



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

March 8, 2016

Kaycee K Hathaway
Kittitas County Community Development Services
411 North Ruby St, Suite 2
Ellensburg, WA 98926

Subject: John Hein shop placement near riparian area off of Airport Road, Cle Elum

Dear Ms. Hathaway:

John Hein is seeking to place a shop on his property off of Airport Road, east of Cle Elum. The proposed shop location is immediately east of a small unnamed creek that is typed as fish bearing (Type F) under the Water Typing Classification System, Forest Practices Rules. Marty Mauney from the Washington Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) and I met John Hein on his property on Monday February 22, 2015 to review if the stream segment should remain a fish bearing stream. Marty and I concurred that the stream met the physical requirements of a fish bearing stream which is a Type 2 or Type 3 stream under the Kittitas County Critical Areas Ordinance; Chapter 17A.07.010 riparian habitat. WDNR no longer uses the Types 1-5 classification. A Type F stream could qualify as a Type 2 or 3 under the old stream classification. Riparian habitat buffers listed under this chapter are 40-100 feet from the Ordinary High Water Mark (OHWM) for Type 2 waters and 20-50 feet for Type 3 waters.

Currently there is little vegetation (other than grass) on the left (east) bank of the stream adjacent to where the shop location is proposed; shown on the photo attached to this letter. The left stream bank is also showing some signs of erosion. WDFW staff, including Brent Renfrow and I have proposed some bank protection measures to John Hein that include reshaping his bank to a more gradual slope and planting riparian shrubs for bank stability and habitat value. John has agreed with this approach and has submitted a Hydrologic Project Approval (HPA) to conduct this work. Along with this work, John has agreed to set his shop location at 30 feet from the OHWM of the stream.

WDFW believes that if the proposed bank work is constructed and the riparian shrubs are watered to ensure establishment, that setting the proposed shop location at 30 feet from the OHWM from the creek is an improvement to the existing riparian condition of the creek. Thus, from a riparian habitat perspective, WDFW supports the proposal by John Hein to place his shop at a minimum of 30 feet from the OHWM of the stream, provided that the bank protection and riparian planting as proposed under the HPA application is conducted as a provision of approval for his building of the shop.

Page 2

Please contact me at (509) 457-9307 or Scott.downes@dfw.wa.gov, if you have any questions or concerns regarding these comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Scott Downes".

Scott Downes
Area Habitat Biologist

Cc: Brent Renfrow, WDFW
Perry Harvester, WDFW
John Hein, landowner

Attachment: John Hein proposed bank protection.pdf