



State of Washington
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
South Central Region • Region 3 • 1701 South 24th Avenue, Yakima, WA 98902-5720
Telephone: (509) 575-2740 • Fax: (509) 575-2474

April 30, 2019

Dusty Pilkington
Planner I
Kittitas County Community Development Services
411 N. Ruby Street, Suite 2
Ellensburg, WA 98926

SUBJECT: WDFW COMMENTS ON SE-19-00007 WEIHL ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

Dear Mr. Pilkington,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed project SE-19-00007 "Weihl Road Improvement". The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) has several comments and questions about this project:

1. The attachment "PW Culvert Clarification Email, Taylor Gustafson" states that only one culvert will be replaced in this project. However, a review of the 90% submittal plan set indicates otherwise. On sheet 6, three culverts are slated for removal; on sheet 8, nine culverts are indicated for installation. Please clarify.
2. WDFW concurs that the installation of the nine culverts shown in the plan set are exempt from Hydraulic Project Approval regulation. However, we would like to offer the recommendation that you consider upsizing all culverts involved, most especially the culverts which run east-west under Weihl Road, as shown on sheets 8-11. On April 29, 2019, the single existing east-west culvert was measured as being 24" diameter. However, the plan sheet shows that the new culverts will be 18" CMP pipes, which means that the one existing pipe will be downsized. Although the number of culverts is increasing, WDFW has firsthand knowledge of the hydrology which can flow downhill towards Red Bridge Road (see Images 1-6). This information should be considered when designing and implementing the Weihl Road project.
3. We recommend that you utilize biotechnical soil stabilization techniques at the base of the east-west culverts where they emerge from the welded wire wall. The flow which will empty from these culverts has the potential to erode the ground at the base of the proposed wall. On sheet 5,

under “Culvert Detail”, quarry spalls are shown for placement beneath the installed culverts. However, we recommend placing a geotextile fabric square, covered with rounded cobbles and planted with willow or dogwood stakes, beneath the outfall of the culverts (see Image 7). This technique has been used to great success in preventing erosion on slopes which are subject to overland, non-channelized flow.

4. Thank you for including the silt fence detail on sheet 5. Please ensure that this silt fence is in place and maintained so as to protect the unnamed tributary prior to and during project activities.
5. The project boundary terminates immediately east of the culvert which carries the unnamed tributary beneath Loping Lane. However, we observe that this culvert is undersized (3’ diameter culvert in a 6’ bank full width channel) and perched with a plunge pool on the downstream end. This culvert should be considered for future correction.
6. The plan set indicates places of “ditch area/restoration area”. However, beyond hydro seeding, no additional information on restoration is provided. WDFW would like to request that you utilize appropriate native seeds from species such as Bluebunch wheatgrass, Sandberg bluegrass, and others. Installing native shrubs will also assist with restoration and soil cohesion. We would be happy to provide planting recommendations if more information is desired.

Thank you again for the opportunity to participate in the SEPA process. Please contact me to discuss WDFW’s recommendations or any of the other comments presented within this letter.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth Torrey
Assistant Regional Habitat Program Manager
Elizabeth.Torrey@dfw.wa.gov
509-607-6711



Image 1: Photo taken from Red Bridge Road facing north up the ridge, taken January 2009.

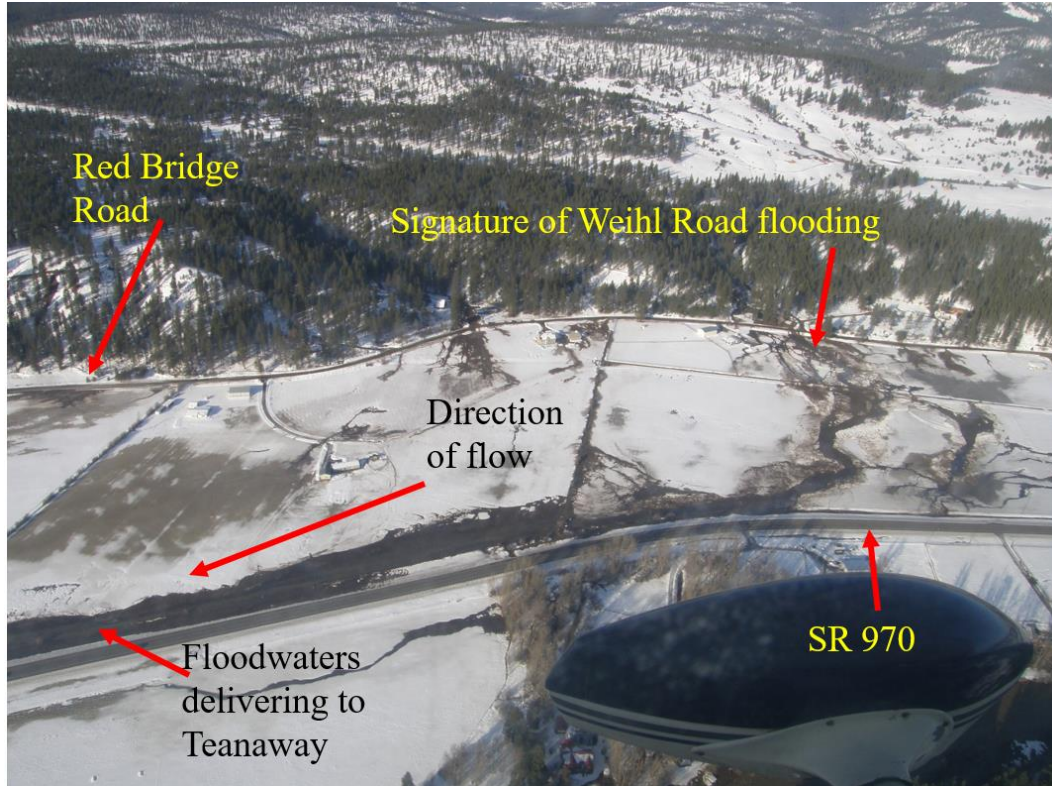


Image 2: Photo taken in January 2009 which shows the floodwaters originating from Weihl Road.

Photo taken from Red Bridge Rd at Weihl Rd. January 09. Muddy water flooding road and fields delivering to Teanaway River.

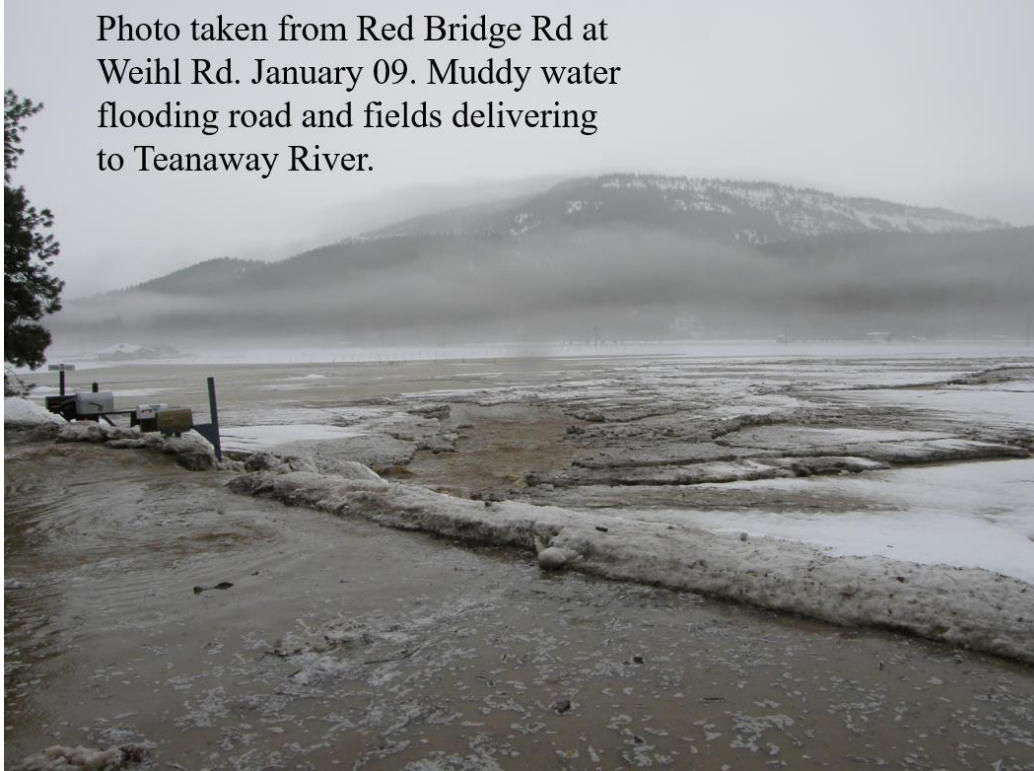


Image 3: Ground level photograph of flood waters running down Weihl Road. Photographer standing on Red Bridge Road.



Image 4: Alternative photo of Weihl Road flooding, January 2009.



Intersection of Red
Bridge Rd. and Weihl
Rd. January 2009

Image 5: Second alternative photo of Weihl Road flooding.



Image 6: Third alternative photo of Weihl Road flooding.

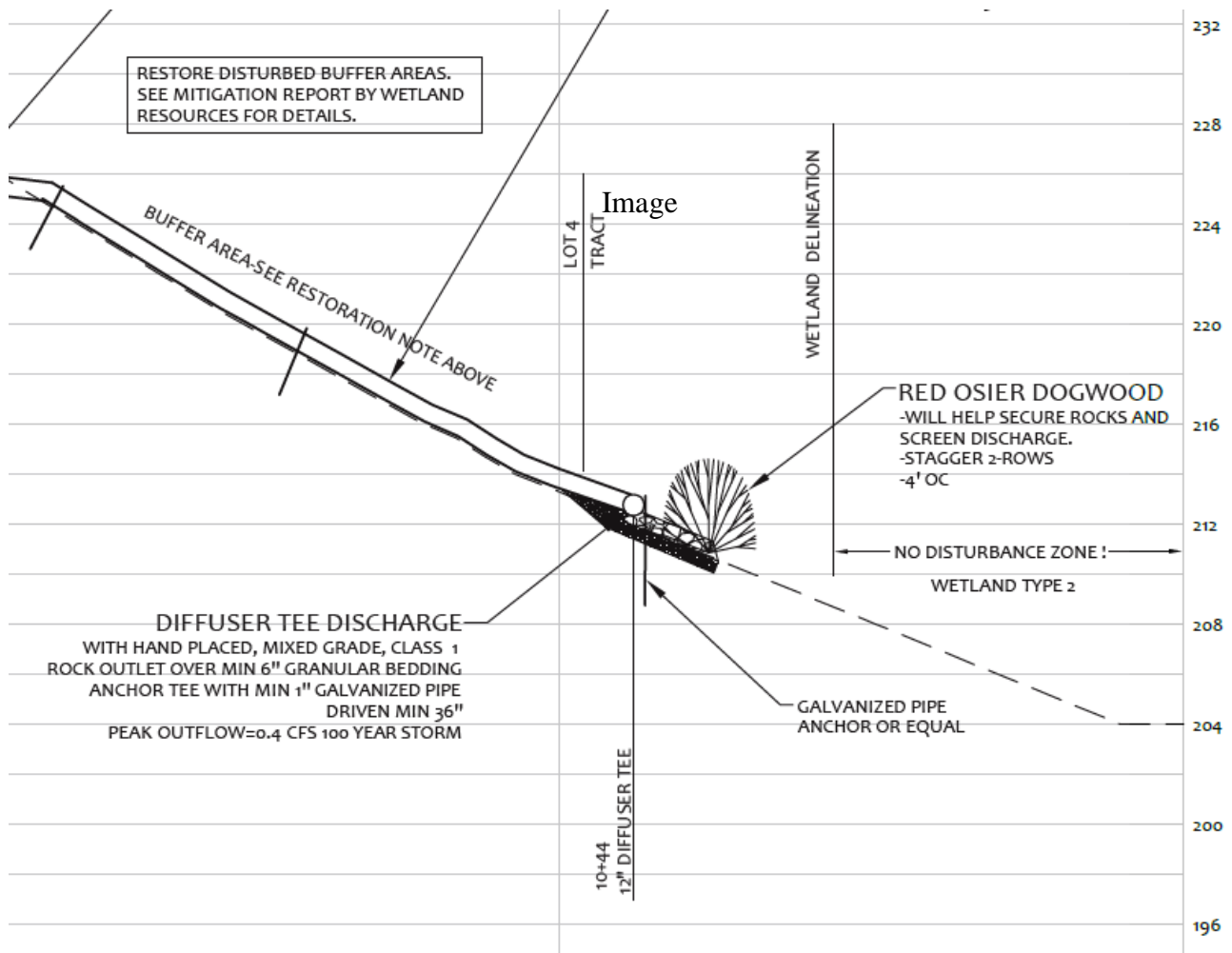


Image 7: Example schematic of a biotechnical approach to outfall stabilization using cobbles and native shrubs.