



Allyson Brooks Ph.D., Director  
State Historic Preservation Officer

April 4, 2017

Ms. Dusty Pilkington  
Planner I  
Kittitas County  
411 N Ruby St # 4  
Ellensburg, wa98926

In future correspondence please refer to:  
Project Tracking Code: 2017-04-02416  
Property: River Ridge Plat (LP-17-00003)

**Re: Archaeology - Survey Requested, Permit from DAHP may be Required under RCW 27.53**

Dear Ms. Pilkington:

Thank you for contacting the Washington State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) and Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP) and providing documentation regarding the above referenced project. The project parcel contains documented precontact and archaeological resources and it is probable that additional unidentified archaeological resources are present within the project area. Please be aware that archaeological sites are protected from knowing disturbance on both public and private lands in Washington States. Both RCW 27.44 and RCW 27.53.060 require that a person obtain a permit from our Department before excavating, removing, or altering Native American human remains or archaeological resources in Washington. Failure to obtain a permit is punishable by civil fines and other penalties under RCW 27.53.095, and by criminal prosecution under RCW 27.53.090.

Chapter 27.53.095 RCW allows the Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation to issue civil penalties for the violation of this statute in an amount up to five thousand dollars, in addition to site restoration costs and investigative costs. Also, these remedies do not prevent concerned tribes from undertaking civil action in state or federal court, or law enforcement agencies from undertaking criminal investigation or prosecution. Chapter 27.44.050 RCW allows the affected Indian Tribe to undertake civil action apart from any criminal prosecution if burials are disturbed.

**We request a professional archaeological survey of the project area be conducted prior to ground disturbing activities. The completed survey must be sent DAHP and the interested Tribes for review prior to ground disturbance so that the requirement for DAHP permits and additional archaeological oversight can be determined. We also recommend consultation with the concerned Tribes' cultural committees and staff regarding cultural resource issues.**



Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this project and we look forward to receiving the survey report. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Gretchen Kaehler". The signature is written in a cursive style and is followed by a long, horizontal, slightly wavy line that extends to the right.

Gretchen Kaehler  
Assistant State Archaeologist, Local Governments  
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cc. Johnson Meninick, Cultural Resources Director, Yakama Nation  
Jessica Lally, Archaeologist, Yakama Nation  
Kate Valdez, THPO, Yakama Nation