



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

4601 N Monroe Street • Spokane, Washington 99205-1295 • (509)329-3400

August 18, 2021

Lisa Wood  
SEPA Responsible Official/HPA Appeals Coordinator  
Habitat Program, Protection Division  
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife  
PO Box 43200  
Olympia, WA 98504

Re: Chief Joseph Wildlife Area Access Road Repair, File: 21-041

Dear Lisa Wood:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Determination of Nonsignificance regarding the proposal to create a long-term solution to an eroding bank of Joseph Creek, which threatens a single lane gravel access road to the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Area Headquarters Building and public access to the Chief Joseph Wildlife Area (Proponent: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife). After reviewing the documents, the Department of Ecology (Ecology) submits the following comments:

**Shorelands and Environmental Assistance Program-Hallie Ladd (509) 329-3474**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) published the Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 401 Certification Rule in the Federal Register on July 13, 2020, which became effective on September 11, 2020. The new federal rule requires all project proponents to submit a pre-filing meeting request form to Ecology at least 30 days prior to requesting a Section 401 Water Quality Certification.

Ecology has prepared pre-filing meeting request forms to help project proponents comply with the federal rule requirement. The form and information about the new rule is published on Ecology's 401 page at <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/Permits-certifications/401-Water-quality-certification>.

For more information, please contact Hallie Ladd at (509) 329-3474 or via email at [Hallie.Ladd@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:Hallie.Ladd@ecy.wa.gov).

**State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA)**

Ecology bases comments upon information submitted for review. As such, comments made do not constitute an exhaustive list of the various authorizations you may need to obtain, nor legal requirements you may need to fulfill in order to carry out the proposed action. Applicants should remain in touch with their Local Responsible Officials or Planners for additional guidance.

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To receive more guidance on or to respond to the comments made by Ecology, please contact the appropriate staff listed above at the phone number or email provided.

Department of Ecology  
Eastern Regional Office  
(Ecology File: 202104247)

Cc: Anna Marie Sample, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife