



Kittitas County, Washington

## BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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January 8, 2014

Mr. Bob Ziegler  
WDFW SEPA Coordinator  
600 Capitol Way North.  
Olympia, WA 98501-1091

Re: WDFW SEPA DNS 13-082 – Whisky Dick Wildlife Area Seasonal Road Closure

Dear Mr. Ziegler,

Thank You for the opportunity to comment on the current SEPA document for Whisky Dick. This closure has been ongoing for several years and came to the attention of the Board of County Commissioners nearly a year ago. Following a meeting with some of the local Region staff there was apparently a decision to place this area into a current planning process with the Department of Natural Resources known as the “Naneum to Columbia” study. We have encouraged our local citizens to actively participate in this more global concept. This process is not yet completed, however there are some developing alternatives for presentation in the spring of 2014.

It is surprising to see that WDFW has chosen to withdraw from the process that it chose to voluntarily enter and to pursue yet another “temporary” closure independent from the planning process and prior to any decisions on road management for this area.

There are a number of concerns that present themselves to this proposal:

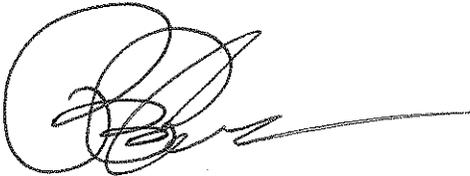
**Question 7 in the SEPA checklist;** Has WDFW withdrawn from the formal process to pursue an agenda of previous years? If not how can a SEPA decision simply be timed to expire following a set period of time? SEPA decisions remain intact indefinitely unless there is a change in law or a new proposal comes forward. The concern here is that a DNS decision could be construed to be in effect beyond April of 2014. Or is this a “phase” of a larger project? This requires more disclosure.

**Question 10;** There is a statement in this question that indicates that the proposed road to remain open will require permission from Washington State Parks to accept the responsibility to unlock a gate that currently blocks access to the road that your Agency proposes to have available to the recreating public. Has this been vetted through State Parks or will it be a literal “roadblock”? Will an additional SEPA be required by Washington State Parks before the road can be opened?

**Land and Shoreline;** There is an indication that both the Department of Natural Resources and BLM have land and possibly roads that are included in the proposal. Have they been consulted and do they support the proposal and are they involved with this SEPA process?

We would be happy to answer any questions or provide information with respect to this proposal.

Sincerely



Paul Jewell  
Chairman



Gary Berndt  
Vice-Chairman



Obie O'Brien  
Commissioner