are provided. A land capacity analysis was prepared as consistent with Growth Management Act requirements in RCW 36.70A and WAC 365-196-325 and can be found in Appendix F.

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

This is a non-project action (legislative proposal). However, the comprehensive plan update does not propose eliminating any housing units. The plan provides an analysis of the land capacity to plan for and accommodate housing for across all income bands.

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

The Kittitas County Comprehensive Plan Housing Element outlines the strategies to plan for and accommodate affordable housing across all income bands for county residents. The Comprehensive Plan update also provides anti-displacement strategies.

The Development Regulations update includes measures to add various housing types. This includes allowing provisions for emergency housing within the Ellensburg UGA, special care dwellings and community residential facilities to residential and commercial zones, and co-living housing in zones allowing at least one six-unit multifamily residential units.

## 10. Aesthetics

[Find help answering aesthetics questions](#)<sup>13</sup>

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

This is a non-project action (legislative proposal). This proposal is not proposing to change allowed heights for structures. Future development proposals would be subject to SEPA individually as well as development permit review by the County. These processes would include a review of building heights and exterior building materials.

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

This is a non-project action (legislative proposal). No views in the immediate vicinity of this proposal are expected to be altered or obstructed as a result of the proposal. Future development proposals would be subject to SEPA individually as well as development permit review by the County. These reviews would include a review of any potential view alteration or obstruction.

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

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

This is a non-project action (legislative proposal). No aesthetic standards are proposed to be changed as part of this proposal. The County shall apply the Kittitas County Code and SEPA for any future development. During this time is when a review of any aesthetic impacts and their appropriate mitigation would occur.

## 11. Light and glare

[Find help answering light and glare questions](#)<sup>14</sup>

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

This is a non-project action (legislative proposal). However, as part of the Periodic Comprehensive Plan update, Kittitas County is planning for a population increase of 7,280 between 2020 to 2046 within the unincorporated county. Additionally, Kittitas County is planning for 1,555 new jobs and 1,728 new housing between this planning period. New development could result in light or glare. However, light and glare impacts will be reviewed as part of future SEPA processes or permit processes administered by Kittitas County.

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

This is a non-project action (legislative proposal). However, light or glare from future projects will be evaluated to ensure there are no safety hazards or interfere with views, as applicable under county code.

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

This is a non-project action (legislative proposal). However, no existing off-site sources of light or glare are intended to affect this proposal.

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

This is a non-project action (legislative proposal). Further development proposals would be subject to SEPA individually as well as the development permit review by the County. These processes would be where impacts for light or glare are assessed and mitigated.

## 12. Recreation

[Find help answering recreation questions](#)

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

Kittitas County is home to an array of recreation opportunities, including but not limited to, parks, trails, camping, water sports, and athletic fields. Recreational opportunities in Kittitas County are discussed in more detail in the Recreation Element (Section 9) of the Comprehensive Plan.

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

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

This is a non-project action (legislative proposal). However, no recreational uses are proposed to be displaced.

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

This is a non-project action (legislative proposal). The Comprehensive Plan Update provides an overview of updated goals and policies in the Land Use and Recreation elements. The Recreation element establishes standards for recreational facilities to ensure future growth and development will not displace existing recreational uses and will benefit from the same quality of recreational facilities presently in the County. The County will apply regulations within Kittitas County Code as appropriate. The County also maintains a [Recreation and Tourism Plan \(2021\) linked here](#).

### 13. Historic and cultural preservation

[Find help answering historic and cultural preservation questions](#)<sup>15</sup>

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

This is a non-project action (legislative proposal). However, the [Washington Information System for Architectural and Archaeological Records Data \(WISAARD\) maintained by DAHP](#) provides data concerning heritage barns, registered historic properties and register districts.

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

This is a non-project action; however, Kittitas County is located on the ancestral lands of the Pshwanapum and other bands of the Yakama Nation. The Treaty of 1855 with the Yakama (12 Stat. 951) is the contract between the US government and Yakama Nation regarding the secession of land and protection of rights. As such, there are likely lands throughout Kittitas County that have Indigenous belongings or are cultural and burial sites.

Future development proposals would be subject to SEPA individually as well as development permit review by the County. Both of these processes include an assessment of material evidence, artifacts, or areas of cultural importance on or near a project site.

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

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

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

Kittitas County is located on the ancestral lands of the Pshwanapum and other bands of the Yakama Nation and is subject to the Treaty of 1855. No site-specific methods were used to assess potential impacts as this is a non-project action (legislative proposal). The County will continue to coordinate and engage Tribal Governments through plan implementation and additional projects.

Future development proposals would be subject to SEPA as well as development permit review by the County. During future development is when utilizing methods such as a review of DAHP database, mapping and GIS data, and consultation with Tribes would take place as needed.

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

This is a non-project action (legislative proposal). Kittitas County will continue to engage Tribal Nations to identify any losses, changes to, or disturbances to resources, if any. The County is committed to engage, to identify, and prevent any loss. The Comprehensive Plan under the Land Use element includes policies to avoid impacts to historic and cultural resources. Kittitas County recognizes the state law and related treaties protecting these resources.

## 14. Transportation

[Find help with answering transportation questions](#)<sup>16</sup>

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

The Kittitas County identifies the existing streets and road network within the County and is available through the [County Public Works department here](#).

The transportation network in the County is made up of state highways, rural roads, urban streets, and local collectors. The major routes include I-90, I-82, and SR 97.

Additional information is also located in the Transportation Element (Section 5) of the Comprehensive Plan update.

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

The County is currently served by Central Transit, provided by HopeSource, as the public transit service. The county route service area can be found here: [Kittitas County Connector — HopeSource](#)

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

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

Yes, though this is a non-project action. The Kittitas County Comprehensive Plan includes an update to the Transportation Element (Section 5) and 6-Year Transportation Improvement Plan (2026-2032).

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

This is a non-project action (legislative proposal). This proposal does not use water, rail, or air transportation. However, future growth and development may use or be in the vicinity of water, rail, and air transportation. Rail and air transportation are utilized in Kittitas County.

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

The Kittitas County Comprehensive Plan includes a Transportation Element which provides and updates to the transportation inventory, travel forecast, multimodal level of service standards, and transportation needs both currently and forecasting for the future. See the Transportation Element and related Appendix items for more information surrounding the current inventory and future growth.

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

This is a non-project action (legislative proposal). However, it is not anticipated that this proposal will interfere with, affect, or be affected by the movement of agricultural and forest products on roads or streets in the area.

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

This is a non-project action. The Kittitas County Comprehensive Plan includes a Transportation Element which provides an update to the transportation inventory, travel forecasts, multimodal level of service standards, and transportation needs. Within the Transportation policies and the related 6-year TIP, there are measures in place to mitigate impacts from projected growth.

## 15. Public services

[Find help answering public service questions<sup>17</sup>](https://ecology.wa.gov/regulations-permits/sepa/environmental-review/sepa-guidance/sepa-checklist-guidance/sepa-checklist-section-b-environmental-elements/environmental-elements-15-public-services)

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

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

The Capital Facilities Element of the Kittitas County Comprehensive Plan and Capital Facilities Plan outlines strategies for public services to accommodate growth being planned for out to 2046. This is a non-project action (legislative proposal).

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

The Kittitas County Comprehensive Plan includes a Capital Facilities Element which addresses measures to reduce or control direct impacts on public services as a result of new growth. This is a non-project action (legislative proposal).

## 16. Utilities

[Find help answering utilities questions<sup>18</sup>](#)

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

This is a non-project action; however all of these utilities are present in Kittitas County and can be found in more detail under the Utilities Element (Section 7) of the Comprehensive Plan.

**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.**

The Kittitas County Comprehensive Plan provides updates to the Utilities Element to meet the needs of projected growth through 2046. This is a non-project action (legislative proposal).

## C. Signature

[Find help about who should sign<sup>19</sup>](#)

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

X 

**Type name of signee:** Chad Bala

**Position and agency/organization:** Kittitas County Community Development Services Director

**Date submitted:**

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

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

## D. Supplemental sheet for nonproject actions

[Find help for the nonproject actions worksheet<sup>20</sup>](#)

**Do not** use this section for project actions.

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

When answering these questions, be aware of the extent the proposal, or the types of activities likely to result from the proposal, would affect the item at a greater intensity or at a faster rate than if the proposal were not implemented. Respond briefly and in general terms.

**1. How would the proposal be likely to increase discharge to water; emissions to air; production, storage, or release of toxic or hazardous substances; or production of noise?**

It is not anticipated that this non-project legislative action will cause these increases to occur. Future development (with individual permit process) consistent with the Comprehensive Plan and implementing zoning code could result in the following impacts:

- Fill and grade proposals, new impervious surfaces, or vegetation removal could result in altered surface water flows, increased stormwater flow, localized flooding impacts, and generation of non-point source pollution to local surface waters.
- Increased vehicle trips could increase air emissions or result in additional noise. As projects identified in the Transportation Element are implemented, an increase in stormwater may be generated due to the increases in impervious surfaces from future roadway widening. Short-term, minor increases in noise and exhaust emissions may occur. The impacts may occur with each individually proposed project at the time of project construction.
- Project construction activities may temporarily produce toxic or hazardous substances, generate noise from the use of standard construction equipment, or result in additional exhaust and fugitive dust (on site or along hauling routes or nearby local streets).
- Some commercial or industrial uses may handle hazardous materials, though the International Fire Code and state and federal laws would continue to apply.

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

All development, transportation, and capital projects are subject to applicable federal, state, and local regulations, and subject to mitigation measures if required at the time of development. Additional measures include:

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

- Storm water detention and water quality facilities, and temporary erosion and sediment controls, will be constructed in accordance with County standards. Noise and exhaust emissions and their impacts will be minimized to the maximum extent practical through compliance with applicable regulations, ensuring equipment is in proper working order, and hours of work. The proposed measures would vary depending on the individual project under construction.
- Mitigation strategies are identified in the County's existing code and regulations, such as, critical area regulations in KCC 17A, stormwater management in KCC 12.04, building and construction code in KCC Title 14.
- Kittitas County includes a Climate Element in the Comprehensive Plan update that is anticipated to reduce climate related impacts on the environment, overburdened communities, and increase community resilience to climate impacts both through the built form, social networks, and the natural environment. Strategic land use and multimodal planning efforts aim to reduce vehicle miles travel and related GHG emissions.
- Future project level approval will be conditioned in accordance with appropriate County review and environmental analysis to be determined at the time of application.

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

This non-project legislative action itself would not affect plant, animal, or fish life. Individual projects listed in the plan would be subjected to SEPA and permit processes.

Future development allowed by the Comprehensive Plan and development regulations could affect plants and animals in the county through land clearing for construction of housing and infrastructure, stormwater runoff, and human disturbance associated with future growth. Environmental resources subject to risk of direct and indirect impacts include numerous species of plants, animals, and fish (including federal and state designated threatened or endangered species and their habitat).

As projects identified in the Transportation and Capital Facilities Elements are implemented, there may be impacts to roadside vegetation due to widening of existing roadways. Impacts will be analyzed for each individually proposed project at the time of project construction

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

All development projects are subject to applicable federal, state and local regulations and subject to mitigation measures if required at the time of development.

In addition to goals and policies of the Comprehensive Plan and development regulations, proposed measures to protect or conserve plants, animals, fish, or marine life include:

- Local, state, and federal environmental regulations such as the Critical Areas Ordinance, storm and surface water regulations, and Shoreline Master Program to apply during individual projects.
- Limit roadway widening to the amount necessary to accommodate the improvements consistent with guidelines and requirements.

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

As a non-project action, the proposal will not directly deplete energy or natural resources. However, most, if not all future development projects will require energy and/or natural resources. Demands for energy and natural resources will increase along with land use growth and associated development irrespective of the proposal. Planned growth and development will require energy for heating, lighting, commercial and industrial uses, and other activities.

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

Future development proposals would be subject to development permit reviews which require them to meet applicable County Building and Energy Codes. Additionally, Washington State regulations for energy conservation apply to all new development. The future projects will need to be constructed using the most efficient means available and align with goals and policies in the newly developed Climate Element of the Comprehensive Plan.

**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?**

It is not anticipated that any future projects will likely use or affect these types of areas. The Comprehensive Plan includes updates to plans, goals and policies to ensure the protection of environmentally sensitive areas. Population and employment growth would likely increase demand for parks and place additional pressure on environmentally sensitive areas irrespective of the proposed updates. Future development projects may dredge or fill surface waters or wetlands or affect other environmentally sensitive areas or areas designated for government protection. Historic and cultural sites would remain protected by federal, state, and local regulations and policies. Farmlands, especially the agricultural lands of long-term commercial significance would be protected under the GMA.

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

All development projects are subject to applicable federal, state and local regulations and subject to mitigation measures if required at the time of development. The Comprehensive Plan update includes a land use element with goal and policies that support key environmental features in Kittitas County. Different regulations such as the Critical Areas Ordinance, storm and surface water regulations, and Shoreline Master Program to continue to protect environmentally sensitive areas in the county as development occurs.

The Recreation Element also includes goals and policies to help ensure plentiful recreational and open space system in Kittitas County. The Comprehensive Plan Update also aims to avoid and minimize losses and changes to historic and cultural resources.

All elements of the Comprehensive Plan and their goals and policies are consistent with the requirements of the Growth Management Act, which supports conservation and protection of parks, unique natural areas, threatened or endangered species habitat, historic or cultural sites, and environmentally critical areas. Any capital facilities or transportation projects identified in the Comprehensive Plan will be designed to avoid and reduce impacts wherever possible. Additional measures will be evaluated and proposed during the design phase of each individual project.

**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?**

It is not anticipated that any developments or projects would be likely to negatively affect land and shoreline use. The proposed Future Land Use Map designates various resource, rural, commercial and recreational lands. In general, the comprehensive planning process directed growth to the urban growth areas within the County. The map does not significantly change the existing land use. No changes to shoreline designations are included in this proposal. Goals and policies are intended to be consistent with designated land uses.

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

All development projects are subject to applicable federal, state and local regulations and subject to mitigation measures if required at the time of development. The Comprehensive Plan Update is designed to be consistent with the GMA. The Land Use Element includes goals and policies intended to ensure new development is compatible with existing and future land use, transportation needs and projected growth demands to guide future land development. The Comprehensive Plan would be consistent with the Shoreline Master Program, which would regulate shoreline uses.

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

The updated 6-year TIP and CFP helps identify transportation and capital projects to meet the increased demand on transportation, public services, or utilities with the anticipated growth through 2046.

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

Transportation, fire, sewer and water are subject to concurrency requirements in Kittitas County Code and are reviewed annually and during project review according to applicable state and local regulations.

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

As a non-project action, a periodic update to Kittitas County's Comprehensive Plan and implementing development regulations, this project brings the County into compliance with the Growth Management Act (GMA) and recent legislation in the State of Washington. No local or federal conflicts are anticipated with this proposal.