



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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March 8, 2023

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

SUBJECT: WDFW COMMENTS ON SE-23-00009 NELSON VIEW SUBDIVISION

Dear Mr. Pedersen,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed subdivision application near Big Creek, a Shoreline Stream. The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) is familiar with the project area and the fish, wildlife, and habitats associated with it.

While the project area is not immediately adjacent to Big Creek, the LiDar clearly shows a relic channel through several of the proposed lots (Figure 1), specifically lots 6, 9, and 10. If you follow the scar upgradient, it may be that this scar represents the historic irrigation channel, that was likely an old Big Creek channel in geologic time. Where this channel appears to start is just south of the KRD's canal and within the mapped Channel Migration Zone for Big Creek. This could result in channel avulsions or flood flow conveyance through the relic channel that the proponents/owners should be made aware of, despite not being mapped as a special flood hazard area by FEMA.

We offer the following recommendations on this project.

- A critical areas report should be submitted for the project because there appear to be potential wetlands present and there are untyped streams present at the northern portion of the property. The critical areas report should also cover the geological hazards associated with the channel migration zone along Big Creek that may result in flow entering the channel scar through the project area. This project area is mapped as a Tier 1 for Critical Aquifer Recharge Area as well. The Critical Areas report should address all 5 critical areas that may be present or near the project area. The untyped stream mapped at the northern extent of the property appears to have conveyance infrastructure through the railroad grade and Interstate 90, connecting it to the Yakima River. This channel may provide fish habitat and warrants further investigation.

- We recommend all property owners in this area use bear proof garbage cans and exercise the [best management practices](#) to prevent wildlife conflict with these carnivores and others.

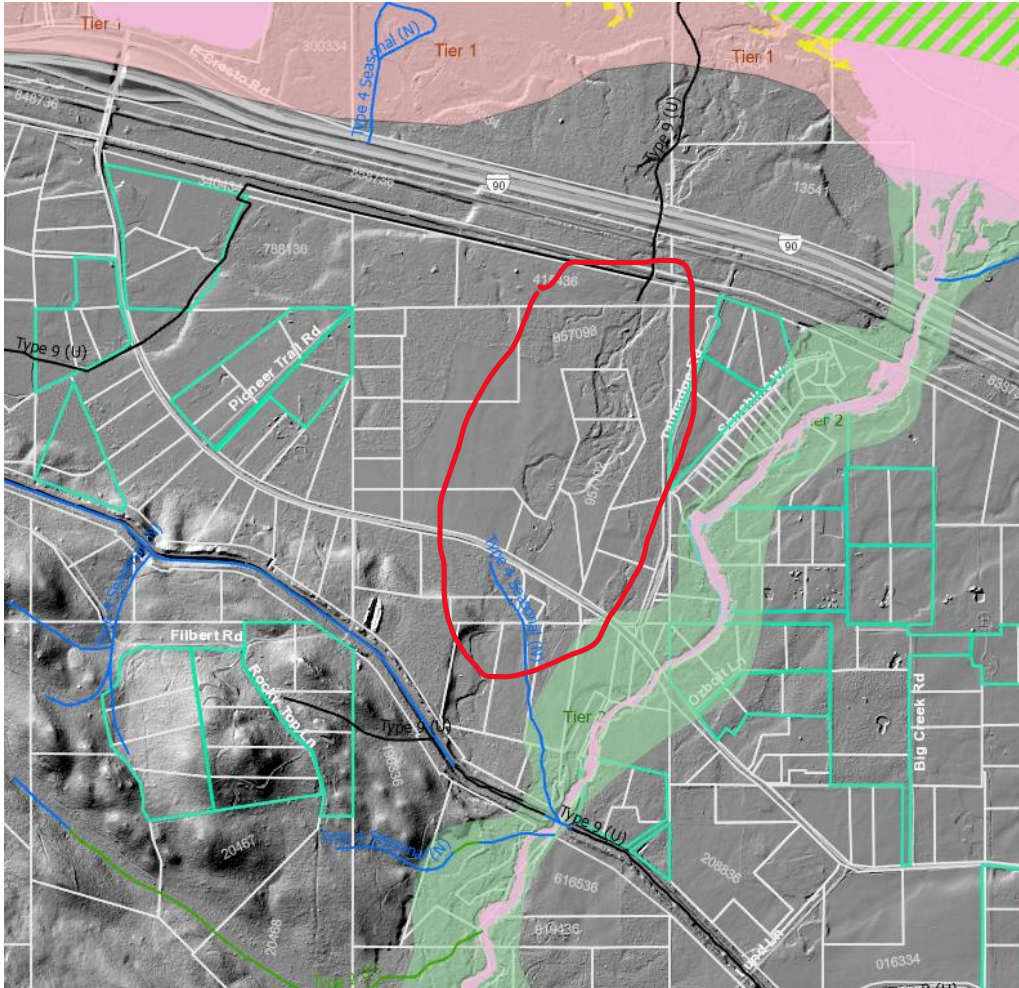


Figure 1. LiDAR imagery of the channel scar through the project area, west of Big Creek.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment and please let me know if there are any questions or comments we can answer.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Nelson
Fish and Wildlife Biologist
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