



State of Washington
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

South Central Region • Region 3 • 1701 South 24th Avenue, Yakima, WA 98902-5720
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November 22, 2023

Zach Torrance-Smith
Kittitas County Community Development Services
411 N. Ruby Street, Suite 2
Ellensburg, WA 98926

SUBJECT: WDFW COMMENTS ON SP-23-00010 NH2G

Dear Mr. Torrance-Smith,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on SP-23-00010 NH2G concerning the dividing of the current 10-acre parcel into 2 parcels. Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) has reviewed the application and supporting documents. Our comments are regarding the project's impact on priority fish and wildlife habitats, particularly shrubsteppe habitats. Specifically, to ensure that if the application is approved that the development will not result in loss of Fish and Wildlife Habitat Conservation Areas (FWHCA) under Kittitas County Critical Areas Ordinance (CAO).

The current critical areas map does not list shrubsteppe as occurring on the property, yet the WDFW Priority Habitats and Species (PHS) map does show shrubsteppe as likely occurring on parcel. Shrubsteppe is listed as a priority habitat under the FWHCA of the CAO. If this parcel were to be developed further, WDFW requests that there would be conversations on how to minimize impacts to this priority habitat and for impacts that cannot be minimized, discussions on how to mitigate for impacts should occur. WDFW would also like to request that the county include shrubsteppe in the county's CAO layer so that future areas of interaction between development and shrubsteppe can be appropriately identified. WDFW would be happy to assist with this task if needed.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment and look forward to discussing this further with the county and the applicant. Please contact me at 509-607-3578 or Scott.Downes@dfw.wa.gov to discuss these concerns.

Sincerely,

Scott Downes
Area Habitat Biologist

Cc:

Elizabeth Torrey, WDFW
Jamey Ayling, CDS