



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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January 9, 2024

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

SUBJECT: WDFW COMMENTS ON CU-23-00007 Cle Elum Transfer Station

Dear Mr. Ayling,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on CU-23-00007 concerning application for a revision to the existing Cle Elum transfer station. 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 the riparian habitat of Crystal Creek, a Type F stream. Specifically, our comments are 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).

The site plan sheets are unclear, but there appears to be potential overlap between the clearing limits for the building of the trailer parking and the riparian area of Crystal Creek. WDFW requests the opportunity to meet with the applicant, preferably on site, to clarify clearing limits in respect to the riparian zone of Crystal Creek. If the proposed clearing limits do overlap with the riparian setbacks for a Type F stream, WDFW requests that either the clearing limits be modified to have no impact or for the applicant to prepare a mitigation proposal to offset the impacts of the clearing. Further, while not part of the proposed application there are existing impervious surfaces within the riparian area of Crystal Creek. WDFW would recommend to explore if those areas could be revised and potentially rehabilitated to provide riparian habitat. WDFW requests that exploring that possibility also be part of the proposed meeting.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment and look forward to discussing this further with CDS 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

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Cc:
Elizabeth Torrey, WDFW