

From: [Downes, Scott G \(DFW\)](#)
To: [Jeremiah Cromie](#)
Cc: [Jeremy Johnston](#); [Torrey, Elizabeth M \(DFW\)](#)
Subject: RE: CU-21-00003 Ryegrass LPL Expansion - Notice of SEPA Action & Public Hearing
Date: Tuesday, June 29, 2021 8:50:52 AM

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Ok. Thank you. I just didn't see it in the DNS, so thank you for pointing it out to me. I might suggest that the wording "after the landfill is closed" be replaced by "after the portion of the landfill expansion referenced in this permit is closed (or some portion of that)". Otherwise, the applicant could take that to mean they don't have to do this until after the entire landfill is closed.

Scott Downes

Fish & Wildlife Habitat Biologist
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Region 3 Habitat Program
1701 South 24th Ave
Yakima, WA 98902-5720
Scott.Downes@dfw.wa.gov
Office-509-457-9307
Cell-509-607-3578

From: Jeremiah Cromie <jeremiah.cromie@co.kittitas.wa.us>
Sent: Tuesday, June 29, 2021 8:47 AM
To: Downes, Scott G (DFW) <Scott.Downes@dfw.wa.gov>
Cc: Jeremy Johnston <jeremy.johnston@co.kittitas.wa.us>; Torrey, Elizabeth M (DFW) <Elizabeth.Torrey@dfw.wa.gov>
Subject: RE: CU-21-00003 Ryegrass LPL Expansion - Notice of SEPA Action & Public Hearing

External Email

Scott,

We did not ignore your comments. We have the following condition as one of the conditions for the conditional use permit:

After the landfill is closed, the covering of the landfill shall be replanted with shrubsteppe and other native vegetation as part of a restoration plan to improve habitat in the area in coordination with

Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife.

Let me know if you have any issues with that or have other language you would want us to use.

Thanks.

Jeremiah Cromie
Planner I
Kittitas County
Community Development Services
411 N. Ruby Street; Suite 2
Ellensburg, WA 98926
Office: 509-962-7046
jeremiah.cromie@co.kittitas.wa.us

Please Note: In an effort to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 and the Governor's "Healthy Washington- Roadmap to Recovery" reopening plan, Kittitas County Community Development Services is currently in Phase 3 and is open to the public in a limited capacity. At this time many of us are on a rotating schedule working from home and in the office; during this time I will do my best to respond to you as promptly as possible.

From: Downes, Scott G (DFW) <Scott.Downes@dfw.wa.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, June 29, 2021 8:07 AM

To: Jeremiah Cromie <jeremiah.cromie@co.kittitas.wa.us>

Cc: Jeremy Johnston <jeremy.johnston@co.kittitas.wa.us>; Torrey, Elizabeth M (DFW) <Elizabeth.Torrey@dfw.wa.gov>

Subject: RE: CU-21-00003 Ryegrass LPL Expansion - Notice of SEPA Action & Public Hearing

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Jeremiah,

In the DNS, I did not see the condition that the expansion area would be revegetated with native shrubsteppe vegetation as we discussed. Apology if it is listed elsewhere and I missed, but did not see it in the DNS. It is very important that any of these area be restored into native vegetation once they are finished. During our site visit it was identified that the site did not currently have shrubsteppe habitat but that was because it had already been cleared. The background habitat in this entire area is shrubsteppe and it is important to restore that state when the use is finished.

Also, it was brought to my attention that because we did not comment on the species included in

the SEPA checklist that was being concluded that WDFW did not see any errors in that list. That is not correct. We typically focus on the habitat impacts of the proposal rather than focusing if the species part of the checklist is correctly filled out. To make it clear though I did want to add a few notes on the species list here. The site is within mapped priority shrubsteppe habitat area and the site is within the current winter range of the elk herd and with the current range of multiple WA State Candidate shrubsteppe species such as Golden Eagle, Sagebrush Sparrow, Sage Thrasher, Loggerhead Shrike, Burrowing Owl, Townsend's Ground Squirrel and Black-tailed Jackrabbit. Though the populations are now reduced, the area historically would have been within the range of Greater Sage-Grouse and Ferruginous Hawk which are State Endangered (Grouse) and State Threatened-proposed for Endangered (Hawk).

Anyhow, wanted it on the record about the potential for priority species to occur on the site for the SEPA checklist and please either clarify that the revegetation requirement is included or please revise the DNS to include. The primary reason for the special status of these species is habitat loss, so hence our comments on not further removing existing shrubsteppe habitat and restoring areas to shrubsteppe habitat once they are finished.

Thanks,

Scott

Scott Downes

Fish & Wildlife Habitat Biologist
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Region 3 Habitat Program
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From: Jeremiah Cromie <jeremiah.cromie@co.kittitas.wa.us>

Sent: Thursday, June 24, 2021 9:29 AM

To: Mike Flory <mike.flory@co.kittitas.wa.us>; Downes, Scott G (DFW) <Scott.Downes@dfw.wa.gov>; Nelson, Jennifer L (DFW) <Jennifer.Nelson@dfw.wa.gov>; Torrey, Elizabeth M (DFW) <Elizabeth.Torrey@dfw.wa.gov>; ECY RE SEPA REGISTER <separegister@ecy.wa.gov>; Grieves, Kimberly <ksar461@ECY.WA.GOV>; RichElliott <elliotttr@kvfr.org>; Candie Leader <candie.leader@co.kittitas.wa.us>; Melissa Schumaier <melissa.schumaier@co.kittitas.wa.us>; Lisa Lawrence <lisa.lawrence@co.kittitas.wa.us>; Patti Stacey <patti.stacey@co.kittitas.wa.us>; isutton@parametrix.com; kseckel@parametrix.com; Jesse Cox <jesse.cox@co.kittitas.wa.us>; Holly Erdman <Holly.erdman@co.kittitas.wa.us>

Cc: sagehillshoa@gmail.com; jimandnancyharry@gmail.com; nelscharli1970@gmail.com; heatherp0416@gmail.com; sandrajaynedesigns@gmail.com; wafiregirl@gmail.com; mark_spisak@hotmail.com; Kelly Bacon (CD) <kelly.bacon.cd@co.kittitas.wa.us>; Rachael Stevie (CD) <rachael.stevie.cd@co.kittitas.wa.us>; Jeremy Johnston <jeremy.johnston@co.kittitas.wa.us>

Subject: CU-21-00003 Ryegrass LPL Expansion - Notice of SEPA Action & Public Hearing

External Email

Good morning,

Attached to this e-mail you will find:

- Notice of SEPA Action & Public Hearing
- SEPA Determination of Nonsignificance (DNS), and
- Instructional Materials for Public Hearing

Below are the links to all documents associated with the Ryegrass LPL Expansion Conditional Use Permit Application

[CU-21-00003 Ryegrass LPL Expansion - External](#)

[CU-21-00003 Ryegrass LPL Expansion - Internal](#)

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Thank you.

Jeremiah Cromie
Planner I
Kittitas County
Community Development Services
411 N. Ruby Street; Suite 2
Ellensburg, WA 98926
Office: 509-962-7046
jeremiah.cromie@co.kittitas.wa.us

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