



State of Washington
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

South Central Region • Region 3 • 1701 South 24th Avenue, Yakima, WA 98902-5720
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December 7, 2023

Zach Torrance-Smith
Kittitas County Community Development Services
411 N. Ruby Street, Suite 2
Ellensburg, WA 98926

SUBJECT: WDFW COMMENTS ON SP-23-00012

Dear Mr. Torrance-Smith,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on SP-23-00012 concerning the proposal to create two lots from Parcels #955862 and # 960889. Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) has reviewed the application and supporting documents. Our comments are regarding the project's impact on priority fish and wildlife habitats, particularly wetlands and riparian habitats. Specifically, to ensure that if the application is approved that the development of new parcels will not result in loss of Fish and Wildlife Habitat Conservation Areas (FWHCA) under Kittitas County Critical Areas Ordinance (CAO).

There are currently two Type Ns (non-fish-bearing seasonal) creeks mapped on the Washington Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) stream layer on the parcel, yet it appears that neither is shown on the critical areas map provided in the project application. Further, WDFW has been part of stream investigations in the surrounding area and has found streams and wetlands that are not on existing maps. WDFW requests that a critical areas report be conducted prior to approval to ensure that all streams and wetlands are identified, and their appropriate buffers factored in to ensure that both new parcels have buildable area after factoring in the CAO setbacks. WDFW would also request the opportunity to review and provide comments to the county on the report.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment and look forward to discussing this further with the county and the applicant. Please contact me at 509-607-3578 or Scott.Downes@dfw.wa.gov to discuss these concerns.

Sincerely,

Scott Downes
Area Habitat Biologist

Cc:
Elizabeth Torrey, WDFW

Jamey Ayling, CDS