



State of Washington
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

South Central Region • Ellensburg District Office • 201 N. Pearl St, Ellensburg, WA 98926
Telephone: (509) 962-3421 • Fax: (509) 575-2474

August 11, 2017

Dusty Pilkington
Kittitas County
Community Development Services
411 N. Ruby Street; Suite 2
Ellensburg, WA 98926

RE: WDFW comments on PD-16-00001 and LP-17-00004 MDJ Rezone and Long Plat near Currier Creek (Commons at Dry Creek)

Dear Mr. Pilkington,

The revised and updated proposed rezone and long plat (PD-16-00001 and LP-17-00004 MDJ) to create 34 new homes and associated infrastructure still does not address the probable significant environmental impacts associated with its approval and construction. Approval of this rezone and long plat as designed will result in additional homes and streets flooding and the desire to confine flood flows. Flood control features would damage critical areas and the fish and wildlife that depend on wetlands, floodplains, and the Currier Creek corridor. The proponents of this development and Kittitas County should demonstrate that there is no net loss of flood conveyance or storage and that the proposed development will not result in increased velocities that become more damaging to infrastructure or fish habitat as it reenters Currier Creek.

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) submitted concerns with this proposal in our May 23, 2017 letter with attachments; most of which have not yet been addressed. There is physical evidence supporting the presence of flood waters on this parcel on a regular basis and there is no acknowledgement or plans to address or otherwise mitigate these flood risks with the updated proposal. The Draft 2D Hydraulic Model produced as part of the Wilson/Naneum/Cherry Watershed Assessment for this location shows flood waters present in the swale up to about one foot deep (Figure 1) and is confirmed by the aerial and ground based photographs we previously submitted.

WDFW recommends an Environmental Impact Statement that includes detailed hydraulic modeling prior to approval of the rezone (PD-16-00001) and long plat (LP-17-00004) to address the significant environmental impacts likely to occur with this development as proposed.

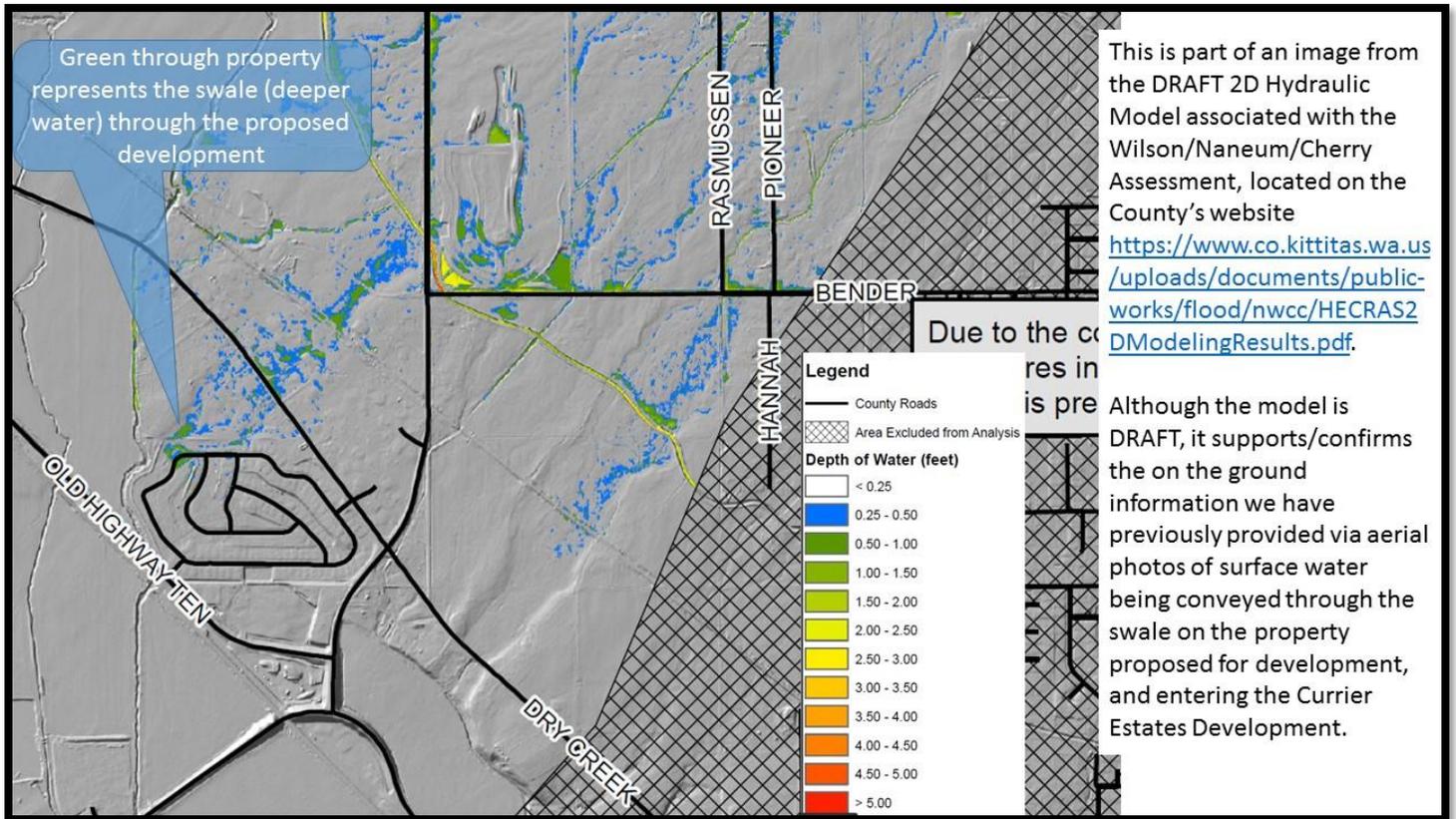


Figure 1. This image is taken from the draft 2D flood model available on the County’s website <https://www.co.kittitas.wa.us/uploads/documents/public-works/flood/nwcc/HECRAS2DModelingResults.pdf> with notes added by WDFW.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment and work with the proponents to meet their needs. Please feel free to contact me at (509) 962-3421 or Jennifer.nelson@dfw.wa.gov if you have any questions about these comments.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Nelson
Area Habitat Biologist