



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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October 26, 2016

Dusty Pilkington
Kittitas County Community Development Services, Planner I
411 North Ruby St., Suite 2
Ellensburg, WA 98926

RE: SE-16-00001 R&R Lands Road Improvement

Dear Mr. Pilkington,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the SEPA application for the R&R Lands Road Improvement. The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) has reviewed the SEPA application and supporting documents. The road in question for improvement crosses a stream that is currently listed as a Type N (non fish-bearing) stream. However, it appears that this stream type call has never been field verified by Washington Department of Natural Resources (WDNR), who maintains the official stream typing layer for Washington State. To accurately assess streams, they should be field verified and not relied on as a modeled call. As this site is very close to the modeled break between Type N and F waters (approximately 0.25 mile), it is possible that this road project crosses a Type F (fish-bearing) stream instead of a Type N stream.

The construction plans appear to indicate that the existing water crossing structures will not be replaced or repaired. However, the plans are unclear if any of the road improvement construction will affect the stream or its flow. If any aspect of the road improvement project involves the existing water crossing structures or construction near the stream may affect the bed or flow of the creek, WDFW requests that the stream be examined for the correct stream typing and the applicant may need to work with WDFW to review the construction plans for work near the stream. The review may include possibly applying for and obtaining a Hydraulic Project Approval (HPA) depending on the information determined during the review.

Please clarify with the applicant regarding the work near creek and contact me at (509) 457-9307 or Scott.downes@dfw.wa.gov, regarding these comments. I am also cc'ing Kittitas County Public Works as they are identified as the lead agency on this proposal.

Sincerely,

Scott Downes
Area Habitat Biologist

Cc: Brent Renfrow, WDFW
Mark Cook, Kittitas Co Public Works