

**From:** [Arden Thomas](#)  
**To:** "[Aren.Orsen.HSY@colvilletribes.com](#)"; "[Guy.Moura@colvilletribes.com](#)"  
**Cc:** [Kelly Bacon \(CD\)](#)  
**Subject:** RE: SE-21-00007 Spring Creek Restoration - Notice of Application  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 21, 2021 9:38:38 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[CRreport\\_DAHP\\_2020-11-07331.pdf](#)

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Aren and Guy –

Kelly requested that I send the attached Cultural Resources Report with was referenced in the SEPA checklist for SE-21-00007 Spring Creek Restoration. The activity is funded by the Department of Ecology and they sent out an Ex. Order 05-05 – Spring Creek Restoration Project Request for Determination Letter of Concurrence Letter, shown below. The Cultural Resources Report was included with this correspondence as well.

Regards,  
Arden

**Arden Thomas** | Water Resource Program Manager  
Kittitas County Public Works | 411 North Ruby, Suite 1 | Ellensburg, WA 98926  
Direct: 509.962.7690

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**From:** Stephens, Jennifer (ECY) <Este461@ECY.WA.GOV>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 6, 2021 3:52 PM  
**To:** Whitlam, Rob (DAHP) <Rob.Whitlam@DAHP.WA.GOV>  
**Cc:** 'Noah Oliver' <Noah\_Oliver@Yakama.com>; 'Casey Barney' <Casey\_Barney@Yakama.com>; 'ccamuso@yakama.com' <ccamuso@yakama.com>; 'jessica@yakama.com' <jessica@yakama.com>; 'Elizabeth Armstrong' <elizabeth.armstrong.hsy@colvilletribes.com>; Callahan, Michael (ECY) <mcal461@ECY.WA.GOV>; Arden Thomas <arden.thomas@co.kittitas.wa.us>; 'Doncaster, Kelsey' <Kelsey.Doncaster@jacobs.com>; Ellis, Liz (ECY) <lell461@ECY.WA.GOV>  
**Subject:** Ex. Order 05-05 - Spring Creek Restoration Project - Preliminary Determination - riparian work

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STATE OF WASHINGTON  
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

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*Electronic Delivery*

**Re: Executive Order 05-05 Archaeological and Cultural Resources  
Yakima Basin Integrated Plan  
Spring Creek Restoration Project  
WRYBIP-1921-KiCPWD-00013  
*Request for a Determination of Concurrence***

Greetings,

The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) proposes to fund Kittitas County Public Works Department's (County) plans to conduct integrated floodplain management activities for the 160 acres at Stone Road (DAHP Project 2020-11-07331). The County has completed Cultural Resource Investigations of the project (attached), which includes a description of the Area of Potential Effect (APE). Project activities include weed management, installing riparian plants, and culvert removal, and removing foundations for buildings that were previously on site.

***Project Description***

Kittitas County Public Works is proposing to implement a series of integrated floodplain management activities located on Stone Road, DAHP Project 2020-11-07331. These activities include managing noxious weeds along the east 40 acres of the property, with the long-term objective to utilize this area for flood compatible agriculture. No soil disturbance is expected for weed control, which could include herbicide application and mowing. Additional work includes riparian restoration activities within approximately 18.3 acres directly adjacent to Spring Creek, including: managing weeds including the removal of noxious weeds, and planting native species, such as black cottonwood, coyote willow, and redosier dogwood, and seeding native grass and shrubs and placing temporary fencing to deter wildlife browsing while plants are established. Soil will be disturbed up to three (3) feet for planting activities, with planting activities only resulting in soil disturbance of up to one (1) foot. Planting intensity will vary from two (2) feet on center for the installation of live willow stakes to ten (10) feet on center for potted trees.

Fence installation and removal of two culverts will also take place with spot ground disturbance is expected up to one (1) foot in depth, for fence posts. Ground disturbance for the culvert removal, which creates a crossing along Spring Creek, is approximately 45 feet by 30 feet (crossing the road). Staging for all activities will occur within existing established drive and parking areas associated with

the two residences.

Ground disturbance activities associated with foundation removal associated with four (4) buildings. This ground disturbance will be a maximum of 1-2 feet in depth and will include:

- Removing the foundations and decommissioning of groundwater wells associated with the 2 residential structures ((one structure has a footprint of 46 feet by 33 feet and the other is 40 feet by 20 feet).
- Removing the foundation for the garage (40 feet by 20 feet).
- Removing the brick and concrete flooring of a shed (20 feet by 20 feet).

### ***Area of Potential Effect and Undertaking***

The proposed APE includes the footprint for the site restoration, including a 100-foot buffer, and all locations potentially subject to project-related, ground-disturbing activities. Site access will occur off of Stone Road along dirt and gravel roads located on the parcel in portions of Section 24, Township 17 North, Range 18 East Willamette Meridian, in Kittitas County, Washington State. Once in the dewatered section of creek, equipment will utilize the creek bed for access and will not require continued access from the bank. Staging of equipment and materials will occur on existing streets.

### ***Summary of Efforts to Identify and Evaluate Cultural and Historic Properties***

Ecology researched the Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation's (DAHP) Washington Information System for Architectural and Archeological Resources Data (WISAARD) in order to identify recorded historic and previous cultural resource reviews for the project vicinity.

The proposed APE located on a parcel that is adjacent to the Yakima River. Therefore, the land is considered *Very High Risk* for potential archeological resources according to the WISAARD predictive model. Four surveys have been conducted within 0.33 mi of the APE. Each of these recommended no further investigation (Whitlam and Valdez, 2011; Miller, 2002; Christy, 2001; and Amara, 2006).

A Cultural Resources Assessment evaluating the proposed activities was prepared for Kittitas County (Finley et al. 2021). This assessment included detailed surface and subsurface investigations within the APE. No archeological resources were identified and the authors recommended no further investigation.

### ***Agency Determination and Findings***

Ecology and the County have made a reasonable and good faith effort to identify cultural resources and historic properties that may be affected by this project. The project is not anticipated to impact any historic properties, documented sites, and given the results of past investigations. Ecology's preliminary determination is ***No Cultural Resource Impacts – Inadvertent Discovery Plan Required Onsite*** for this project. Ecology is requiring an Inadvertent Discovery Plan (IDP) onsite at all times.

Ecology requests your concurrence with our Preliminary Determination of ***No Cultural Resource***

**Impacts - Inadvertent Discovery Plan required onsite.** As required for all Ecology projects, an Inadvertent Discovery Plan (IDP) is required to be on-site during all project activities. Ecology requires the use of the Ecology Inadvertent Discovery Plan template unless we have approved a similar format. In order to proceed, [an updated template](#)<sup>[1]</sup> must be completely filled out.

In the event that archaeological deposits are inadvertently discovered during construction in any portion of the Project APE, ground-disturbing activities should be halted immediately in an area large enough to maintain integrity of the deposits. Follow the protocol in the IDP. The DAHP, affected tribes, and Ecology should be notified. Appropriate treatment of the archaeological resources and/or human remains would be determined among these parties. Ecology is also recommending the viewing of this [informative video](#)<sup>[2]</sup> on the value of inadvertent discovery protocol. Staff working in the field who unexpectedly discover cultural resources or human remains may find this useful in better understanding what to do in the event of a discovery. The video is also posted on [DAHP's inadvertent discovery language website](#)<sup>[3]</sup>.

Ecology expects to issue a determination shortly after the 30-calendar day comment period. If you have any questions regarding this project determination, please contact Jennifer Stephens at [jennifer.stephens@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:jennifer.stephens@ecy.wa.gov).

Thank you for your partnership.

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*Jennifer Stephens*

Washington State Department of Ecology  
Office of Columbia River  
Central Regional Office | 1250 W Alder St | Union Gap, WA 98903  
Phone (509) 575-2396

Due to COVID-19 social distancing requirements, I will be teleworking for the foreseeable future.  
I will respond to email & phone messages as I am able and appreciate your patience as my hours will vary from day to day.

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<sup>[1]</sup> <https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/SummaryPages/ECY070560.html>

<sup>[2]</sup> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ioX-4cXfbDY>

<sup>[3]</sup> <https://dahp.wa.gov/archaeology/human-remains/recommended-inadvertent-human-remains-discovery-language>