



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

December 2, 2019

Lindsey Ozbolt
Planning Official
Community Development Services
Kittitas County
411 N. Ruby Street, Suite 2
Ellensburg, WA 98926

SUBJECT: WDFW COMMENTS ON SV-19-00001 THAYER SHORELINE VARIANCE

Dear Ms. Ozbolt,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed single family residence and driveway access along Manastash Creek, a Shoreline Stream. The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) is familiar with this stream reach and the fish, wildlife, and habitats associated with it. Multiple agencies, including WDFW and Kittitas County have invested substantial amounts into the restoration of Manastash Creek and those efforts are paying off with increasing returns of ESA listed MCR Steelhead to this watershed. Coho salmon and Chinook salmon are also now commonly found through this reach of the stream due to the collective efforts of many, including private landowners.

WDFW does not require a Hydraulic Project Approval for work to construct the bridge over the Westside Irrigation Canal, but any work that has the potential to change the flow of water in or to Manastash Creek may fall within WDFW's jurisdiction.

We are primarily interested in the following elements of the project:

- If the driveway location cannot be moved further from Manastash Creek due to existing legal easements, any widening of the existing driveway should occur landward from Manastash Creek and the elevation of the driveway not be elevated such that it could restrict or redirect flood flows. If it is possible our preference is to relocate the driveway and bridge further from the stream.
- Ensure that site grading will direct stormwater runoff away from Manastash Creek; and
- Establishment of a native, woody riparian buffer to mitigate development within the Shoreline buffer while providing long term bank stability for the landowners. Past land uses on this property have resulted in degraded riparian habitat along the shoreline of Manastash Creek. We encourage any and all livestock enclosures to be located well away from the Shoreline buffer. An improved riparian area with robust vegetation will not only provide fish and wildlife habitat, but will help reduce the likelihood of lateral

bank migration toward new structures as at least some of the new infrastructure will be within the Tier 1 Channel Migration Zone as shown on the County's website <https://www.co.kittitas.wa.us/uploads/documents/cds/smp/documents/201212-CMZ-Map-Book.pdf>. We are available to offer guidance and technical assistance for riparian plantings.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment and please let me know if there are any questions or comments we can answer.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jennifer Nelson".

Jennifer Nelson
Fish and Wildlife Biologist
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(509) 961-6639