



Allyson Brooks Ph.D., Director
State Historic Preservation Officer

July 8, 2024

Jamey Ayling
Planning Manager
Kittitas County
411 N. Ruby St; Suite 2
Ellensburg, WA 98926

In future correspondence please refer to:

Project Tracking Code: 2024-07-04762

Property: Kittitas County_The Ranch on Swauk Creek Development Agreement (DV-24-00001)

Re: DAHP Comments

Dear Jamey Ayling:

Thank you for contacting the Washington State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) and Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP) and providing documentation regarding the above referenced project. These comments are based on the information available at the time of this review and on behalf of the SHPO in conformance Washington State law. Should additional information become available, our assessment may be revised.

Please review our following comments:

- No references to cultural resources are made in either of the documents provided for review, nor are cultural resources discussed in the additional documents available on the Kittitas County website. However, at least one cultural resources survey has been completed within this project area as part of a Forest Practices Application (see Orvald 2006), and at least one precontact archaeological site (KT02711) and one historic archaeological site (KT02712) have been identified. Orvald recommended avoidance of these archaeological sites, as well as archaeological monitoring of ground disturbance related to road construction (2006:19). Further, Orvald recommended that any areas added to the Ranch on Swauk Creek project area should be reviewed for the presence of cultural resources (2006:20).
- The current project area appears to be larger than the project area surveyed in 2006. Therefore, DAHP recommends that the added areas be surveyed by a professional archaeologist. We also recommend that the areas surveyed in 2006 be re-surveyed, as the previous cultural resources survey is now nearly 20 years old and did not include any subsurface testing despite low ground visibility (Orvald 2006:13). The survey report should meet DAHP's [Standards for Cultural Resource Reporting](#).
- Any disturbance to KT02711 will require a permit from DAHP, as it is a precontact site. The historic archaeological site (KT02712) is unevaluated for its eligibility for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. If this site must be disturbed, it should first be evaluated for its eligibility for the NRHP. If it is eligible, disturbance to it will also require a



DAHP permit. Permitting needs must also be considered for any additional sites identified during supplemental survey(s).

- We also recommend that any historic buildings or structures (45 years in age or older) located within the project area are evaluated for eligibility for listing in the National Register of Historic Places on Historic Property Inventory (HPI) forms. We highly encourage the SEPA lead agency to ensure that these evaluations are written by a cultural resource professional meeting the [SOI Professional Qualification Standards in Architectural History](#).

Please note that the recommendations provided in this letter reflect only the opinions of DAHP. Any interested Tribes may have different recommendations. We appreciate receiving any correspondence or comments from Tribes or other parties concerning cultural resource issues that you receive.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this project. Please ensure that the DAHP Project Tracking Number is shared with any hired cultural resource consultants and is attached to any communications or submitted reports. Please also ensure that any reports, site forms, and/or historic property inventory (HPI) forms are uploaded to WISAARD by the consultant(s).

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me. DAHP staff are happy to meet with Kittitas County to discuss our comments in further detail.

Sincerely,



Sydney Hanson, M.A.
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References Cited

Orvald, Tucker. 2006. *Cultural Resources Inventory for the Ranch on Swauk Creek, LLC Forest Practices Application, Kittitas County, WA*. Submitted to The Ranch on Swauk Creek, LLC. Report on file in the Washington State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation "WISAARD" system.

