

From: [CDS User](#)
To: [Jamey Ayling](#)
Subject: FW: fowler creek ranch cu-23-00003
Date: Thursday, October 19, 2023 4:36:29 PM

From: Stephanie Waterman <h20manstephie@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 19, 2023 4:31 PM
To: CDS User <cds@co.kittitas.wa.us>
Subject: fowler creek ranch cu-23-00003

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I am writing to address issues about the proposal for a new development on Fowler creek. I have the following concerns about how this will have a negative impact securing sufficient water resources for agriculture and homeowners on Fowler creek, destruction of wetlands, sewage impact, and the negative results of illegal damming up fowler creek.

First, water scarcity has increasingly become a cause of conflict. Property owners already have issues with water. Adding additional people year-round will have a negative impact. Water availability and quality are deteriorating quickly due to decades of misuse, lack of coordinated management, over-abstraction of groundwater, and pollution.

Second, where will the sewage go? If sewage is not properly treated before it is disposed of, it can contaminate water and harm huge amounts of wildlife. New construction can accelerate erosion, loss of groundwater recharge, stormwater wash off pollutants from lawns and impervious surfaces, discharge of heated runoff from streets and ponds, and flood damage to downstream structures. Impacts can also result from:

- Poorly planned wells that can harm other groundwater users and aquatic resources.
- Withdrawal of water from streams and other bodies
- Poorly planned septic systems

Third, what about the trails that will go around the wetland? Any ecosystem can be a sensitive area. This is especially true if the trail is expected to see heavy use. Native plants or animal life or their habitats are especially valuable or rare and can be easily disturbed or degraded by human development. The protection of these places is mainly an effort to preserve endangered or threatened species, but it is used to defend productive ecosystems or limited resources, as well. And, what about the impact when visitors bring their pets? Will people be walking dogs on leashes, and ensuring dogs don't interact with wildlife, will people secure trash cans and clean and put away grills? (Seems like lake Cle Elum already has issues with trash not being picked up). Not securing trash will bring interaction with wildlife even closer to human interaction.

Fourth, there has been illegal damming of Fowler creek. Building dams in creeks and streams can

have negative consequences for fish. By building dams, people limit the ability of all aquatic life from accessing these different habitats that they require at different times of the year. It is illegal to damn up creeks or even disturb the plants that thrive around them. What is to be done with this illegal damming?

Foremost, issues with water shortage, sewage disposal, negative impact on wetlands, and illegal damming of Fowler Creek make this proposal a disaster in the making. Not only is it an inappropriate place for development, but the impact of this plan will also create negative consequences in the future of the ecosystem.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Waterman

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