



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 22, 2022

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

SUBJECT: WDFW COMMENTS ON SP-22-00001 MORAZZ SHORT PLAT

Dear Ms. Bacon,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed short plat along Manastash Road, west of Cove Road. The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) is familiar with this area and nearby critical areas that should be considered as part of this review and determination process. We offer the following information for consideration to ensure the alluvial fan of Manastash Creek, its floodplain, and the associated critical areas are protected as the land uses change in this area.

Manastash Creek has been a priority for restoration of salmon and steelhead within the Upper Yakima Basin and we are seeing increased steelhead production from these efforts. While the proposed project is not immediately adjacent to Manastash Creek, it is within the alluvial fan and channel migration zone. This area is also an important wildlife corridor and property owners can expect to regularly encounter various species of wildlife including deer, bear, and cougars among other species.

It is important that new owners and residents are aware of available information to be well informed landowners. Public agencies, including Kittitas County, have partnered on this [Corridor Plan for Manastash Creek](#) and it includes information on flood reduction and habitat enhancement projects specific to this project area, Project Reach 8. [This report](#) also provides good information on existing and historic conditions throughout the Manastash Watershed. Both plans also map the observed flow paths from the 2011 flood event that spread across portions of the alluvial fan (Figure 1). It is important that these flow paths be acknowledged and preserved to prevent future flood damages. The information in these reports, FEMA maps and lidar imagery should be used to avoid and minimize changes to frequently flooded areas and/or geological hazard areas. WDFW recommends that these flow paths be avoided if possible and that new driveways or roads install culverts within the swales to maintain conveyance capacity during flood events.

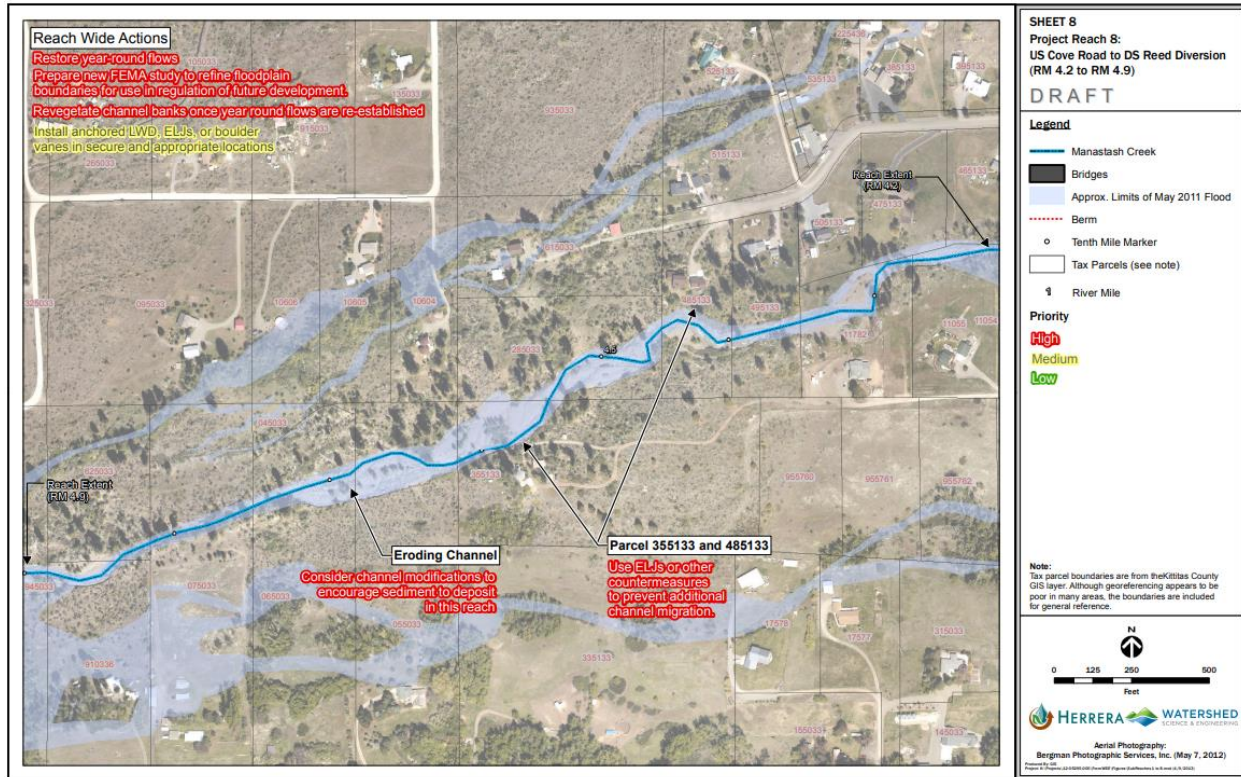


Figure 1. This image comes directly from the Corridor Plan for Manastash Creek and shows a flow path from the 2011 flood going through the northern portion of this property on the alluvial fan of Manastash Creek.

We welcome the opportunity to work with local landowners and help them understand the fish, wildlife and habitat around them. Thank you again for the opportunity to comment and please let me know if there are any questions or comments we can answer.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Nelson
Fish and Wildlife Biologist
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