



State of Washington  
**DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE**

South Central Region • Ellensburg District Office • 1130 W. University Way, Ellensburg, WA  
98926

September 25, 2023

Chace Pedersen  
Kittitas County  
Community Development Services  
501 North Anderson Street  
Ellensburg, WA 98926

**SUBJECT: SE-23-00016 Ritter Access Road**

Dear Mr. Pedersen,

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) is familiar with this area and habitat as the property is located between Mercer Creek to the west and Wilson Creek to the east. There are several potential critical areas near the project area and we look forward to reviewing the critical areas report referenced in the SEPA checklist.

This project area is within the alluvial fan of the Wilson-Naneum Watershed. The Kittitas Reclamation District (KRD) canal north of the project area passes Mercer Creek and Wilson Creek through their canal and the KRD delivers irrigation water to this project area. During flood events, it is possible that all natural stream channels and irrigation delivery ditches will be conveying flood water. The design of the access road, berms and culverts may interrupt these flows and change the distribution of water during high and/or low flow conditions on this property and potentially other nearby parcels.

We encourage further review of how the road, as proposed, may impact critical areas such as frequently flooded areas and wetlands.

Please feel free to contact me at (509) 961-6639 or [Jennifer.nelson@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:Jennifer.nelson@dfw.wa.gov) if you have any questions about these comments.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Nelson  
Area Habitat Biologist