



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

August 6, 2025

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

SUBJECT: WDFW COMMENTS ON LP-25-00004 PFENNING PLAT

Dear Mr. Torrance-Smith,

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) has reviewed the application materials associated with the proposed subdivision of 12.49 acres into 39 new lots (Parcels 12391, 12392, and 12393) called Pfenning Plat, hereafter referred to as “the project”. Lyle Creek flows generally north to south along the eastern boundary of this project site. Lyle Creek is a distributary stream of Wilson Creek and is a fish bearing stream on this alluvial fan. All fish present within the Wilson Creek watershed can also be found in Lyle Creek; this includes salmon, steelhead, trout, and other native species. The riparian and wetland habitat associated with Lyle Creek is important to protect fish habitat and water quality in the stream and are identified as Fish and Wildlife Habitat Conservation Areas, in the Kittitas County Critical Areas Ordinance.

This letter incorporates by reference [the letter](#) we provided on June 2, 2025 for the SEPA determination (SE-25-00009) for this same project. The final MDNS did not take our comments into account, but we wanted to draw attention to the [applicant’s response](#) to our comments that we believe worthy of implementing and should be formalized as formal conditions with approval of this project.

WDFW supports the applicant’s plan to install a permanent physical boundary, such as a split rail fence, to clearly mark the critical area boundary. **We recommend this wildlife friendly fence be installed prior to other ground disturbing work to ensure the protection of the critical areas and their functions and values.**

We also support and **recommend the proponent’s proposal to include the following language on the final plat map and on signs posted along the fence line:**

“No activity shall take place within designated wetland areas, including but not limited to the cutting of vegetation, dumping, filling, or construction. Wetland areas must remain in their natural state in perpetuity.”

We look forward to working together to help ensure the protection of critical areas with this project. Please feel free to contact me at (509) 961-6639 or Jennifer.nelson@dfw.wa.gov if you have any questions about these comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jennifer Nelson". The signature is written in a dark ink and is positioned to the left of the typed name and title.

Jennifer Nelson
Area Habitat Biologist