



State of Washington  
**DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE**  
South Central Region • Region 3 • 1701 South 24<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Yakima, WA 98902-5720  
Telephone: (509) 575-2740 • Fax: (509) 575-2474

May 15, 2020

Lindsey Ozbolt  
Kittitas County Planning Official  
411 North Ruby St., Suite 2  
Ellensburg, WA 98926

RE: WDFW Sponsorship of the Teanaway Community Forest Habitat Improvement Fencing Project

Dear Ms. Ozbolt,

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) is writing to Kittitas County Community Development Services (CDS) in order to seek an exemption from a substantial development permit for installation of fencing and hardened stream crossings in the Teanaway Community Forest (TCF), under WAC 173-27-040 (1)(p). WDFW has a Conservation Easement (CE) on the TCF and serves as co-managers of the forest along with our sister agency, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). In order to restore fish and wildlife habitat resources in the TCF while maintaining it as working forest land, grazing infrastructure including fencing and hardened stream crossings are planned to be constructed in 2020 to keep the cattle from entering critical aquatic and riparian areas. This work will restore important aquatic and riparian habitat function that will contribute towards the recovery of federally listed fish species such as Bull Trout and Steelhead.

Under WAC 173-27-040 (1)(p) it states the following for a project to be granted an exemption to a substantial development permit:

(p) A public or private project that is designed to improve fish or wildlife habitat or fish passage, when all of the following apply:

- (i) The project has been approved in writing by the department of fish and wildlife;
- (ii) The project has received hydraulic project approval by the department of fish and wildlife pursuant to chapter 77.55 RCW; and
- (iii) The local government has determined that the project is substantially consistent with the local shoreline master program. The local government shall make such determination in a timely manner and provide it by letter to the project proponent.

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JUN 25 2020  
Kittitas Co. CDS

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This project is being sponsored and constructed by WDFW personnel to improve fish and wildlife habitat by protecting the riparian environment. The project is part of the Yakima Basin Integrated Plan, in which both WDFW and Kittitas County are stakeholders. WDFW will be issuing a Hydraulic Project Approval (HPA) for the work in and around the Teanaway River and tributaries. WDFW hopes that Kittitas County CDS will find that this project is also consistent with the exemptions stated in 173-27-040 (1)(p). Please contact me at (509) 594-5201, or at [Perry.Harvester@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:Perry.Harvester@dfw.wa.gov), if you have any questions or concerns regarding this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Perry Harvester". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Perry Harvester  
WDFW-South-Central Regional Habitat Program Manager

Cc:  
Jeremy Johnston, Kittitas County  
Larry Leach, DNR