

Dusty Pilkington
Planner I
Kittitas County Community Development Services
411 N. Ruby St #4. Ellensburg, WA 98926

8/28/2018

RE: Tree Removal at 2130 Hanson Road

Dear Dusty Pilkington

This letter is in regards to two fallen cottonwood trees that, together, fell into, and across Manastash Creek about three weeks ago. The trees were growing on my property and were located approximately 20 feet from the creek bank. The supporting root system was not uprooted and the integrity of the bank on either side of the stream was not compromised. The trunks and large branches laying across the creek have created a log jam that will ultimately create a hazard for my property and neighboring properties. During high flows, bedload will mobilize and become trapped upstream of the log jam, forcing flow out onto the banks that will damage my property and that of my neighbors by erosion and increased flow risks. These trees can be relocated to remain a part of the active channel and continue to provide valuable habitat for fish and aquatic life.

Because the creek is at low flow at this time the water level upstream of the trees is only slightly higher than the level downstream and presently not an issue. My concern is that when the water level next spring is considerably higher than it is now, erosion from the higher run-off will cause considerable damage to the creeks bank on both sides of the creek and probable flooding if the bank is breached.

I propose to keep the trees and branches as intact as possible and only have the tree trunks and large branches chain sawed to a size that can be extracted from the stream using an excavator. The excavator would remain above the bank and not access the creek bed. Thru the supervision of a Washington State Fish and Wildlife biologist the tree trunks and branches will be placed along the streams banks such that they create habitat diversity along Manastash Creek. Disturbed areas along the banks will be planted with live stakes of native riparian trees and shrubs. The benefit of this placement would be three-fold.

- 1) Flooding and erosion hazards during high flow events would be mitigated.
- 2) The tree trunks and branches would help stabilize the streams' existing banks from further erosion.
- 3) Leaving the fallen tree trunks and branches along the side of the stream will add to the riparian habitat of the creek and benefit the existing aquatic / wildlife community.

Thank you for your consideration,

Graig Schwab
2130 Hanson Rd
Ellensburg, WA. 98926