

From: [Darcy Batura](#)
To: [Kelly Bacon \(CD\)](#)
Cc: [David Rolph](#); [Nicholas Altadonna](#); [James Schroeder](#)
Subject: Nature Conservancy comments on Hidden Point Application
Date: Monday, January 4, 2021 1:54:02 PM
Attachments: [image002.png](#)
[TNC Letter RE Hidden Point 1.4.21.pdf](#)

Dear Ms. Bacon,

Please find our attached letter regarding the CU-20-00005 Hidden Point application concerning the construction of a Guest Ranch on Emerick Road.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments and please reach out anytime to discuss.

Darcy Batura

Forest Partnerships Manager

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The Nature Conservancy

110 E First Street

Cle Elum, WA 98922

www.washingtonnature.org/centralcascades

January 4, 2021

Dear Ms. Bacon,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the CU-20-00005 Hidden Point application concerning the construction of a Guest Ranch on Emerick Road, east of Cle Elum.

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) has reviewed the application and supporting documents. Our comments are regarding the project's proximity and potential impact to TNC conservation easements on Swauk Creek and Lookout Mountain. The Conservancy has managed these easements for nearly 20 years and monitors the land to ensure the land-use restrictions are being maintained and the conservation values are protected over time.

As our partners at Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife mention, the project is in an area which is documented by multiple sources to be of high importance to wildlife. The proposed project area is within mapped Mule Deer and Elk winter areas as part of the WDFW Priority Habitats and Species database and has been mapped as potential migration areas for various wildlife including Mule Deer, Black Bear and Western Gray Squirrel. The SEPA application for this proposal does not include any of the above information.

The Conservancy supports the WDFW request that the SEPA checklist be revised to include the above information on Priority Habitats and Species under Section B.5 of the checklist and completion of a Critical Areas Report.

As you may be aware, Swauk Creek is a priority stream in the Yakima Basin for instream flow, floodplain restoration, and habitat protection. Completion of the Critical Areas Report will allow for the Conservancy and our partners to better understand and evaluate the potential risks to the fish and wildlife conservation values protected by our easements.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. Please contact me at 509-304-5200 or Darcy.Batura@tnc.org with concerns or questions regarding the above comments.

Sincerely,



Darcy Batura
Forest Partnerships Manager