



State of Washington
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
South Central Region • Region 3 • 1701 South 24th Avenue, Yakima, WA 98902-5720
Telephone: (509) 575-2740 • Fax: (509) 575-2474

May 10, 2023

Jeremiah Cromie
Planner II
Kittitas County
Community Development Services
411 North Ruby St., Suite 2
Ellensburg, WA 98926

RECEIVED

By Jeremiah Cromie at 10:48 am, May 10, 2023

RE: WDFW Comments on VA-23-00003 Sparks Park

Dear Mr. Cromie,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Variance Application for Sparks Park (VA-23-00003). Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) has reviewed the application and supporting documents. WDFW did comment as well on the original application and our comments are similar here. We would like to highlight a few issues relating to the project's potential impact on fish and wildlife habitat.

1. The project area is located with an Elk Winter Concentration Area. With the substantial amount of proposed clearing, WDFW offers up a few suggestions to minimize the habitat impact and offset the impacts.
 - a. WDFW requests that the clearing limits be restricted to only the absolute minimum needed to build the proposed truck stop
 - b. Revegetation for temporary impacted areas, be revegetated with native vegetation from the area to help offset any losses of forested habitat. If the applicant has questions or needs help in suggesting how to replant for native vegetation and/or avoid some of the forested area, WDFW would be willing to assist from a habitat point of view.
 - c. To offset habitat impacts, WDFW would like the applicant to consider donating some of the cleared trees to nearby habitat projects. WDFW can assist in coordinating those discussions.
2. With the amount of vegetation removal and increased impervious surface in a high snowfall area, a detailed drainage plan needs to be conducted to show that drainage from the site can be properly dealt with and not contribute to the degradation of nearby fish-bearing waters such as Lake Easton and Silver Creek. WDFW requests the ability to review and comment on the drainage plan once it is complete.

Please contact me at (509) 607-3578 or Scott.Downes@dfw.wa.gov, if you have any questions or concerns regarding these comments and thank you again for the opportunity to review and comment on this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Scott Downes".

Scott Downes
Area Habitat Biologist

Cc:
Elizabeth Torrey, WDFW