



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

1250 W Alder St • Union Gap, WA 98903-0009 • (509) 575-2490

June 12, 2018

Dusty Pilkington
Kittitas County Community Development
411 N. Ruby St., Suite 2
Ellensburg, WA 98926

Re: SE-18-00005

Dear Mr. Pilkington:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Mitigated Determination of Nonsignificance SE-18-00005. We have reviewed the environmental checklist and have the following comments.

SHORELANDS

Kittitas County's Critical Areas Code, 17A.04.020, Wetland Buffers, recommends a 20 to 80 ft. wide vegetated buffer surrounding Category III wetlands. The Department of Ecology recommends the County request an 80' wide buffer surrounding each of the Category 3 wetlands. Ecology's recommendation is based on Best Available Science (BSA), our interagency guidance documents, the Habitat score of the previously reviewed wetland ratings, existing landuse intensity, the location of the site, and use of corridors in the area.

Ecology would require a 110' wide buffer for Category 3 wetlands that have a moderate Habitat score and a moderate intensity landuse. The existing landuse is considered either a moderate or high landuse intensity, due to the keeping of animals and regular maintenance. Ecology's buffer guidance documents assume the existing buffer is vegetated. The area surrounding Wetland A appears to be highly disturbed and lacks vegetation. The buffer width should be vegetated prior to the installation of the driveway. Without a planted buffer the driveway should be located even further away from the wetland. Planting the buffer will reduce noise, dust and other pollutants from entering the wetland, and provide structure adjacent to the wetland. The driveway should be located a minimum of 80' landward of the wetland boundary with at least 40' of it vegetated.

If you have any questions or would like to respond to these Shorelands comments, please contact Lori White at (509) 575-2616.

Sincerely,

Terra Burgess for Gwen Clear

Gwen Clear
Environmental Review Coordinator
Central Regional Office
(509) 575-2012

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