



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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December 1, 2023

Zach Torrance-Smith
Kittitas County Community Development Services
411 N. Ruby Street, Suite 2
Ellensburg, WA 98926

SUBJECT: WDFW COMMENTS ON SE-23-00027

Dear Mr. Torrance-Smith,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on SE-23-00027 concerning the clearing of parcels #047035 and 057035. Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) has reviewed the application and supporting documents. WDFW was also part of a site review of this property on October 5, 2023 where there was clearing within the county designated riparian zone of Spring Creek, a fish-bearing creek.

During the October 5, 2023 site visit, there was agreement among those present including the landowner, Washington Department of Ecology, Washington Department of Natural Resources, WDFW, and Kittitas County that a mitigation plan needed to be prepared to address the unauthorized clearing of the riparian zone. While WDFW provided input on habitat elements we believe are appropriate to be in the mitigation plan, WDFW has not seen the final mitigation plan. WDFW requests to review and comment on the final mitigation plan, prior to approval of this proposal and that the final mitigation plan should be a condition of approval for this proposal.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment and look forward to discussing this further with the county and the applicant. Please contact me at 509-607-3578 or Scott.Downes@dfw.wa.gov to discuss these concerns.

Sincerely,

Scott Downes
Area Habitat Biologist

Cc:
Elizabeth Torrey, WDFW
Jamey Ayling, CDS