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Kittitas County CDS

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Written Comments on CU-21-00003 April 23,2021
Ryegrass LPL Expansion

KCDS; Kittitas County Solid Waste; County Commissioners:

As a long time resident, tax payer, buisness persons, and owner of open space and range land in the shrub step areas adjacent to the existing limited use landfill and evaporation ponds I am submitting comments on the county's proposed land use project. We have been looking forward to the end of conditional land use established during our first years of occupying our ranch. The county has established the limited use landfill conditional use permit without any comments from residents as there were very few of us in the area. The large wind tower projects afforded us good neighbors and many measures that prevented and safe guarded the fragile eco system of the shrub step. The large migratory Quilomene elk herd has florished with rotational grazing for the existing open range. Every effort to preserve native heritage artifacts and native plants and wildlife were used. Not so for the County projects established or proposed through out our twenty two year tenure at Saddle Mountain.

We have worked with the state and county to fence and cross fence for our grazing and best use the natural range without destroying the nature of the shrub step. We have sage grouse populations, dwarf rabbits, tiny dwarf cacti, and of course the migrating and resident elk and deer. We have paid dearly, early in our ranching, with the loss of a prized stallion. This was entirely due to a non-compliant for profit, conditional use permit that the county had established and not monitored over the years. We have seen other conditional uses proposed on county properties in the shrub step that would have been environmentally and personally disasterous to our established residence and ranch. We believe that the county once again has pushed the intent of the conditional use permit beyond the definitions and beyond the sustainability of the area.

The limited landfill has allowed a large hay tarp company to dispose of vast quantities of non biodegradable poly heavy guage tarps. These are not used in construction, nor are they non hazardous to the environment. The conditional use of this landfill states that the county monitors all waste material that is disposed of at this site. This appears to be a gross neglect of the intent for a conditional use in an attempt to continue with a substatial monitary gain. The whole project charges per size and quantity of liquified waste product as well as construction debris and ...tarps. The evaporation pond solid waste is dispersed on other properties also in the county's perview. It is spread on land to the south and east. The land is cleared of the natural vegetation to make rate and ease of the biosolid disposal. This has created pasture like land where the elk herds bed down between Vantage hwy and I-90, attacking the elk toward the major highway. All these concerns as well as the county's description of our open range and shrub step as not ecologically sensitive brings me to the conclusion once again that the county is not good stewards of the lands they use/own. By the use of conditional land permits they have allowed themselves to thwart the intended uses of open spance forest and range land to their benefit and prosperity.

We are a rural neighbourhood now. Sageland properties has invested much to keep the new residential area open and pristine. New houses are being built and occupied surrounding all the county and wind tower projects. Ground water flows from the high elevation here at the ryegrass summit between basalt layers and feeds wells in the area and down hill from the summit. This area is valued by

the people who have chosen to enjoy the wilderness and beauty of the open spaces the DNR and DFW afford us to recreate on and enjoy. It seems that the county does not share in our concerns regarding the open spaces and what that means in forest and range land use. If the county showed any regard for the growth and development of contiguous land uses they would close the existing landfill as planned and discontinue the destructive environmental usage they have permitted themselves to have profits on for these many years. Kittitas County will continue to seek profits from their investments in tracts of land that they have in fact been able to pay off many times in the uses over the years. The neighbourhood is changing and I and my neighbors all consider landfill and dumping to be non sustainable and definitely do not agree that we should increase the size of the new landfill area. This will bring more traffic, gross smell, and ecologically unsound practices of the existing dump. As a residence of many years I have been looking forward to the end of this conditional land use permit and definitely oppose the continued practices of Kittitas County. Please continue to MAIL decisions and PUBLIC hearing notices to my above address.

Kind Regards,
Christine and Jeffery McCroskey
Saddle Mountain Ranch