

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

September 12, 2016

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

RE: VA-16-00001 Mostofi Setback Variance

Dear Mr. Pilkington,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this variance request. The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) has reviewed the variance request application and supporting documents. The subject land is located along East Kachess Road along the eastern shore of Lake Kachess. The applicant is looking to develop the lot that is near to the Lake Kachess shoreline and the perennial stream that is located to the north of the parcel.

Within the area proposed for building, the perennial stream to the north of the building site is fish bearing and given its close proximity to Lake Kachess could have potential for use by a variety of fish species, including Bull Trout, a listed species. Thus, WDFW requests that the 100 foot minimum buffer for the stream and the shoreline be left in place. These are the main concerns that WDFW has with this variance.

Please contact me at (509) 457-9307 or <u>Scott.downes@dfw.wa.gov</u>, if you have any questions or concerns regarding these comments.

Sincerely,

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Scott Downes Area Habitat Biologist

Cc: Brent Renfrow, WDFW