



State of Washington
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

South Central Region • Region 3 • 1701 South 24th Avenue, Yakima, WA 98902-5720
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April 14, 2021

Jeremiah Cromie
Kittitas County Community Development Services
411 N. Ruby Street, Suite 2
Ellensburg, WA 98926

SUBJECT: WDFW COMMENTS ON CU-21-00003 Ryegrass LPL Expansion

Dear Mr. Cromie,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the CU-21-00003 Ryegrass LPL Expansion application concerning the expansion of the existing limited purpose landfill by Kittitas County Solid Waste. Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) has reviewed the application and supporting documents. Our comments are regarding the project's impact on priority fish and wildlife habitats, particularly shrubsteppe/sagebrush. In the previous application for this parcel, SE-20-00009 WDFW expressed concern over additional clearing of shrubsteppe and the MDNS noted that "additional clearing would require consultation with WDFW for potential mitigation" and "when fields are no longer being used for treatment they should be replanted with sagebrush".

While it appears that some of the expanded footprint is in previously disturbed areas, some of the project areas do appear to include shrubsteppe habitats. WDFW would like to request that the mitigation measures registered with SE-20-00009 should also be applied to this proposal and that WDFW should meet with the applicant to find ways to avoid existing sagebrush areas and in areas that are unavoidable, mitigation opportunities to restore other areas into sagebrush.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment and look forward to discussing this project further with the county and the applicant, ideally on site through a visit to understand habitat impacts and mitigation opportunities further. Please contact me at 509-607-3578 or Scott.Downes@dfw.wa.gov to discuss these concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Scott Downes".

Scott Downes
Area Habitat Biologist

Cc:

Elizabeth Torrey, WDFW
Jeremy Johnson, Kittitas County CDS