



## **KITTITAS COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT 7**

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*"Neighbors helping Neighbors"*

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January 4, 2021

Kelly Bacon, Staff Planner  
Kittitas County Community Development Services  
411 N. Ruby St. Suite 2  
Ellensburg, WA, 98926

Re: Hidden Point Conditional Use Permit Application  
File Number: CU-20-00005  
Applicant: Hidden Point LLC

Staff Planner Bacon:

As fire chief for Kittitas County Fire District 7, I have been contacted by community members regarding their concern with the above project. I have read the information provided to Kittitas County Community Development Services by members of the community and their listed concerns. I have also read the information provided by their legal team. As such I will not belabor comments already made, except to say I agree with many of the concerns raised.

As we learned from the Taylor Bridge Fire, Table Mountain Complex Fire and the Jolly Mountain Fire, this area is prone to fast moving wildland fires. The area in question has vegetation and weather conditions that can create a fire every bit as devastating as the Camp Fire that destroyed the City of Paradise, California.

For this level of development density to occur, they would need significant upgrades to the road infrastructure to protect ingress and egress routes. As I understand the intent of this development it will be used as rental property style cabins. As such we will have people unfamiliar with our weather (included our wind), the vegetation, and most importantly the geography in case of a wildland fire, staying in our community. Because they do not reside here, my experience tells me they will not understand the implications of "Red Flag" days or comprehend how dangerous fire can be on low humidity, high temperature, and high-wind days.

As I drive throughout the Upper Kittitas County, we are already having significant development of improved property that are accessed via two-track roads that go out into diseased and dying forested areas. I know that Kittitas County has adopted the Wildland Urban Interface Code. I would request that this project receive a review with the Kittitas

County Fire Marshal and the leadership team of Kittitas County Fire District 7, to create mitigation for the increase in hazard this development will bring.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John Sinclair", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

John Sinclair, Fire Chief  
Kittitas County Fire District 7