



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

15 W Yakima Ave, Ste 200 • Yakima, WA 98902-3452 • (509) 575-2490

July 18, 2013

RECEIVED

JUL 22 2013

KITTITAS COUNTY  
CDS

Lindsey Ozbolt  
Kittitas County Community Development  
411 N. Ruby St., Suite 2  
Ellensburg, WA 98926

Re: CU-13-00004/SSDP-13-00001

Dear Ms. Ozbolt:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the notice of application for the Rocky Canyon Tent Camping project, proposed by Grant County Public Utility District. We have reviewed the application and have the following comment.

**SHORELANDS/ENVIRONMENTAL ASSISTANCE**

**Wetland assessment (delineation and rating) document**

The delineation report states that the western edge of wetland C corresponds with the Ordinary High Water Mark area of the Columbia River. More explanation about this abrupt edge should be put in the wetland document because the pictures provided (and my memory from the site visit) indicate that this is a very shallow shoreline except in the location of the jetty. If the shoreline is shallow, water would wick-up at least 6 inches through even sandy soils so that the wetland edge would normally be higher than the Ordinary High Water Mark. This may move the wetland delineation line to the west depending on the shoreline elevation across the floodplain

The report needs to explain why the wetlands were split up into 3 separate areas for the purpose of rating when it appears that they are contiguous and have identical hydrologic inputs and an identical HGM class. Contiguous wetland areas should be rated as one wetland area unless there is a clear hydrologic distinction or physical barriers between areas. This distinction is important as the rating of the contiguous wetland could translate into requirements for buffers and mitigation of impacts.

Information on why the lowest buffers (of 20 feet) was listed in the wetlands table for wetlands A and B, compared to wetland C when buffers for category III wetlands in Kittitas County include a range of between 80 to 20 feet. The current report lists all the



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wetlands as being category III wetlands. It is noted in the table that Ecology generally recommends buffers of 60 feet for category III wetlands from medium type impacts.

**Monitoring plan**

The monitoring plan should span a minimum of a 5 year period in order to assure that the plantings will be successful. This is a standard length of time required in 401 permits and most shoreline permits that Ecology conditions. An aggressive weed control program in the area of the plantings and protection from browsing should also be built into the plan. A percent survival and/or percent cover goal should also be part of the plan.

If you have any questions or would like to respond to these Shorelands/Environmental Assistance comments, please contact **Catherine Reed** at (509) 575-2616.

Sincerely,



Gwen Clear  
Environmental Review Coordinator  
Central Regional Office  
(509) 575-2012