



State of Washington  
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

South Central Region • Region 3 • 1701 South 24<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Yakima, WA 98902-5720  
Telephone: (509) 575-2740 • Fax: (509) 575-2474

February 11, 2025

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

**SUBJECT: WDFW COMMENTS ON CU-25-00001 HAYFORD WELL COMMUNICATIONS TOWER**

Dear Mr. Torrance-Smith,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Hayford Well Communications Tower project. The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) is familiar with the project area, and we've reviewed the application materials available on file.

The application materials available for review do not discuss the overall area of disturbance for this project and do not address the potential impacts to shrubsteppe habitat with construction of this project. **We request that a complete site plan be provided that includes all temporary and permanent disturbance so all potential impacts to shrubsteppe habitat can be reviewed and properly mitigated for, consistent with the County's critical areas ordinance.**

Additionally, WDFW recommends the proponent follow the [USFWS Recommended Best Practices for Communication Tower Design, Siting, Construction, Operation, Maintenance and Decommissioning](#) to minimize impacts to birds throughout the life of the project.

We would be pleased to conduct a site visit with the project proponents and CDS staff to evaluate the potential habitat impacts and to review any subsequent mitigation plans and/or Habitat Management Plans that may be necessary based on critical areas present on the site. Please let me know if there are any questions about our comments; we look forward to working together on this project. I can be reached by phone at (509) 961-6639 or email at [Jennifer.nelson@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:Jennifer.nelson@dfw.wa.gov).

Sincerely,

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

Jennifer Nelson  
Fish and Wildlife Biologist