



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

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September 28, 2018

Chelsea Benner
Kittitas County Community Development
411 N. Ruby St., Suite 2
Ellensburg, WA 98926

Re: SD-18-00001

Dear Ms. Benner:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment during the optional determination of nonsignificance process for the construction of a new bridge, proposed by Mitch and Julie Williams. We have reviewed the documents and have the following comments.

WATER QUALITY

Manastash Creek is a protected waterbody. The reach of Manastash Creek that includes the proposed new bridge site has documented summer water temperatures in exceedance of Washington State water quality standards, and is on Washington State's list of impaired waters. Therefore, any work completed on this stretch of the creek must maintain as much of the existing stream-shading vegetation as possible; in this case, the applicant should protect existing riparian vegetation wherever possible and install new native riparian vegetation as part of the project.

Manastash Creek is also included in the Upper Yakima River Basin Suspended Sediment, Turbidity, and Organochlorine Pesticide Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) water quality improvement program. Therefore, the proposed project will need to protect Manastash Creek from further degradation from sedimentation. Project planning and construction, and all future use of the site, needs to include water quality protection. The application does not state when the project will be completed; it will be preferable to construct the new bridge when flows in Manastash Creek are low, to avoid as much sediment pollution as possible.

Please contact **Jane Creech** at (509) 454-7860 or email at jton461@ecy.wa.gov if you have any questions or concerns about these Water Quality comments.

Sincerely,

Gwen Clear
Environmental Review Coordinator
Central Regional Office
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