



State of Washington
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

South Central Region • Ellensburg District Office • 1130 W. University Way, Ellensburg, WA 98926

November 1, 2023

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

SUBJECT: SP-23-00009 Sparks

Dear Mr. Gasawski,

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) has reviewed the application materials associated with the proposed Short Plat on Bowers Road. We recognize this is a non-project action, but it is important that all critical areas are evaluated properly to ensure the new lots created will have buildable areas that do not require variances from the critical area ordinance.

We appreciate the wetlands inventory report being made available for review, but the report was created in 2006 with survey work occurring during the winter months. This report is not relevant for determining whether wetlands are present on the site. Wetlands provide critical habitat for numerous fish and wildlife species, and particularly nesting shorebirds during the spring and early summer months in the Kittitas Valley. Whiskey Creek is a fish bearing stream located northwest of the project area so it is possible there are stream-associated wetlands nearby. We acknowledge the Cascade Irrigation District's canal is also located north of the property and provides irrigation water to the parcel that may result in irrigation induced wetlands. The information provided to date does not provide sufficient information about the potential for wetlands and how they may or may not impact future buildable spaces and/or septic locations.

The parcel is not within FEMA's regulatory floodplain, but it is not without flood risk. It is not uncommon for irrigation conveyance ditches to convey floodwater during flood events. We note that the proposed shared driveway easement near the middle of the existing parcel currently has a ditch running north to south. As the driveway is built out and parcels are developed, mitigation measures for water conveyance through the irrigation ditches should be considered to minimize flood risk to future infrastructure.

The WDFW recommends an updated critical area report and a water conveyance plan prior to approval of this short plat. Please feel free to contact me at (509) 961-6639 or Jennifer.nelson@dfw.wa.gov with any questions about these comments.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Nelson
Area Habitat Biologist