



State of Washington
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

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Main Office Location: Natural Resources Building, 1111 Washington Street, Olympia, WA

August 21, 2024

Chace Pederson
Staff Planner
Kittitas County Community Development Services
411 N. Ruby St. Suite 2
Ellensburg, WA 98926

SUBJECT: RE: CU-24-00003 Schnebly Coulee Solar Farm - Re-Notice of Application

Dear Mr. Pederson,

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) is committed to working with renewable energy projects to ensure that these projects are sited in a manner that aligns with our agency's mandate to perpetuate fish, wildlife, and their habitat (Regulatory Code of Washington (RCW) 77.04.012) and that fully support goals for decarbonization in Washington State.

Schnebly Coulee Solar Energy LLC (applicant) has continued coordination with WDFW regarding the updated Habitat Management Plan, which includes mitigation ratios and other mitigation ratios that take all aspects of the project into consideration, including the recent addition of specific transmission line details.

The applicant reached out to WDFW to specify details regarding the transmission line location, proposed acres of impact, and update of tables 7.1 and 7.2 in the Habitat Management Plan Updated 7-26-2024 that includes transmission line mitigation ratios and acreage. WDFW agrees that the information outlined in the updated Habitat Management Plan aligns with prior mitigation discussions with the applicant.

One potential discrepancy noted by WDFW was the inclusion of contingency panels in a portion of the proposed conservation easement (CE) highlighted in red from Figure 7.1 of the Habitat Management Plan below. The contingency panels in question are in C-503 and C-504 in the "Overall Proposed Conditions" in pink below. The applicant clarified that this is correct, and the area has been identified in the contingency plan but will only be fenced if the contingency plan is adopted. WDFW acknowledge these changes and requests that a final discussion about the Habitat Management Plan occur once the final site layout is confirmed.

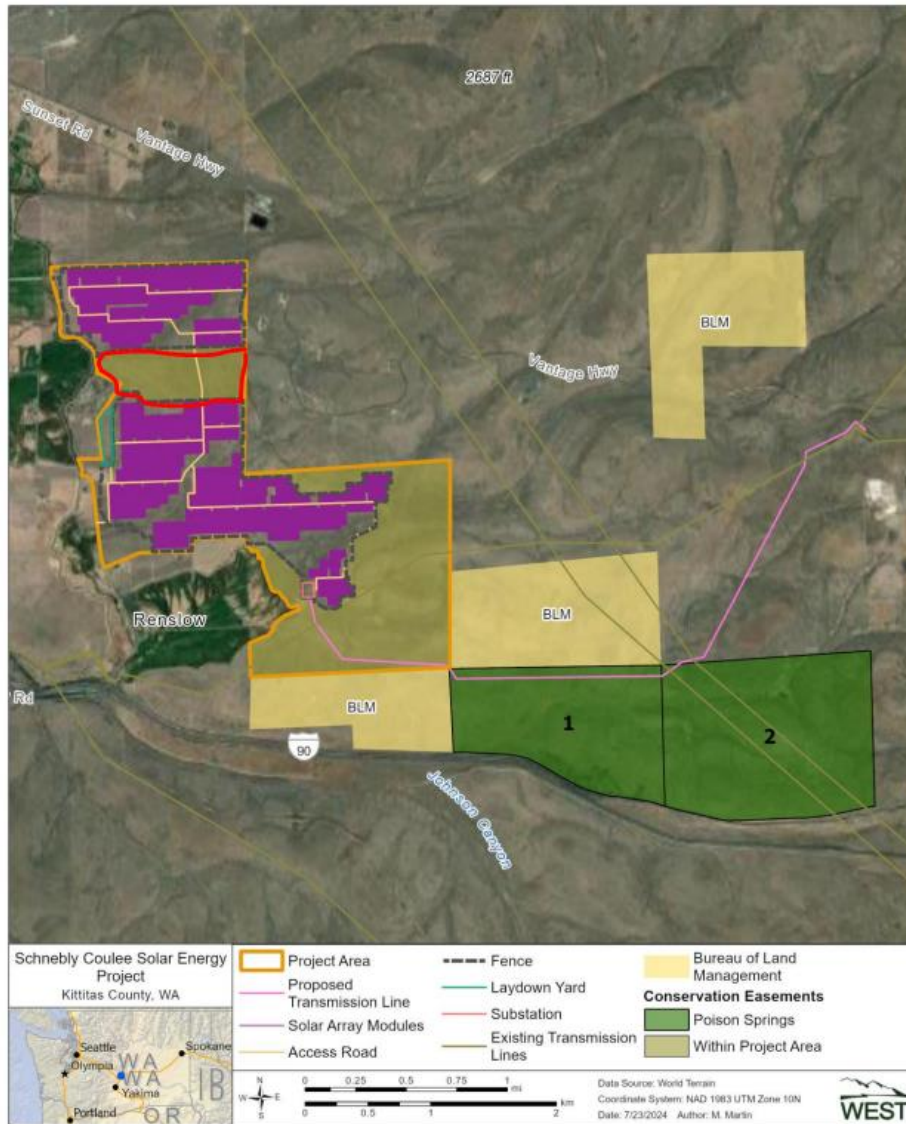


Figure 7.1. Conservation easements adjacent to, and within, the Project Area at the Schnebly Coulee Solar Energy Project, Kittitas County, Washington.

Figure 7.1 from the Habitat Management Plan Updated 7-26-2024 with the on-site CE highlighted in red.

[illegible]

WDFW looks forward to continuing coordination with the applicant as this permit is finalized.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. Please contact me at 509-699-9859 or Emily.Grabowsky@dfw.wa.gov with any questions.

Sincerely,

Shirley

Emily Grabowsky
Solar and Wind Energy Biologist

- cc:
Michael Ritter, WDFW Lead Planner Solar & Wind Energy Development
Michelle Huppert, WDFW Solar and Wind Energy Biologist
Scott Downes, WDFW Fish and Wildlife Habitat Regional Land Use Planner
Elizabeth Torrey, WDFW Region 3 Habitat Program Assistant Manager
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