

Lindsey Ozbolt

From: Lisa Austin <laustin30@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, March 04, 2016 4:15 PM
To: Lindsey Ozbolt
Subject: Yakima River Campground written comment attached
Attachments: 2016 March Campground letter of opposition.pdf

Please see attached letter of opposition to the proposed campground.

Thank you,
Lisa Austin

March 4, 2016

Kittitas County Community Development Services

Lindsey Ozbolt, Staff Contact

411 N. Ruby St. Suite 2

Ellensburg, WA 98926

Re: Yakima River Campground CU-15-00002, SD-1500001, SP-15-00001

We received the notice of application as we are adjacent property owners of the proposed campground development. Our home is on 8 acres of rural land with a barn and other outbuildings. Our acreage also consists of 60' of river front between the proposed campground to our east and the Washington State owned public fishing boat launch to the west.

This letter is against the proposed campground. The Conditional Use Permit approved in 1985 for a church camp was not intended to be used daily as it would be for the proposed campground. This campground proposal has many different aspects to it compared to a church camp CUP from 1985. The church camp was a controlled environment with minimal use, the proposed campground will be a semi controlled environment with continual use. As a neighbor and resident of this area I cannot imagine what it would be like to have a campground as a full time business on this wonderful part of the Yakima River. How will the developer keep campers from hiking through the woods onto private land upriver? How will the developer keep campers from crossing onto private land to the west? How will the developer keep transient campers safe from the wild flow of this portion of the Yakima River? How will the developer guarantee the pond on our property and possibly our water supply will not be effected by this new construction of roads and new water usage?

There are many reasons **not** to provide a "new" conditional use permit for a campground/RV park. The first being we as a society have come so far since 1985 that you wouldn't think a **campground** would be allowed to be built on the floodplain and floodway of the Yakima River! The second reason is the developer can't keep the many many motorists from oil and gas polluting the ground and groundwater which would contaminate the river and ultimately the fish and wildlife.

Traffic constantly going in and out at all hours of the night would mean lights from vehicles will be shining into our homes on a never ending cycle. Noise from campers

vehicles, people, pets, generators would be constant noise pollution to the peacefulness of the wildlife and neighbors on both sides of the Yakima River.

Firepits will be at each campsite, how would a fire be contained if a spark from the firepit caught a tree or brush on fire? The fire hydrants the proposed development plans to add would not be very useful to firefighters if they had to wait for the train to pass by so they could cross the RR tracks to get to the campground. There are a lot of trees and brush that the developer would leave as "natural" and if memory serves me correctly, the Taylor Bridge Fire, just to the east on highway 10 was started by a spark, that was a devastating fire.

The train travels past our home and the proposed campground sometimes 5 to 10 times a day. The railroad crossing to access the site of the proposed campground is a private crossing with no lights or arms to notify a car or pedestrian of the coming train. The interchange at highway 10 & highway 970 has many near miss accidents now, how will that be addressed by the county?

We enjoy and foster the wildlife that is abundant along the Yakima river. We watch osprey fishing, eagles soaring, beaver trails from the river to our pond, deer, elk, rabbit, skunk, turkey, quail and many more too numerous to mention. A campground of this proportion will displace these wild animals for sure on this side of the Yakima River. Please understand that we will not stand by and let this happen without voicing our concerns and opposition. We would like to be notified of any future developments and or meetings that we may attend.

Sincerely,

Robert and Lisa Austin

4610 Hwy 970

Cle Elum, Wa

email: laustin30@yahoo.com