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To: [SEPADesk2 \(DFW\)](#)
Subject: Responses for Kettle River Access SEPA Comments
Date: Monday, August 13, 2018 2:32:16 PM

WDFW Response To Kettle River Access Project SEPA Comment Letters:

Thank-you for the comment letters received for the proposed Kettle River Access. There have been 13 comments letters, 1 from Washington Department of Ecology and 12 from private individuals. The letter from Ecology has already been responded to in a separate email. I would like to use this email to respond to the 12 comments received from private parties. They can be summarized as thus:

Chris Wilke	In support – public access will increase public support for stream protection.
Aurora Bennet	In support – gives full support
Mike Lithgow	In support – will provide safe and controlled public access.
Bill Way, President of Northeast Washington Trailblazers	In support – as will enhance recreational use of the Kettle River.
Bob Whittaker, President of Ferry County Rail Trail Partners	In support – local resident, says this project will bring wanted recreational opportunities to an under-utilized limited access area. Will improve tourism opportunities and economic benefits.
John Magoteaux, former member of Kettle River Task Force	In support – local resident, notes this project will help accommodate expanding recreational use and protect private property.
Patricia Crane	In support – local resident who recreates on this river and sees large need for more public access.
Bill O’ Bryan	In support – river needs more access.
Louis Sorenson	In support – appreciates access to rivers and lakes and believes this project will add value to visitors and locals.
Mike Petersen, Executive Director of The Lands Council	In support - this area is undeveloped and The Lands Council supports providing more access for users. Vault toilets would also protect the health and integrity of the Kettle River.
Russell and Deborah Anthes	In support – local residents who fully support the project.
Ciel Sander, permanent resident of B.C. and USA Citizen	Disapproves - says project should not be built in 100 year floodplain. This project will have a negative impact on fish stocks and area does not need more fishing pressure. Notes WDFW should consult with Province of B.C. Ministries first. Concerned with vegetation removal and effects on climate change, and believes WDFW should consult with Canadian Tribes. Also notes Customs Road provides access to this area and that locations along that road should be explored first.

WDFW appreciates those indicating strong support for this project and has pursued this project due to a strong public desire for enhanced public access in this section of the Kettle River.

In response to the concerns raised by this project:

1. WDFW will construct elements of the project in accordance to Ferry County building standards which includes special conditions required when building in a floodplain. This conditions are intended to ensure the viability of the construction and protect of natural resources.
2. WDFW fish biologist monitor the status native fish stocks in this area as well as existing fishing pressure and harvest. Fishing regulations are set by prioritizing conservation of native stocks first and allowing fishing opportunity when possible. Providing additional public access for a diversified group of recreational users will not automatically result in higher fish take. WDFW will continue to monitor fishing effort and stock status and manage conservatively.
3. Plantings will be done to mitigate for vegetation removal.
4. Cultural resource consultation with affected Tribes will be performed in accordance with U.S. law.

Thank-you again for your comment letters and for your support of this project!

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