

State Environmental Policy Act SEPA Checklist

**Prepared for
Amendment to Coverage Under Statewide Permit
for
Biosolids Management**

Mid Mountain

**Fire Mountain Farms, Inc.
856 Burnt Ridge Road
Onalaska, Washington**

November 1, 2016

WAC 197-11-960 Environmental checklist.

ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

Purpose of checklist:

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

Instructions for applicants:

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

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

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

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

A. BACKGROUND

1. Name of proposed project, if applicable:

Amendment to Application for Coverage Under the Statewide General Permit for Biosolids Management

2. Name of Applicant:

***Fire Mountain Farms, Inc.
Contact: Robert Thode***

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

***856 Burnt Ridge Road
Onalaska, WA 98570
(360) 266-0695 –Office***

4. Date checklist prepared:

November 1st, 2016

5. Agency requesting checklist:

Washington State Department of Ecology

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

This SEPA checklist is for addition of a site under the Statewide General Permit for Biosolids Management. Biosolids applications would depend on availability of supply and availability of land.

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

Fire Mountain Farms, Inc. continues to adjust to changing markets and demand. SEPA will be followed, if required, for any new additions or expansions proposed. Coverage under the Statewide General Permit for Biosolids Management will allow for applications in future years of Class B biosolids from any source.

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

- ***Biosolids will be analyzed as required***
- ***Site Specific Land Application Plan, (SSLAP) has been prepared***
- ***Spill Prevention and Response Plan will be prepared for biosolids transport to site***
- ***List of threatened and endangered species is included in SSLAP***
- ***Location, type and size of surface water bodies are identified on maps in the SSLAP***

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.

Other than the Site Specific Land Application Plan no other proposals are known to be pending at this time.

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

Amendment to Coverage Under Statewide General Permit No. BT9902 and the approval of our Site Specific Land Application Plan by Department of Ecology are the only action known to be required.

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.)

Biosolids will be applied to agricultural and/or timber lands at agronomic rates for beneficial value of nutrients and as a soil conditioner and soil builder. Application will be when soil and crop conditions are appropriate.

12. Location of the proposal. Give sufficient information for a person to understand the precise location of your 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.

Mid Mountain Unit

Section: 1 & 2, Township: 16N, Range: 2E, WM

Latitude: 46° 54' 05.14"N Longitude: 122° 31' 05.12" W

19724 128th Ave. SE, Yelm, WA

Assessor Parcel numbers: 22601320000, 22602430000, 22602420000, 22602130200, 22602130100, 22602130000, 22602120000, 22602110100, 22602140100, 22601230000, 22602140000

B. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS

1. EARTH

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

This is a generally flat area with some rolling areas.

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

The steepest slope(s) in the proposed application areas is less than 5%.

- c. What general types of soil 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.

Soils for proposed site Baldhill very stony sandy loam 11.6%, Baldhill very stony sandy loam 0.4%, Baldhill very stony sandy loam, 3.4%,

Baldhill very stony sandy loam, 0.2%, Cagey loamy sand 11.0 2.6%, Everett very gravelly sandy loam, 1.3%, Kapowsin silt loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes 67.2%, Kapowsin silt loam, 9.6%, McKenna gravelly silt loam, 0.2%, Norma silt loam 2.3%, Tisch silt loam 1.0%

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

No indication of unstable soils has been found onsite during our investigations. Very stable and rocky soils.

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

None

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

NRCS has not classed this land as "highly erodible". There are permanently vegetated strips next to streams and ditches. The current agricultural and forestry activities do not deem it necessary for an erosion control plan. Biosolids will be applied at agronomic rates and managed consistent with established farming practices. Typical farming practices designed to reduce erosion potential are in place.

- g. About what percent of the site will be covered with impervious surfaces after project construction?

Less than 2% of the site is currently covered with impervious surface, primarily farm roads and farm buildings. No additional impervious surfaces beyond what currently exists are currently planned. Staging or storage bunkers could be built in the future if there is a need.

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

None are currently planned but if truck traffic was taken off current roads it might be necessary to re-seed some areas. If continual use of the site occurs staging area(s) would be built. Staging areas are normally concrete slabs ringed with concrete blocks. Location of staging area(s) will be in areas with little or no risk of erosion.

2. AIR

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

There is an odor associated with the spreading of biosolids. Most of this odor dissipates quickly and what lingers is a musty smell. Odors vary depending on source and method of treatment used. There will also be emissions from equipment used to pump and spread biosolids (tractors) and emissions from trucks hauling equipment and personnel.

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

Off-site odors should not be a problem as the current uses of this site is agriculture / forestry.

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

There are no proposed measures to reduce or control emission or other impact to the air.

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.

This site is 1,000 ft from Nisqually River. Other small surface water bodies are identified in the attached map.

Yelm Ditch impoundment (20 acres) south southwest of the of site is a manmade impoundment which was part of a now abandoned irrigation district water delivery system. Discharge from this impoundment is into the old Yelm Ditch which is blocked at several points so it is not known if flow seeps into the ground or finds its way to the Nisqually River. Four stock-water impoundments are on the ranch at ½ acre each. The Nisqually River is to the north and east and over 1000 feet from site. Centralia canal is over 1000 ft.

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.

Application will occur within 200 feet of stock ponds and small drainage ditches on this site. To prevent potential contamination of surface water, we will maintain a minimum buffer of 10 meters to surface water, buffers may be greater to sensitive waters. ~~Buffer may be increased after discussions with Washington Department Ecology.~~

3) Estimate the amount of fill and dredge material that would be placed in or removed from the surface or wetlands and indicate the area of the site that would be affected. Indicate the sources and fill material.

None

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

No

5) Does the proposal lie within a 100-year flood plain? 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, (water rights for irrigation do exist for this farm)

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 chemical....; agricultural; etc.). Describe the general size of the system, the number of such systems, the number of houses to be served (if applicable), or the number of animals or humans the system (s) are expected to serve.

No waste material will be discharged into the ground. Biosolids will be applied to the soil surface or injected/incorporated into it. The law, (RCW 70.95J. The rule is - 173-308 WAC) defines biosolids

as a beneficial commodity and regulates its use in a manner to protect human health and the environment. Application rates will be based on plant nutrient needs to minimize the risk of nutrient leaching.

c. Water Runoff (including storm water)

1) Describe the source of runoff (including storm water) and method of collection and disposal, if any (include quantities, if known). Where will this water flow? Will this water flow into other waters? If so, describe.

The only source of runoff will be normal rainfall. The site will remain in agricultural or timber crops; thus runoff should not present a problem due to the dispersed nature of overland flow from rainfall and vegetated buffers . Proposed activity will increase organic matter in the soil through the application of biosolids, increasing infiltration rates and water retention and decreasing runoff risks. Land application will only take place when soil and crop conditions are appropriate.

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.

Agricultural best management practices will be followed to prevent surface, ground, and runoff water impacts. These will include application methods, applying at agronomic rates and adequate vegetated buffers of 10 meters or more, from surface water (dependent on slope, soil type and ground cover these could be wider).

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: (none within proposed application areas) cattail, buttercup, bullrush, skunk cabbage, other

water plants: water lily, eelgrass, milfoil, other

other types of vegetation

Most types of vegetation native to the local area can be found on site. No application will occur in water bodies or wetland areas.

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

Other than normal agricultural or forestry activities, no vegetation needs to be removed. Vegetation may be altered by increasing nutrient availability and therefore increasing vegetative growth.

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

After reviewing the Washington State Threatened and Endangered listing of species, no justification was found to suspect any threatened or endangered species to be present on this site. List is provided in SSLAP

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

No landscaping is planned for this site.

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:

mammals: bear, 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 known to be on site.

After reviewing the Washington State Threatened and Endangered listing of species, no justification was found to suspect any threatened or endangered species to be present on this site. List is provided in SSLAP

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

Yes. This site is within the Pacific Flyway.

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

The application of biosolids to farm or timber land will increase feed availability for wildlife. Biosolids application enhances the growth of vegetation by providing nutrients needed for plant growth.

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.

The only energy required for the project will be diesel fuel for operation of application equipment.

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

No

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

None

7. ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

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

Potential pollutants in biosolids include nitrogen, metals, and pathogens (disease causing organisms) pollutants are regulated and all sources will be within standards. Biosolids are not classified as hazardous or dangerous wastes by the Washington State Department of Ecology. The producer of the biosolids is required to have certified laboratories periodically analyze the biosolids to check quality. FMF will have on file certification statements from wastewater treatment plants and/ or analytical data needed to calculate application rates.

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

The types of hazards that exist do not require any special emergency services beyond those that might be needed for normal agricultural activities.

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

Humans are at little risk from biosolids-borne pathogens when biosolids are properly treated and handled. The soil environment, hostile to human pathogens, serves as the final phase in the pathogen removal process. Based on the type of biosolids used, the land will be managed to control human contact with pathogens. We will limit public access during the required period of time specified in 173-308-210 WAC. Regulations require buffer zones around some biosolids applications. The U.S. EPA conducted a risk assessment and determined if managed appropriately the level of potential pollutants does not pose a threat to health of humans, wildlife or plants. Only biosolids meeting current 173-308-160 WAC "Table 3" for metals will be recycled on this site. Nitrogen (N) is an essential plant nutrient, but excess levels of N from biosolids, or from other fertilizers, can pollute ground water or surface water and can reduce crop quality. For this reason, the project will apply biosolids to land based on the amount of biosolids-supplied N needed by the crop.

***Biosolids application site will meet:
1 Chapter 173-308 WAC,
2 Biosolids Management guidelines,
3 Site Specific Land Application Plan.***

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 long-term basis (for example: traffic, construction, operation, other)? Indicate what hours noise would come from the site.

Operation of typical agricultural equipment will create noise during normal operating hours. We are proposing no limitations on daily timing of applications or restrictions for holidays. From a practical standpoint, applications will normally occur during daylight hours, and we do not normally work on holidays. There may be occasions where we need to deviate from the normal schedule, such as trying to get a crop planted prior to the rains coming in. All noise will be consistent with

typical agricultural practices and the noises associated with those activities.

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

None proposed other than normal exhaust mufflers on equipment.

8. LAND AND SHORELINE USE

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

The historic uses of this site are agriculture and forestry. Adjacent parcels for site include agricultural, forestry and rural residential

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

This site has been used for agricultural and timber production. Plans are to retain site in these uses. Landowner plans to convert some of the open ground to timber.

c. Describe any structures on the site.

The only structures are agricultural buildings and residences on site. See the maps attached.

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

No

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

Current zoning is Long Term Agriculture, Rural 1/10 and Rural Residential Resources.

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

The current comprehensive plan designations for this site is Agriculture and Rural.

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

Not Applicable

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

Proposed land application areas are not classified as environmentally sensitive areas, confirmed through Thurston County mapping system.

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

One single family residence are found on the site. No additional housing is proposed. The number of workers would increase by one to four during application times.

j. Approximately how many people would the project displace?

None

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

None

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

Proposal will improve the economic viability of the farm.

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 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?

No structures are proposed at this time

- 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?

Other than normal lighting from vehicles, no light or glare would be produced from this project.

- 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?

This site has controlled accesses, thus providing no formal recreational opportunities. Informal opportunities may exist.

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

No.

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

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.

None known to be on the site.

- 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 plan, if any.

Access to site is off of 128th Ave. SE, normal access for trucks will be at the end of 128th Ave.

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

Not served by public transit, unknown distance to nearest transit stop.(Google maps directions cannot find a public transportation route to or from the site)

- 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.

Expected vehicular trips per day during application times would be from 1 to as many as 50 for duration liquid biosolids application projects. Typically the Higher the volume the shorter the Duration. Typically high volume would occur Monday -Saturday During daylight Hours, During the application window of March through October

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

None

15. PUBLIC SERVICE

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

No

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

None

16. UTILITIES

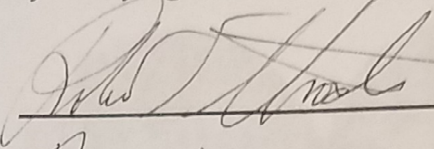
a. Circle utilities currently available at the site: electricity, natural gas, water, refuse service, telephone, sanitary sewer, septic system, other.

b. Describe the utilities that are proposed for the project, the utility providing the service, and the general construction activities on the site in the immediate vicinity which might be needed.

No utilities will be needed for this project.

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

Dec 14, 2018 Date

Prepared by:

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