

**FOWLER CREEK GUEST RANCH**  
**EXHIBIT 18**  
**PAT DENEEN'S PLANNING COMMISSION CONFLICT OF INTEREST**  
**CLARIFICATION**

As a member of the Kittitas County Planning Commission, my primary responsibility involves formulating policy recommendations related to the Kittitas County Comprehensive Plan and Kittitas County Code amendments.

A number of submitted comments raised concerns about a potential conflict of interest in the Fowler Creek Guest Ranch application process. In light of this, I would like to address the matter by providing the following information:

Planning Commission Role: The Kittitas County Planning Commission neither possesses direct nor indirect authority or involvement to review or approve specific projects. Instead, our focus rests on making policy recommendations. My association with the Fowler Creek Guest Ranch application does not necessitate or involve any direct or indirect engagement by the Kittitas County Planning Commission.

Application Review Process: The Fowler Creek Guest Ranch application undergoes a distinct review process that does not involve the Planning Commission. Specifically, it is evaluated by the Kittitas County Community Development Service director, who subsequently provides a recommendation to the Kittitas County Hearing Examiner. The Planning Commission does not directly review or determine this or any other conditional use application.

Conflict of Interest Considerations: To address the raised concern, the following points demonstrate that I have no conflict of interest, either directly or indirectly, in the approval process of this or any other conditional use application:

No Direct Decision-Making: As a Planning Commission member, I am not directly or indirectly involved in the decision-making process for specific applications, including Fowler Creek Guest Ranch.

Separation of Roles: My role as a proponent for the application remains distinct from my responsibilities on the Planning Commission. These roles do not overlap.

Both Washington State RCW 43.160.040 (Conflicts of Interest—Code of Ethics) and Kittitas County Code Title 16 (Subdivisions) support the fact that I do not have a conflict of interest in this matter.

In summary, the distinct review process and the separation of roles ensure that there is no inherent conflict of interest.