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July 8, 2020

**Attention: David Moore**  
US Army Corps of Engineers  
Seattle Regulatory Branch  
P.O. Box 3755  
Seattle, WA 98124

**Subject: Endangered Species Act No Effect Letter  
Kittitas County Solid Waste  
Kittitas County Transfer Station and Maintenance Facility Relocation Project**

Dear Mr. Moore,

Kittitas County Solid Waste (County) is proposing to construct a new transfer station and relocate the Public Works Maintenance Facility in Ellensburg, Washington. The conceptual design for the Transfer Station covers an approximate 25-acre area with 4,000 feet of roadway, 51,000 square feet of stormwater ponds, 13,000 square feet of containment contact water ponds in the composting area, and six stand-alone buildings. The Maintenance Facility would be constructed on approximately 11 acres and will accommodate County road maintenance equipment and personnel. Storage of winter sand and aggregate materials would occur on site. Routine equipment maintenance would be performed at this location. The County has future plans for a fueling facility, but construction of an underground storage tank is not planned at this time. The proposed project will also include construction of a minor collector road to serve the new facilities and improvements to U.S. Highway 97.

The project will likely begin in September 2020 with roadway construction and utility work on US 97 and a new minor collector road. Final design and construction of the Transfer Station and Maintenance Facility will continue through 2024. There is no in-water work proposed in any regulatory water body.

We have prepared this assessment on behalf of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to meet the Section 7 requirements of the Endangered Species Act (ESA). U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) ESA listed species and designated critical habitats are addressed. We also evaluated the presence of Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) as indicated in the Magnuson Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson Stevens Act). The federal nexus for this project is the need for a Corps permit.

The USFWS species list was accessed via iPAC and NMFS species lists were accessed via their websites on July 8, 2020. These indicated the project occurs within the range of the species and critical habitat shown in Table 1.

Table 1. USFWS and NMFS listed species and critical habitat potentially present in the project area<sup>1</sup>

Scientific Name	Common Name	Federal Status <sup>2</sup>	Potential to Occur
<b>Birds</b>			
<i>Brachyramphus marmoratus</i>	Marbled murrelet	LT	No suitable habitat present. Location is outside of final critical habitat designated for this species.
<i>Coccyzus americanus</i>	Yellow-Billed Cuckoo	LT	No suitable habitat present. Location is outside of final critical habitat designated for this species.
<b>Fish</b>			
<i>Salvelinus confluentus</i>	Bull Trout (Columbia River DPS)	LT	No suitable habitat present. Project will not impact designated critical habitat for this species.
<i>Oncorhynchus mykiss</i>	Steelhead – Middle Columbia River (MCR) Summer - run DPS	LT	No suitable habitat present. Project will not impact designated critical habitat for this species.
<b>Mammals</b>			
<i>Lynx Canadensis</i>	Canada Lynx	LT	No suitable habitat present. Location is outside of final critical habitat designated for this species.
<i>Canis lupus</i>	Gray Wolf	LE	No suitable habitat present. Location is outside of final critical habitat designated for this species.
<i>Gulo lustus</i>	North American Wolverine	PT	No suitable habitat present. No critical habitat has been designated for this species.

<sup>1</sup>Sources: USFWS, 2018; NOAA, 2019.

<sup>2</sup> Status Codes:

LE = Listed Endangered

LT = Listed Threatened

PT = Proposed Threatened

The project is located at 47.016181°N, -120.590401°W at the southeast corner of the intersection of US 97 and Old Highway 10 (see attached vicinity map) in Kittitas County, section 28 in Township 18 N., Range 18 E.W.M. Construction will include the following project elements:

- Transfer Station:** The purpose of the new Transfer Station is to replace the existing Transfer Station in Ellensburg to address existing facility limitations, flooding from Wilson Creek, and support a growing community. The relocated transfer station would serve both county residents and commercial haulers. The existing facility handles solid waste, recyclables, moderate risk waste, and makes compost from yard waste. A new location was chosen by an extensive site screening and selection process.

- **Maintenance Facility:** The Maintenance Facility would replace the existing Lower County Public Works Maintenance Facility. That facility was experiencing adjacent land use conflicts and has become too small. The new facility will be designed to meet the needs of the growing population in Kittitas County
- **Minor Collector Road:** The minor collector road will be located along the southern site boundary. A 64-foot right-of-way was established on the centerline of the southern boundary to accommodate this road. The purpose of the minor collector road is to achieve the connectivity goals of the Ellensburg Comprehensive Plan. Kittitas County will construct the half-street improvements and full roadway improvements needed to accommodate vehicle and truck traffic. The paved portion will measure 22 feet with an additional 13 feet of curb/gutter, sidewalks (separated from the curb), street lighting, permanent signage, storm drainages, and other items associated with minimum public improvements consistent with Public Works Development Standards.
- **US 97 Improvements:** US-97 will be upgraded with half street improvements along the eastern frontage and widened to the standards of a principle arterial. The current footprint of US-97 is 38 feet. The designated ROW would eventually be 104-feet. The paved roadway will be widened 35 feet to add a second travel lane, turn lane, and bike lane. Street improvements will include concrete curb/gutter, sidewalks (separated from the curb), street lighting, permanent signage, asphalt, asphalt markings, gravel base, storm drainage, and other items associated with minimum public improvements consistent with Public Works Development Standards. Utilities will be buried beneath the street improvements, adjacent to the US-97 roadway. While the utilities and roadway widening will happen during construction of the minor collector, the remaining street improvements would be deferred until the Maintenance Facility is designed.

Noise from construction equipment will likely be the primary source of terrestrial disturbance. Equipment to be used will include, but is not limited to: concrete trucks, cranes, dump trucks, excavators, front loaders, dozers, backhoes, cranes, and generators. The project action area includes a terrestrial zone of impact that extends ¼-mile from the project area due to elevated noise.

There is no aquatic zone of impact in any regulatory water body. Hydrology in the irrigation ditches is mostly return flows from surface irrigation or diverted flows that are either screened or run through several weir boxes. In addition, there is no hydraulic connectivity to any surface water with listed fish presence downstream. Water from the ditches flows through several long culverts under industrial areas and truck stops before discharging to a downstream irrigation lateral. Fish can not access the project area.

A field review of the project site was conducted on April 2, 2019 by Craig Broadhead, Jacobs program manager. Land use in the vicinity of the project area consists of agriculture and low-density rural residences. There is no terrestrial or aquatic habitat for any listed species in the action area.

**Canada lynx and North American Wolverine:** Canada lynx and wolverine require relatively undisturbed high-elevation montane forests. The project is within a low elevation agricultural area with no forested habitat. The actions will have **No Effect** on Canada lynx because the action area does not contain suitable habitat for this species. Provisionally, these actions will not jeopardize the continued existence of wolverine. Should wolverine be listed prior to the completion of the actions,



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the actions will have No Effect on wolverine because the action area does not contain suitable wolverine habitat.

**Gray wolf:** Gray wolves are associated with mid- to high-elevation habitat with an abundance of prey species. The project is within a low elevation agricultural area that is primarily low-density rural residences and pasture. The actions will have **No Effect** on gray wolf because the action area does not contain suitable habitat for this species.

**Marbled murrelet:** Marbled murrelet require mature forested stands with suitable platforms for nesting, generally within 55 miles of marine environments. The action area is not forested, and it is greater than 90 miles from marine environments. This project will have **No Effect** on marbled murrelet because there is no suitable habitat for marbled murrelet in the action area.

**Yellow-billed cuckoo:** Yellow-billed cuckoo require large, intact stands of riparian vegetation and rarely nest in sites that are less than 50 acres in size. Riparian sites under 37 acres are considered unsuitable. There are no large stands of riparian vegetation in the action area. The project will have **No Effect** on yellow-billed cuckoo because there is no suitable habitat for yellow-billed cuckoo in the action area.

**MCR DPS Steelhead:** The project action area does not have an aquatic zone of impact. Work will be completed in non-fish bearing irrigation ditches. Steelhead cannot access the project action area and will not be exposed to project effects.

**Columbia River DPS Bull trout:** For reasons listed above, bull trout cannot access the project area, and will not be exposed to project effects.

**Columbia River DPS Bull trout and MCR DPS Steelhead Designated Critical Habitat:** There is no bull trout or steelhead critical habitat designated within the project area. The nearest critical habitat reach is over 1 mile from the project in the main stem Yakima River.

Therefore, we have determined that this project will have **No Effect** on bull trout or MCR steelhead as barriers prevent access to the irrigation ditches within the project area. Additionally, the project will have **No Effect** on designated critical habitats for these species because no critical habitat has been designated within the project area and there is no aquatic zone of impact.

The Magnuson-Stevens Act mandates that NMFS must identify EFH for federally managed marine fish. Federal agencies are required to consult with NMFS on all activities, or proposed activities, authorized, funded, or undertaken by the agency that may adversely affect EFH. The Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC) has designated EFH for the Pacific salmon fishery, federally managed ground fishes, and coastal pelagic fisheries. For the reasons listed above, the project will not adversely affect Pacific salmon EFH.

This assessment satisfies the Corps responsibilities under Section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act and the Magnuson-Stevens Act at this time. We are sending you this copy of our assessment for your files. We will continue to remain aware of any change in status of these species and will be prepared to reevaluate potential project impacts if necessary.

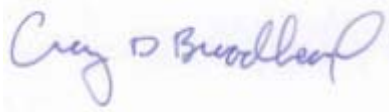
# Jacobs

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If you require additional information or clarification regarding this project, please contact me at 509-312-0375 or [craig.broadhead@jacobs.com](mailto:craig.broadhead@jacobs.com).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Craig Broadhead". The signature is written in a cursive style.

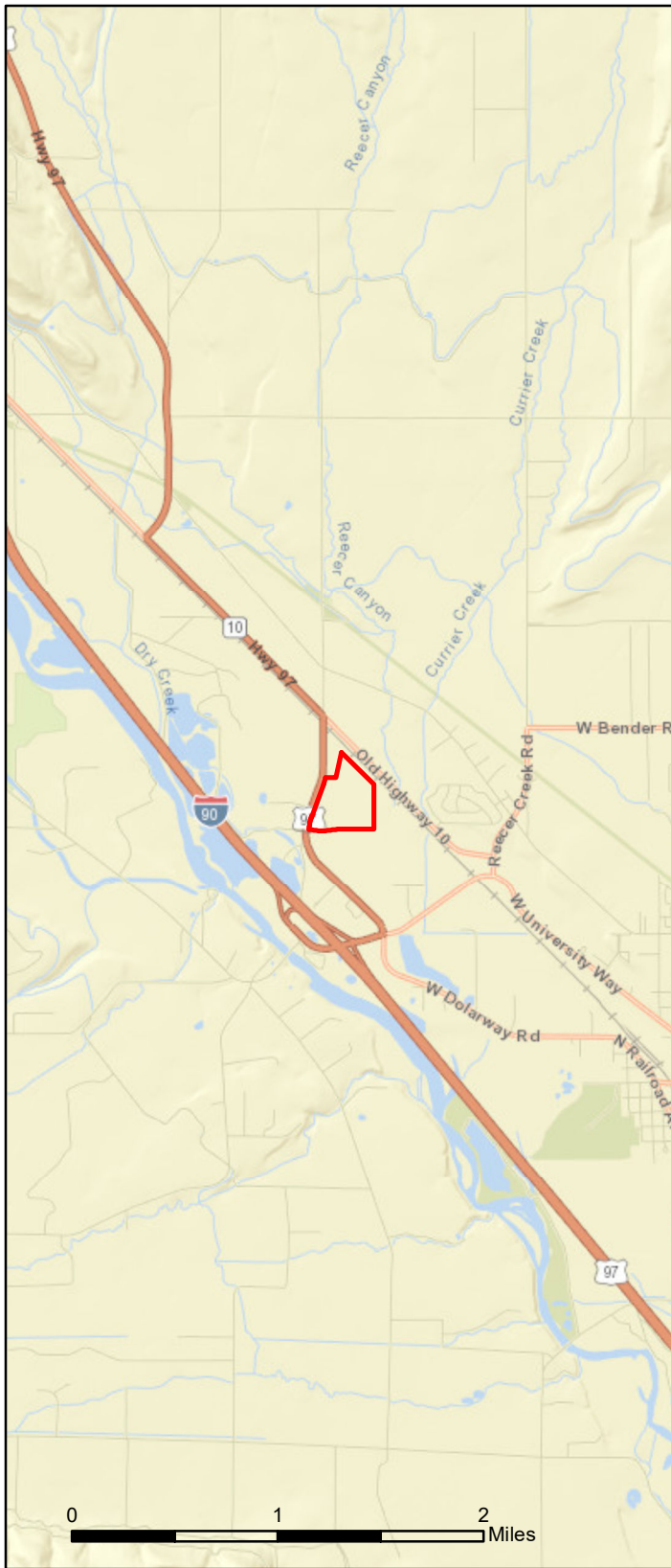
Craig Broadhead  
Environmental Program Manager  
Jacobs Engineering Group

Attachments: Vicinity map (A)  
Action Area and Site Photos (B)

cc:

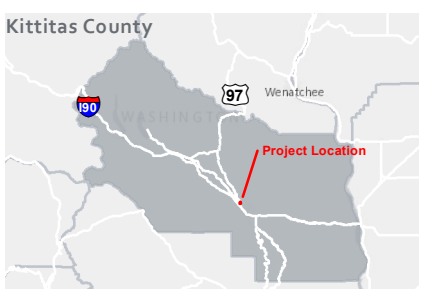
**Attachment A**

**Vicinity Map**



**Locator Map**

**Legend**



 Site Boundary



**Figure 1**

**Kittitas County Transfer Station and Maintenance Facility Relocation Project**  
**SITE LOCATION**



**Attachment B**

**Site Photos**



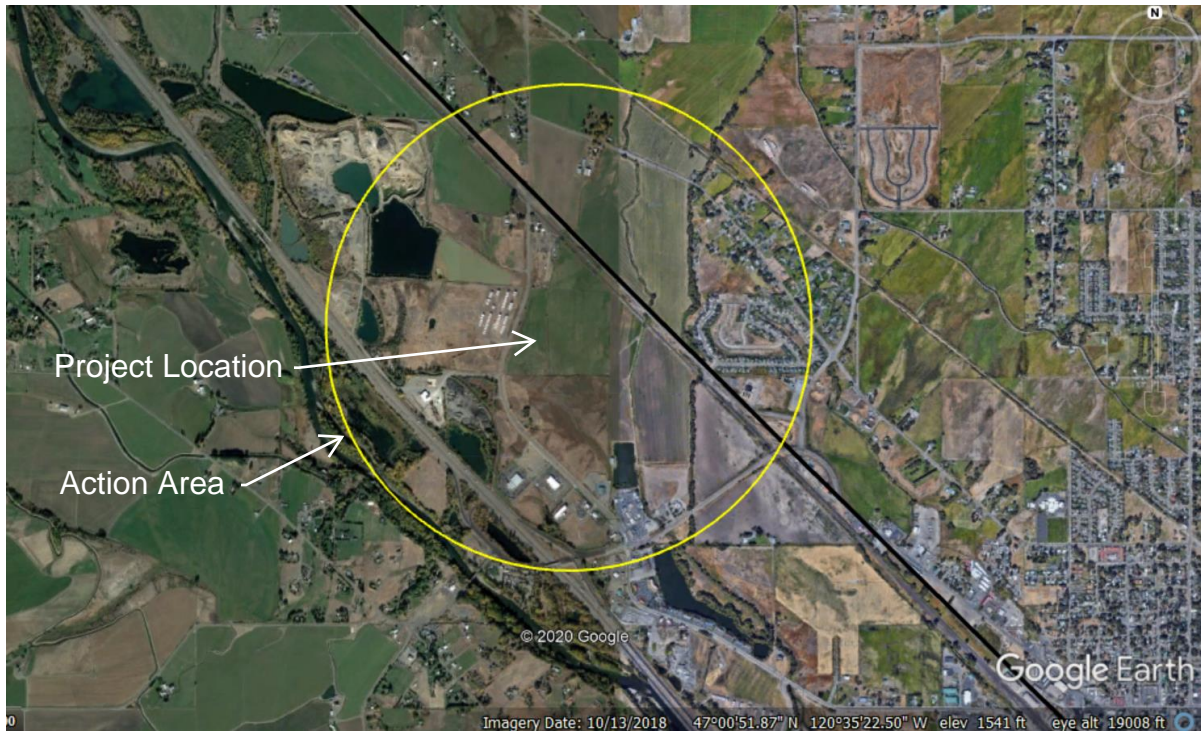


Figure 1. Google Earth Imagery portraying land use and habitat within project action area (0.6 miles based on terrestrial noise).



Figure 2. Project location looking south across parcel.



Figure 3. Project location looking west at one of the irrigation ditches that occurs on the parcel.