



State of Washington
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

South Central Region • Region 3 • 1701 South 24th Avenue, Yakima, WA 98902-5720
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April 30, 2026

Bradley Gasawski
Kittitas County Community Development Services
411 N. Ruby Street, Suite 2
Ellensburg, WA 98926

SUBJECT: WDFW COMMENTS ON SE-26-00001 Easton Travel Center

Dear Mr. Gasawski,

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on Kittitas County State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) SE-26-00001 Easton Travel Center, a proposal to construct a Travel Center with improvements on parcel 778834. The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) is familiar with the area and has previously commented on land use proposals on this parcel, including Kittitas County VA-23-00003 Sparks Park and SE-24-00020 Majestic Group.

The project area is located within the Domerie Flats Elk Winter Concentration Area, as shown on [WDFW's Priority Habitats and Species Map](#). The Elk Winter Concentration Area is a WDFW Priority Habitat and designated as a Fish and Wildlife Habitat Conservation Area (FWHCA) under Kittitas County's Critical Areas Ordinance (CAO 17A.04.020). With the proposed development of this parcel, WDFW offers the following suggestions to minimize the habitat disturbance and offset the impacts.

- a. WDFW requests that the clearing limits be restricted to only the absolute minimum needed to build the proposed Travel Center.
- b. Revegetation of temporary impacted areas; revegetated with native vegetation from the area to help offset the losses of forested habitat. If the applicant has questions or needs assistance in how to replant with native vegetation and/or avoid some of the forested area, WDFW would be willing to assist from a habitat perspective.
- c. To offset habitat impacts, WDFW would like the applicant to consider donating some of the cleared trees to nearby habitat projects. WDFW can assist in coordinating those discussions.

To lessen the Travel Center's impact on nocturnal wildlife movement, we request that all outdoor lighting be facing the ground. Lighting geared towards the sky can have attractancy issues for nocturnal flying wildlife, including birds. [WDFW's Priority Habitats and Species Map](#)

includes occurrence of Little Brown Bat and Yuma myotis bat in the project vicinity and the project area may provide roosting bat habitat. WDFW recommends preserving as much of the forest as feasible and placing bat boxes on the forested portion of the property to help offset the impact. WDFW can provide technical assistance, as needed.

Lastly, the SEPA mentions stormwater will be maintained on site in accordance with the EWSWM and flow into engineered swales. With the amount of vegetation removal and increased impervious surface in a high snowfall area, a detailed drainage plan should be completed. The plan should demonstrate that drainage from the site can be properly managed and will not contribute to the degradation of nearby fish-bearing waters such as Lake Easton and Silver Creek.

Please contact me at (509) 406-3206 or Cassandra.Weekes@dfw.wa.gov if you have any questions or concerns regarding these comments.

Sincerely,



Cassandra Weekes
Area Habitat Biologist