



State of Washington  
**DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE**  
South Central Region • Region 3 • 1701 South 24<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Yakima, WA 98902-5720  
Telephone: (509) 575-2740 • Fax: (509) 575-2474

January 6, 2025

Planning Department  
City of Cle Elum  
119 West First Street  
Cle Elum, WA 98922

**SUBJECT: WDFW COMMENTS ON 4240 BULLFROG APARTMENTS (CUP-2024-003, SEP-2024-005, CA-2024-002, SDR-2024-005)**

Dear City of Cle Elum,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed 4240 Bullfrog Apartments Project. The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) has specialized knowledge of wildlife and critical areas that intersect the project area. We offer these comments in the spirit of assisting the City of Cle Elum with implementation of the critical areas ordinance, Cle Elum Municipal Code (CEMC) Chapter 18, and the protection of Fish and Wildlife Habitat Conservation Areas (FWHCA).

The proposed development is immediately adjacent to a Biodiversity Areas and Corridor (BAC) as shown in our Priority Habitats and Species (PHS) on the Web and is part of an elk winter concentration area. This proposal, along with other recent nearby proposals, will likely permanently and negatively impact wildlife habitat and wildlife movement through the area. WDFW offers the following recommendations to avoid and minimize impacts to critical areas associated with this project:

- Minimize the need for impervious surfaces to the greatest extent possible while maintaining existing native vegetation and trees as much as possible. Please use native plants for landscaping where possible.
- Minimize the outdoor lighting, particularly along the outskirts of the project where wildlife is more likely to be present. Ensure all lighting is directed downward to minimize light pollution.
- Please ensure all trash receptacles are bear proof to help minimize conflicts between wildlife and humans.

We offer these comments for consideration to ensure the fish and wildlife habitat conservation areas on and adjacent to this property are protected, consistent with the purpose of the Cle Elum Critical Areas Ordinance. We look forward to working together toward implementation of this project. Please contact me with any questions at [Jennifer.nelson@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:Jennifer.nelson@dfw.wa.gov) or (509) 961-6639.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jennifer Nelson".

Jennifer Nelson  
Fish and Wildlife Biologist