



Allyson Brooks Ph.D., Director
State Historic Preservation Officer

September 26, 2023

Chace Pedersen
Planner I
Kittitas County
411 N. Ruby Street; Suite 2
Ellensburg, WA98926

In future correspondence please refer to:
Project Tracking Code: 2023-09-06050
Property: Kittitas County_Ritter Access Road (SE-23-00016)
Re: Survey Requested

Dear Chace Pedersen:

Thank you for contacting the Washington State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) and Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP) and providing documentation regarding the above referenced project. These comments are based on the information available at the time of this review and on behalf of the SHPO in conformance Washington State law. Should additional information become available, our assessment may be revised.

Our statewide predictive model indicates that there is a high probability of encountering cultural resources within the proposed project area. This is due, in part, to the presence of multiple sources of fresh water near the proposed project area. Further, the scale of the proposed ground disturbing actions would destroy any archaeological resources present. Identification during construction is not a recommended detection method because inadvertent discoveries often result in costly construction delays and damage to the resource. Therefore, we recommend a professional archaeological survey of the project area be conducted and a report be produced prior to ground disturbing activities. This report should meet DAHP's [Standards for Cultural Resource Reporting](#).

We also recommend that any historic buildings or structures (45 years in age or older) located within the project area are evaluated for eligibility for listing in the National Register of Historic Places on Historic Property Inventory (HPI) forms. We highly encourage the SEPA lead agency to ensure that these evaluations are written by a cultural resource professional meeting the [SOI Professional Qualification Standards in Architectural History](#).

Please note that the recommendations provided in this letter reflect only the opinions of DAHP. Any interested Tribes may have different recommendations. We appreciate receiving any correspondence or comments from Tribes or other parties concerning cultural resource issues that you receive.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this project. Please ensure that the DAHP Project Tracking Number is shared with any hired cultural resource consultants and is attached to any



communications or submitted reports. Please also ensure that any reports, site forms, and/or historic property inventory (HPI) forms are uploaded to WISAARD by the consultant(s).

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sydney Hanson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Sydney Hanson, M.A.
Local Government Archaeologist
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Sydney.Hanson@dahp.wa.gov

