

**From:** [Scheer Jodeanne Bellant](#)  
**To:** [Kelly Bacon \(CD\)](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Notice of Application - CU-20-00005 Hidden Point  
**Date:** Sunday, January 3, 2021 8:11:54 PM  
**Attachments:** [Wildlife Sightings- Emerick Road.pdf](#)

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Dear Kelly:

I hope you had a lovely vacation. I tried to send an addendum to my letter of 12-20-20 over the last week, but have had difficulties getting it to go through due, apparently to the oversized document. Now that I am at my usual computer, I have been able to shrink the document, hopefully to an acceptable size. I have also updated it with comments of current wildlife sightings - as there is now a herd of at least 13 younger male elk roaming the area from Swauk Canyon, to Highway 970 to the Emerick Road spurs, seen daily over the past week.

Please replace my previous sent document attempts, and use this document, attached below, as my addendum.

Please let me know if there are any problems with receiving the document- as the deadline is tomorrow.

I would like to add to the statements of dismay that we have had such a short time to respond to issues in this CUP via public comment. With the holidays and covid cutbacks affecting all agencies, and your being on vacation, the period for public comment has been severely compromised. I fully support allowing more time for public comment on this important issue affecting our neighborhood.

Thank you,

Jodeanne Scheer  
Stephen Scheer

On Thu, Dec 17, 2020 at 9:31 AM Kelly Bacon (CD) <[kelly.bacon.cd@co.kittitas.wa.us](mailto:kelly.bacon.cd@co.kittitas.wa.us)> wrote:

Good morning,

Kittitas County CDS is requesting comment on the Conditional Use application CU-20-00005 Hidden Point.

The proposed project is for a "Guest Ranch or Guest Farm" providing overnight lodging, dining and recreational facilities in a rural setting. All application documents can be found at the links below. I have also attached the SEPA Checklist for recording. CDS is using the optional DNS process for this application. Please let me know if you have any issues accessing the materials. Please submit any comments for this application by 5pm on Monday, January 4, 2021. If CDS does not receive comments by this date, we will assume your agency has no interest in the application.

CU-20-00005 Hidden Point Internal

[CU-20-00005 Hidden Point External](#)

Thank you,

**Kelly Bacon**

**Planner I**

**Kittitas County Community Development Services**

411 N. Ruby Street, Ste 2

Ellensburg, WA 98926

Office: (509) 962-7539

[Kelly.bacon.cd@co.kittitas.wa.us](mailto:Kelly.bacon.cd@co.kittitas.wa.us)

Please Note: In an effort to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 and the Governor's "Safe Start" reopening plan, Kittitas County Community Development Services is currently in Phase 3 and is open to the public in a limited capacity. At this time many of us are on a rotating schedule working from home and in the office; during this time I will do my best to respond to you as promptly as possible.

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message id: 38eb45916c6dcbdac24bb8719d004a14

1-3-2020

TO: Kittitas County Community Development Services  
411 N. Ruby Street, Ste 2  
Ellensburg, WA 98926  
Office: (509) 962-7539

Re: Hidden Point LLC (CU-20-00005) Conditional Use Permit Application

From: Jodeanne Scheer and Stephen Scheer  
Owner of 20 acre parcel at 900 Emerick Road, Cle Elum, WA  
14956 NW Mill Road Portland, OR 97231

Addendum to our comments sent on 12-20-2020: Wildlife Documentation:

To further elucidate wildlife sightings and sign noted by our family in our neighborhood, I have included a review of some of the photos and journals on wildlife that we have kept. Due to the frequency & quantity of wildlife, a wildlife impact study should be required for any CUP on the Hidden Point property.

In the vicinity of the Emerick Road spurs that exist next to and close to the Hidden Point properties, we have always seen an abundance of elk and deer.

Deer are present year round, and our area is part of the designated Swauk Prairie winter deer & elk range. Deer are especially prevalent and easily seen on the ridge and slopes on both sides that run through the Hidden Point properties south to the canyon and north through the Dougherty property. There are currently only 2 residences on this ridge, and the rest is natural vegetation, which makes it desirable habitat for these animals. Emerick Road spurs circle this ridge, and offer good views on a regular basis of the deer who forage and live year round throughout this area.

Elk tend to migrate through the Emerick Road area from Swauk Canyon to Lookout Mountain and beyond, on a regular basis. Our records over time show that elk are sighted regularly in our neighborhood from January to the end of May, in groups of one to large herds of 30-50 individuals. Their tracks can easily be identified in the snow and mud, and there are many game trails used by these animals visible on the flanks of Swauk Canyon. On January 31, 2020 we personally witnessed a large herd of at least 30-40 individuals heading up from the lower Emerick Road spur to the upper spur, and from there up and over the Dougherty property to the top of the ridge that runs contiguously with the Hidden Point property. In May of 2020, we followed a group of 8-12 female elk that could be seen via binoculars from our cabin on the ridge on the far side of Swauk Canyon. They appeared to be resting and grazing and had at least one newborn with them. They stayed about 10-12 days in the area before moving on. Elk become more frequently seen in the area again starting at the end of August. For instance, we observed a large herd of females, adolescents and young grazing in the Lookout Mt area in late August. As the fall commences, and into November, male elk are in rutting season, and are frequent visitors, while challenging rivals, and calling in and establishing their harems of females. Bugling males in the fall wander far and wide through our neighborhood, including the meadow at our property (see picture, below, taken in Nov 2020), as well as throughout Swauk Canyon and up to Lookout Mt.

Most recently, from December 2020 through Jan 2, 2021, a group of 13 young males have been seen and their tracks noted throughout the Hidden Valley and Emerick Road spurs.

Other mammals noted on a common basis in our journals around our property and the Emerick Road spurs, include marmots, bears, weasels, mink, skunks, a plentitude of rodent species, cougars, bobcats and bats.

Bears make regular runs through our property to enjoy our wild raspberry crop, and to check and see if they can raid our BBQ drip tray. We have learned to leave our BBQ inside when not in use. We often see bear scat on our property's trails, as well as along the Emerick road spurs. It is locally known that the Swauk Canyon apple orchards are a favorite haunt of mother bears and their cubs, as are several shrubby drainages off of the Emerick Road spurs, near the Hidden Point properties.

One of our most memorable experiences with bats occurred in October 2009, when my husband was scratched and possibly bitten by a rabid bat at our cabin- his was the first recorded such case in Kittitas County. The county public health department had difficulty getting back to my husband with the autopsy reports on the bat, due to poor cellphone reception at our cabin. Luckily, a trip into Cle Elum within a few days resulted in his receiving multiple emergency messages to go immediately to Yakima Hospital, where anti-rabies prophylaxis was awaiting him.

Each winter, cougar tracks and cougar kills used to be found frequently in our meadow, and throughout the Emerick Road neighborhood- however, these ceased about 2-3 years ago. We did have a bobcat living in the brush on our property one year, which we were able to sight once. We have seen bobcat tracks in other nearby areas.

Coyotes used to be an infrequent sighting, but have substantially increased since the decrease in cougar activity. This month, there are have been nightly coyote tracks visible on our driveway and meadow. Coyote tracks have also frequently been seen in the past few years throughout the Emerick Road neighborhood.

Finally, we believe we have seen infrequent wolf tracks in our area in proximity to Swauk Canyon that are compatible with members of the nearby Teanaway wolf pack. These tracks seem to follow the tracks of larger herds of deer or elk, in brief forays. Pictures of their tracks and possible scat are included for your review.

Finally, snakes and lizards are plentiful. Rattlesnakes are endemic to our neighborhood and increase in frequency with proximity to Swauk Canyon and where rodent populations are abundant. Living in our neighborhood means acclimating to cohabiting with these beautiful creatures and walking about with an abundance of caution.

**ELK:**



Nov 25, 2020- Elk sighting in our meadow (900 Emerick Road), grazing and bugling over several days.

**DEER:**



11-9-2020 – Deer off Emerick Road on Ames/Chambers property, across from Hidden Point property



1-31-20- daily visits from area's resident deer on our property



## **Rattlesnakes:**

Baby Rattlesnake (about 10" long) on Emerick Road spur, just before the Hidden Pt property. 5-5-2020





Large rattlesnake at our property (900 Emerick Rd ) heading under deck - 7-25-20





Large coiled rattlesnake in grass, Swauk Canyon, 4-18-15





## Wolves:

Wolf tracks: Next 3 pictures: wolf tracks following elk tracks, Spring 2019











Wolf scat? Spring 2019- On our property, 900 Emerick Road.  
Pair of sunglasses for size comparison.



Wolf track, winter 2019



Wolf track, winter 2019

