



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

1250 West Alder Street • Union Gap, Washington 98903-0009 • (509) 575-2490

September 1, 2020

Kelly Bacon
Kittitas County Community Development

SENT VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Re: SE-20-00003

Dear Kelly Bacon:

Thank you for providing the Department of Ecology (Ecology) the opportunity to review the mitigated determination of non-significance for the construction of two storage ponds to hold septage, proposed by Brown & Jackson, Inc. The Department of Ecology's (Ecology) Shorelands and Environmental Assistance (SEA) Program has reviewed the documents and provides the following comments:

We have conducted a desk review using current and historical aerial imagery, soil maps, and National Wetland Inventory (NWI) data maps. Park Creek and an ephemeral/intermittent streams cross through the property. The property is situated at the bottom of Whiskey Dick Mountain and a footfill.

The collective information suggests a wetland could occur within the parcel boundary at the bottom of the foothill (see Image 1 below; area outlined in white). It appears development of the parcel in this particular area, could impact potential wetland and buffer habitats.

Ecology recommends the County request a wetland investigation be conducted prior to the mitigated determination of non-significance issuance. Per Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 90.48.030, the Department of Ecology has authority to control and prevent pollution of waters of the State. Therefore, Ecology has the ability to request a copy of the wetland delineation conducted on the site to prevent the pollution of state waters.

Any wetland habitat found on (or adjacent to) the parcel should be rated using the 2014 Update for the Washington State Wetland Rating System for Eastern Washington (Hruby, 2014). Rating scores will be used to determine the width of the County's required upland buffer surrounding any delineated wetlands per the County's Critical Area Code, which has an intent and purpose to designate, protect, and maintain functions of critical areas within the County. All rating forms should be submitted for review prior to approval in order to verify wetland categories, wetland buffer requirements, and wetland mitigation ratio requirements.

Kelly Bacon
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September 1, 2020
Page 2 of 3

Mitigation sequencing must be used to avoid and minimize direct and indirect impacts to wetlands.

In the event impacts to wetlands and wetland buffers are unavoidable, a compensatory mitigation and monitoring plan must be submitted to the County, Ecology, and the U.S. Army of Corps of Engineers (Corps) for review and consideration.

Discharges into Waters of the State (includes wetlands) are regulated by the State under the Water Pollution Control Act, RCW 90.48 and Section 401 of the Clean Water Act and could require Ecology's review and authorization.

In order to minimize construction impacts on wetlands, Best Management Practices (BMPs) for sediment and erosion control should be implemented. This should include functional silt fences, and immediate revegetation and mulching.

Placement of fill in wetlands may require an individual or general (nationwide) permit from the U.S. Army of Corps of Engineers (Corps). We advise the applicant to contact the Corps to determine if a permit is needed.

Please contact me at (509)575-2616 or lori.white@ecy.wa.gov should you have any questions or would like to discuss the above comments. Ecology staff would be available to conduct a joint site visit with the County and provide technical assistance by reviewing wetland delineations, ratings, and providing recommendations.

Sincerely,



Lori White
Wetland/Shoreland/Federal Permit Specialist
Shorelands and Environmental Assistance Program

ec: Sage Park, Dept. of Ecology, Central Regional Director
Scott Downs, Dept. of Fish & Wildlife
Gwen Clear, Dept. of Ecology, SEPA Coordinator



Image 1. Potential wetland area outlined in white