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**To:** [Jamey Ayling](#); [CDS User](#)  
**Subject:** Fowler Creek Guest Ranch concerns  
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As a Kittitas County Department Head and employee, I can appreciate the need for continued development and growth to benefit all those living within the County. I do have significant concerns however about the proposed Fowler Creek Guest Ranch development CU 23-00003. My full time residence is in the Granite Creek neighborhood off of Fowler Creek on FS RD 4517. This proposed development borders the neighborhood and in fact proposes a potential exit from the property directly onto FS Rd 4517 a narrow, poorly maintained forest service road.

I have read through the proposal and find numerous issues that while "addressed" by the proposal dont seem to align with the reality of what impact this will have on our community. Just a few areas of concern I have include the following:

Wildlife destruction - this area is designated as rural residential and those of us who live here do so for the quiet pace of life. In my yard on a daily basis I see wild turkeys, deer, elk and at times bear and cougar. Clearly this area is in a path of wildlife migration as well as some significant wetlands. This will change dramatically with the destruction of this area to build the commercial development, causing a change in migratory patterns and a further pushing of wildlife out of their natural habitats.

This area is in a severe fire risk area particularly in the hot summers. There have been a few times over the last several years that we have had to be ready to evacuate due to approaching fires - some naturally occurring but more recent fires illegally started by people recreating in the area. There is one way in and one way out of our area so a significant increase in development will impair resident's ability to evacuate due to the limited evacuation routes that exist and will not be able to be improved upon even with the addition of this proposed project - what is there now is the only option based upon the rural nature of this area..

Traffic is already a significant problem when I90 is backed up and gps sends drivers over Westside Road in an attempt to take a short cut. Adding an additional 100 plus cars per day (altho the reality would be very much more) would make for a near impossible way to exit from Fowler Creek Rd onto Westside Rd and no way for emergency vehicles to access the area. We already do not leave our residence on Sundays in the summer as a normally 10-15 minute drive to Cle Elum can take closer to an hour due to the additional summer traffic. Fowler Creek is not a well maintained road and has several blind s-curves. To think of the added number of vehicles driving that road everyday and especially large RV's and trailers will make for the inevitable traffic incidents and again an almost impossibility for emergency vehicles to make it on scene in any reasonable time frame.

Noise and light pollution. This area is very dark and quiet in the evenings. To say that this development would not impact this is completely incorrect. I can hear my neighbor in the development below us using a chainsaw on his property which is a half mile away due to the topography. To think that we will not be impacted by a party barn with 200 plus guests and music at a location less than a quarter mile from me is absolutely absurd. We live about 2 miles from a location that has one retreat every summer and the neighborhood can hear the noise and music into the evenings. We tolerate it because it is good for the youth and its one long weekend a year, not on a regular basis. This increase in light and noise will dramatically change the nature of his rural area to a disappointing degree.

Water issues - not only is the area in question a wetland, but there is an issue with parcels that have already been developed dealing with a lack of water and water rights. To think that this area which has been categorized as a "yellow zone" being able to be developed with water being brought in from a green zone completely disregards the reason there should not be development on this site - there are not enough resources to sustain it.

I am requesting that CDS require the applicant to create a critical areas report and allow the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife to be able to review and comment on the report. WDFW have commented on this proposal and they have requested that this critical areas report be done before the County approves CU-23-00003 because of the potential impact to this rural, wildlife rich area.

This development seems to be completely contrary to Washington's Growth Management Act - the GMA recognizes the importance of rural lands and their character and helps in preserving vital areas. In order to develop these areas, the development must be compatible with the current use of the land by wildlife and fish and wildlife habitat. Development of a rural area must enhance the rural sense of community and quality of life and CU-23-00003 Fowler Creek Guest Ranch is completely contrary to the current rural residential designation of the location and I am encouraging the Kittitas County Community Development Services to deny the permit for this commercial development.

Sincerely,  
Eileen Murphy Young