



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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November 22, 2023

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

SUBJECT: WDFW COMMENTS ON CU-23-00002 The Outpost

Dear Mr. Pederson,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the CU-23-00002, The Outpost application, concerning the development of various recreation facilities including cabins, a lodge and associated facilities. Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) has reviewed the application and supporting documents. Our comments are regarding the project's impact on priority fish and wildlife habitats, particularly riparian habitats. Specifically, to ensure that if the application is approved that the development will not result in loss of Fish and Wildlife Habitat Conservation Areas (FWHCA) under Kittitas County Critical Areas Ordinance (CAO).

We appreciate that the updated site plan, dated October 16, 2023 correctly shows that the setback from Spring Creek is 150 foot and that all new facilities are located outside of this setback. If there are any further updates to the site plan, it is important that the setback from Spring Creek is maintained, including incorporation of any firewise setback as well. As Spring Creek is a fish-bearing stream, it is important to maintain the riparian area and that this proposal does not result in any loss of riparian area if approved.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment and look forward to discussing this further with the county and the applicant. Please contact me at 509-607-3578 or Scott.Downes@dfw.wa.gov to discuss these concerns.

Sincerely,

Scott Downes
Area Habitat Biologist

Cc:
Elizabeth Torrey, WDFW
Jamey Ayling, CDS