



Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation
Established by the Treaty of June 9, 1855

Post Office Box 151
Toppenish Washington 98948

Kari Braniff
Kittitas County Community Development Services
411 N. Ruby St, Suite 2
Ellensburg, WA 98926

October 30, 2008

Subject: Amabilis Short Plat (SP-08-00042)

Dear Ms. Braniff,

Thank you for contacting the Yakama Nation Cultural Resource Program regarding the proposed development listed above. This project fall within the ceded lands of the Yakama Nation, defined as the usual and accustomed areas and places utilized by the ancestors of the Yakama People for the gathering of foods, medicines, and ceremonial purposes. These legal rights are outlined in the Treaty of 1855 between the Yakama Nation and the United States government. Just as in the past, these lands and their resources continue to fulfill a central role in the culture of members of the Yakama Nation in the present, and will continue to do so in the future.

The provided project documentation notes the proposed development as being a 4-lot plat on approximately 16.52 acres of land located northeast of I-90, west of Lake Kachess, on Lake Kachess Road, within a portion of the northeastern $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 13, Township 21 N., Range 12 E. We have reviewed the project in terms of its potential for adverse impacts to environmental resources, sacred areas, traditional cultural properties, archaeological properties and associated cultural issues. It is our belief that the proposed project is occurring within an area which has an extremely high potential for cultural sites and other cultural resources. Lodge Creek and the Lake Kachess area in general is well known to the Yakama Nation as a place of resource gathering, homesites, as well as burial sites and places of spiritual significance.

A review of the Washington State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP) cultural site database indicates the rich cultural history of the area, with several sites associated with both Native American and historic Euro-American land use being found in the vicinity of the proposed development.

Given the potential for cultural resource sites at the proposed development locale, we feel that the appropriate action to identify any cultural/archaeological sites present should begin with a professional cultural resources survey and historical documentation of the development area prior to any ground disturbing activities associated with the project. Further, based on the findings of the survey, additional cultural resources protective measures may be necessary during any type of ground disturbing activities relating to the proposed development.

Please contact me at 1-509-865-5121 ext. 4737 or tribal archaeologist Dave Woody at ext. 4760 if you have any questions regarding the above recommendation.

Sincerely,

 Johnson Meninick, *Cathy Barney*
Yakama Nation Cultural Resources Program Manager

CC: Gretchen Kaehler, Assistant State Archaeologist, Washington State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP)

Kate Valdez, Yakama Nation Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO)