



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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September 9, 2021

Rachael Stevie
Kittitas County Community Development Services
411 N. Ruby Street, Suite 2
Ellensburg, WA 98926

SUBJECT: WDFW COMMENTS ON SE-21-00018 Anderson Hay

Dear Ms. Stevie,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the SE-21-00018 Anderson Hay application concerning the grading and clearing of an area off Umptanum Road. 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 habitat.

The project area contains both shrubsteppe habitat and the area is also mapped Mule Deer Winter Range, both are critical areas under Kittitas County Critical Areas Ordinance. To ensure no loss of these habitats, WDFW requests compensatory mitigation, for any additional clearing of shrubsteppe habitat as part of the project and restoring the project area to shrubsteppe habitat once the project has been completed and the material is removed. To accomplish that, a mitigation and restoration plan should be prepared in consultation with WDFW as a condition of approval. To further understand clearing limits, potential for mitigation and restoration, WDFW requests a site visit with WDFW with the applicant and the county.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment and look forward to discussing this project further with the county and the applicant, ideally on site through a visit to understand habitat impacts further. 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
Jeremy Johnson, Kittitas County CDS