From: Hal & Gloria Lindstrom
To: Wood, Lisa (DFW)
Subject: DNS 14-059 Kittitas Audubon Comment
Date: Friday, September 12, 2014 7:58:19 AM

From:
Kittitas Audubon
P.O. Box 1443
Ellensburg, WA 98926

Reference to: (DNS) 14-059

Dear Ms. Wood,

First, news about this proposal comes second hand, and only by chance within the past week did we become aware of it. Kittitas Audubon commented extensively on both the Naneum Ridge to Columbia River Recreation Area (NRCCRA) and WDFW's earlier DNS assignment to opening the road into Whiskey Dick through WA Dept of Parks land at Vantage. It follows that another road-building plan with another DNS assigned to it would raise serious issues with people who had made a significant effort to be involved in the earlier proposal. Particularly since there was no evident consideration of the many issues KAS raised in its comment on the Whiskey Dick DNS that we felt coincided with those values that we assumed WDFW espoused; issues that pertain in part to the new road construction.

The proposed road in Stray Gulch, so near to the road that WDFW closed to protect Tekison Creek, would carry the same environmental hazards as the one you closed. The site is part of a large unroaded area in the Colockum; why this bent to continue adding roads to the complex of Wildlife Areas that are already so very heavily roaded? KAS is aware that the Department is reacting to the self interests of a group, whose members are heavily into motorized recreation, and who petitioned the Legislature to require another road be built to compensate the road that was closed. Surely this requirement can be met in a more environmentally suitable way – there are near 250,000 acres from which to choose. Assumedly there are potential sites where the biological/ecological criteria is more favorable for a road than the "low suitability" assigned to Stray Gulch.

There's something disturbing about WDFW's persistence in support of roads and further road building that is so contrary to what most consider to be its central mission of protecting and promoting wildlife – a role that has predominantly to do with protecting habitat.

Kittitas Audubon urges WDFW to abandon this proposal and develop a more suitable one.

Kittitas Audubon Society
Tom Gauron, President