

December 20, 2023

KITTITAS COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

ATTN: ZACH TORRANCE-SMITH

RE: VP Clearing SE-23-00027

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Bob McLean, and I am the husband of Penelope McLean (Jones). The Lots owned are Lot 78 Plat #037035 and the back half of Lot 79, Plat #297035. I am submitting this to be part of the Public Comments due at 5:00 p.m. on December 21, 2023.

- My wife and I are appalled at the Applicant's total disregard of the neighbors in this community. I have been in the development business for over 50 years. My companies have developed and built throughout the Western United States, as well as Alaska and Hawaii. I have never seen a property developed in the manner that these builders have approached this project. They never once contacted their immediate neighbors. They conducted no investigation whatsoever in connection with their SEPA Checklist. They never employed any engineer or environmental company to assess the potential for damage to the surrounds.
- They have created an aesthetic nightmare for their neighbors by taking ALL of the trees off (clear cut) on all of the boundary lines. They even cut some trees on neighboring properties. It is my understanding that they did this without appropriate permits. A fine does not make this situation right. What was done is done for all time. They cannot be allowed to finish their clear cut without so much as a by your leave.
- Last fall, as they were cutting (apparently illegally) and creating burn piles, they started to burn their pile; no water trucks or fire protection resources were present. They left the site and a few hours later the pile literally exploded with flames reaching 30-50 feet. Fortunately a neighbor (Kirt Andes) saw the fire and called the local fire district. They came and put out the fire. After they departed Kirt and another neighbor, Phil, used a tractor to move

the debris and piled it up. This allowed them to place a water sprinkler on top of the pile in order to keep it wet through the night.

- We realize they have a right to build their home, but not at the expense of their neighbors and this community. At a minimum, they should be required to refurbish the boundary property lines with mature trees and vegetation in order to blend in with neighboring properties. No more clear cutting should be permitted. They must be compelled to be good stewards of the land and the neighborhood.
- The Applicant must be ordered to do more than plant “ten” trees to be monitored over 5 years. I was flabbergasted at the notion that this would be deemed to suffice. That is not mitigation. That is not even surface gloss.
- Has anybody looked at the road and the drainage issues? It appears not from the SEPA Checklist. I am no expert, but it does not take an expert to say: there has been flooding on and appurtenant to this property. They gutted the trees, and removed the ground cover and now the surface water and the spring water can combine to create a deluge. Where is all the unabated surface and spring water going to go?
- The attached pictures were taken of the property recently and I can personally identify them as being pictures of the Applicant’s property and Penny’s property. They show issues with the ingress and egress because of groundwater. The road has served this community well. Now the Applicant will be causing more degradation of the road with even more logging/clear cutting..
- We have included pictures but pictures cannot tell the whole story. My wife and I personally beseech you to visit this property. We have owned it for over 30 years and it means the world to us. This decision will affect a number of families who have valued this wilderness area for decades.



Please look at the huge channel developing.



There is not much ground cover left, is there?





We are not sure this is on Applicant's property. We do know that his loggers ripped up survey stakes and markers all over the place. We also know that Penny told the loggers they were cutting a tree on her property. They dismissed and ignored her.



This is a mess.



This is probably the stop clear-cutting notice; too little too late.



Hopefully, the fire department will be on call for all of their burning.





A steward. Old growth trees on perimeters.

Respectfully,

Bob McLean