



State of Washington
Department of Fish and Wildlife

1701 South 24th Avenue • Yakima, Washington 98902-5720 • (509) 575-2740 FAX (509) 575-2474

February 26, 2015

Lindsey Ozbolt
Planner II
Community Development Services
411 North Ruby St., Suite 2
Ellensburg, WA 98926

RE: WDFW comments on Canyon Interpretive Center Proposal

Dear Ms. Ozbolt,

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) appreciates the opportunity to comment on the proposal to develop a Canyon Interpretive Center at Helen McCabe State Park. Our primary concerns with this proposal are maintaining (and improving when possible) the existing fish and wildlife resources and their habitats in and around Helen McCabe State Park. The entire park is within the 100 year floodplain and special care should be taken to minimize all impacts to Wilson Creek and Helen McCabe Pond. Helen McCabe Pond is erroneously referred to as “Unnamed Pond” in the submitted documents.

WDFW annually stocks about 2,000 catchable sized rainbow trout into Helen McCabe Pond between March and May. We also periodically stock juvenile channel catfish. The pond is a popular place for anglers and receives relatively heavy use from local residents. The Interpretive Center may increase fishing pressure at this pond. It is important to WDFW that we maintain this popular and productive fishery for the public.

We have concerns that the heat pump coils that will be placed in the pond will have unintended and negative impacts by increasing water temperatures in the spring and summer months. Additional thermal loading to the pond from the heat pump coils may raise water temperatures above the lethal limits for rainbow trout earlier in the season than they would normally occur. We also want to ensure that public fishing access is maintained and not restricted by the coils or construction and maintenance of the coils. We would like to see a thermal impact study for the heat pump coils to ensure that they will not have an adverse impact on water temperatures and subsequently the put and take trout fishery in Helen McCabe Pond.

It is unclear from the narrative and drawings where and how fill will be placed in Helen McCabe Pond. Please provide more detailed drawings for how construction of the heat pump coils and heat pump piping will be constructed through the riparian shoreline area and into the pond. Include the type of anchoring required and how deep the coils will be

in the water. Will soil and rock be used to cover the pipe leading to the underwater coils? If so, how will water quality (turbidity) be addressed during construction? Please avoid native riparian vegetation to the greatest extent possible and provide a restoration plan for short term and long term revegetation of the riparian vegetation around the heat pump pipes. Care should be taken to avoid spreading invasive plants such as Eurasian milfoil and yellow flag iris during construction.

If earthen fill is required to cover the pipe or portions of the coils in the pond, please ensure the fill is shaped to provide an American with Disabilities Act (ADA) fishing platform that anglers can use. WDFW will be happy to work with the proponents to help design such a structure.

We would prefer alternatives to placing the heat pump coils directly into the pond. It may be possible to dig a shallow pit separate from the pond for the coils. This would eliminate our concerns about water quality impacts and fishing access impacts to Helen McCabe Pond.

Please consider alternatives that will minimize impacts to water quality and public recreation in Helen McCabe Pond. WDFW looks forward to working with you as this project develops and promotes the fish, wildlife, and habitats unique to the Yakima River Canyon. If you have any questions, please contact Jennifer Nelson at jennifer.nelson@dfw.wa.gov or (509) 961-6639.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jennifer Nelson".

Jennifer Nelson
Habitat Biologist

Lindsey Ozbolt

From: Nelson, Jennifer L (DFW) <Jennifer.Nelson@dfw.wa.gov>
Sent: Thursday, February 26, 2015 2:54 PM
To: Lindsey Ozbolt
Cc: Renfrow, Brent D (DFW); Easterbrooks, John A (DFW); Anderson, Eric (DFW); Doug D'Hondt
Subject: RE: Notice of Application (SD-14-00004 & PF-14-00002) Canyon Interpretive Center
Attachments: WDFW SEPA comments on Interpretive Center.pdf

Lindsey,
Please find WDFW's comments on the Canyon Interpretive Center attached to this email. Let me know if you have any questions and thanks for the opportunity to comment.
Jen

Jennifer Nelson
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Habitat Program
201 N. Pearl Street
Ellensburg, WA 98926
(509) 961-6639 cell

From: Lindsey Ozbolt [mailto:lindsey.ozbolt@co.kittitas.wa.us]
Sent: Tuesday, January 27, 2015 4:02 PM
To: Hahn, Steve (PARKS); Brenda Larsen; Josh Hink; Kim Dawson; Julie Kjorsvik; Lisa Iammarino; Joe Gilbert; Holly Myers; Holly Duncan; Lisa Lawrence; Patti Johnson; Christina Wollman; Candie M. Leader; 'jessica@yakama.com' (jessica@yakama.com); 'jmarvin@yakama.com' (jmarvin@yakama.com); 'johnson@yakama.com' (johnson@yakama.com); 'Thalia Sachtleben (enviroreview@yakama.com)'; ECY RE SEPA REGISTER; ECY RE CRO SEPA COORDINATOR; Clear, Gwen (ECY); Renfrow, Brent D (DFW); Teske, Mark S (DFW); Nelson, Jennifer L (DFW); Kaehler, Gretchen (DAHP); 'jorgenja@cwu.edu' (jorgenja@cwu.edu); 'nelmsk@cwu.edu' (nelmsk@cwu.edu); Michael Flory; Lou Whitford; Mau, Russell E (DOH); HAZLETT, LINDA (DNR); Allison Kimball (brooksideconsulting@gmail.com); Stoner, Jana; 'jmarkell@kvnews.com' (jmarkell@kvnews.com); Johnston, Mike (DOHi); darren.habel@usace.army.mil; pubworks@ci.ellensburg.wa.us; comdev@ci.ellensburg.wa.us; energyservices@ci.ellensburg.wa.us; Dr. Paul Farris, Ellensburg School District; fwalker@eburg.wednet.edu; holmstr@wsdot.wa.gov; Kaiser, Mark (KaiserM@wsdot.wa.gov) (KaiserM@wsdot.wa.gov); Doug D'Hondt; RichElliott
Cc: Kaycee Hathaway; Doc Hansen; Jeff Watson
Subject: Notice of Application (SD-14-00004 & PF-14-00002) Canyon Interpretive Center

SD-14-00004 Canyon Interpretive Center

Kittitas County has received the above referenced land use application. Agencies within the county network may review the application master file via the above link. Agencies outside of the county network may view the related documentation by following this link: <http://www.co.kittitas.wa.us/cds/land-use/default.aspx> and opening the designated file by application number. Comments within the body of an email are encouraged, but may be submitted as attachments or via US Mail.

The written comment period for this proposal ends on February 26, 2015 at 5:00 p.m.

Lindsey Ozbolt
Planner II
Community Development Services
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Ellensburg, WA 98926
509.962.7637

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