



State of Washington
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
South Central Region • Region 3 • 1701 South 24th Avenue, Yakima, WA 98902-5720
Telephone: (509) 575-2740 • Fax: (509) 575-2474

July 1, 2024

Zach Torrance-Smith
Community Development Services
Kittitas County
411 N. Ruby Street, Suite 2
Ellensburg, WA 98926

SUBJECT: WDFW COMMENTS ON SD-24-00001/CU-24-00005 RED'S FLY SHOP

Dear Mr. Torrance-Smith,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Red's Fly Shop Shoreline Substantial Development and Conditional Use application for the proposed expansion of the existing building for Red's Fly Shop in the Yakima River Canyon. The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) is familiar with the project area, we've reviewed the application materials available on file, and we are familiar with this site along the Yakima River.

The Yakima River Canyon, and this specific parcel, are identified as a Biodiversity Area and Corridor (BAC) in WDFW's Priority Habitats and Species (PHS) Program. Ensuring this BAC provides a diversity of habitat types for wildlife cover and shelter is important for its overall function as a migratory corridor. The critical areas present on the parcel have not been identified in the existing materials available for review. We appreciate that the footprint of the project will be an addition to an existing building and the building footprint will be at least 100 feet from the ordinary high-water mark of the Yakima River; these measures will help minimize impacts to surrounding habitats.

Because the project area falls within a BAC and there will be a temporary and long-term increased risk of runoff to the Yakima River and the fish life in it, **we recommend additional riparian plants along the Shoreline within the parcel in addition to BMPs during construction.** WDFW would welcome the opportunity to complete a site visit with the County and/or project proponents to identify areas where additional shoreline vegetation would benefit the river and be compatible with the overall uses on the property.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment and for the County's commitment to protect critical areas. Please let me know if there are any questions about our comments. I can be reached by phone at (509) 961-6639 or email at Jennifer.nelson@dfw.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jennifer Nelson".

Jennifer Nelson
Fish and Wildlife Biologist