



State of Washington  
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

South Central Region • Region 3 • 1701 South 24<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Yakima, WA 98902-5720  
Telephone: (509) 575-2740 • Fax: (509) 575-2474

January 27, 2021

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

**SUBJECT: WDFW COMMENTS ON VA-20-00013 PRATT SETBACK VARIANCE**

Dear Kelly Bacon,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed setback variance at 301 Pine Glen Drive in Easton, near the Yakima River. The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) is familiar with this location and this reach of the river. The Yakima River and the associated side channels, floodplain, and riparian forests provide habitat for numerous species of fish and wildlife.

After reviewing the application materials online, we understand that the applicant is proposing to construct a home near the southeast corner of the parcel, and the variance request is for setbacks from the roadways and not the critical areas or stream setbacks. It is also our understanding that the applicants have moved the septic further away from the Type 1 channel shown on the map that appears to be a side channel of the Yakima River. We offer our support for these measures that will help protect the water quality and habitat functions and values of these critical areas and recommend no further encroachments toward the waterbody or riparian habitat.

We wish to extend an offer of technical assistance to the County and the property owners as they continue to steward and enjoy their property and the fish and wildlife habitats on it. 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  
[Jennifer.Nelson@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:Jennifer.Nelson@dfw.wa.gov)  
(509) 961-6639