

8.

Public Comment: Erika Morgan (email and attachment)

July 1, 2014



Aaron Nix

From: Erika Morgan
Sent: Tuesday, July 01, 2014 9:09 PM
To: Aaron Nix; Andy Williamson
Subject: FW: plat c coment
Attachments: wildlife plat c.pdf

From: Erika Morgan [erikamorganblackdiamond@gmail.com].
Sent: Tuesday, July 01, 2014 9:06 PM
To: Erika Morgan
Cc: Erika Morgan
Subject: plat c coment

Hello: Aaron and Andy,
The notice said an appeal needed to be filed by 5pm July 1, 2014.
The notice also stated that comment needed to be submitted by July 1, 2014; this is comment and the spruced up version to replace the draft I handed in earlier today so I certainly hope it will be accepted.
Thank you,
Erika Morgan
BDCC pos #2



Raw Comment - Erika Morgan BDC pos 2

Wildlife on Plat C

The wildlife in this area is particularly diverse and intact. I attribute the diversity to

The wandering smallish areas that have been logged over the last century, not more than 40 acres phased in at least 5 year intervals.

The timely replanting within one year

Proximity and connectives with Stampede Pass

Large interconnected wetland area that has remained in its natural state. The practice from the past left over 1000 feet buffer on the flat, unmolested because the wet ground was difficult to work.

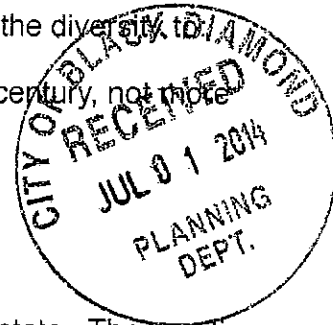
The upper Green River valley forms the western approach to Stampede Pass. Shortly before World War I, the City of Tacoma, Washington, filed for water rights on the Green River. Today, much of the upper valley has become a gated water supply watershed for Tacoma and access is heavily restricted.

Stampede Pass is a low spot in the Cascade range through which the wild stock finds passage from the high mountains and the east side. There is a lively and persistent presents of Northern Spotted Owl in the pass. One of these families has made their nesting ground just in the area along the border between sections 14 & 15, and 23 & 22. I raised one of these owlets in the spring of 2004, she has been back to raise successfully 3 clutches over the years since. The male shows up in middle to late march, there now are several, I hear them all around especially plat C, and the females are setting by the middle of April. I recognize them by the three note hoots and the setting females have a special trill at the end when they are on the nest always from a certain spot. There was no successful nest this year but Cocamoe did come to watch me walk the dogs along Abrams on a early May morning.

We also have a building Great Blue Heron colony, when I first came I noticed them at the south-west tip of Black Diamond Lake, but since the raising of its level by beaver activity the Great Blues nest trees are directly in Plat C where Black Diamond Lake stream appears to disappear into rock scree. The feeding grounds for these birds are Black Diamond Lake, Jones Lake, Abrams Rock Creek and Horseshoe Lake. I saw the one-year old bachelor hugging the north-east shore of Horseshoe last Sunday.

About 10 days ago one evening as I was going home a Fisher crossed Abrams just ahead of us. These are very rare, the State has a reintroduction program going on in Olympic National Park. We also had a locally orphaned baby Fisher that we raised at the wildlife center in 2012, so I am certain of what I saw.

I and city employees have encountered a lynx on Abrams, Wildlife Officer Bruce Richards knows of 4 resident lynx. I have also found the remains of their prey, a blue grouse, on my driveway just before encountering the lynx. I know both these species



Auburn, WA 98092
253-876-3116

From: Stacey Welsh [<mailto:SWelsh@ci.blackdiamond.wa.us>]

Sent: Tuesday, June 17, 2014 8:32 AM

To: City of Auburn ; City of Covington ; City of Enumclaw ; City of Kent; City of Maple Valley; David Nemens; Denise L Stiffarm ; Department of Ecology; Dept of Fish & Wildlife; DNR SEPA Center; John Starbard ; Karen Walter; King County Fire District #44; Mark Buscher ; Mike Nelson ; Office of Archaeology & Historic Preservation; Puget Sound Clean Air Agency; WSDOT; patrick.mcgraner@ecy.wa.gov; GMAXFIELD@COVINGTONWATER.COM
Subject: SEPA MDNS (PLN13-0028)

Please review the attached Environmental Checklist and MDNS. Comments are due by 5:00pm on July 1, 2014.

http://www.ci.blackdiamond.wa.us/Depts/CommDev/comm_dev_home.html

(The plat drawings are available on the Community Development page of the City website.)

Stacey Welsh, AICP
Community Development Director
City of Black Diamond
PO Box 599
Black Diamond, WA 98010
360-886-5700
swelsh@ci.blackdiamond.wa.us<<mailto:swelsh@ci.blackdiamond.wa.us>>

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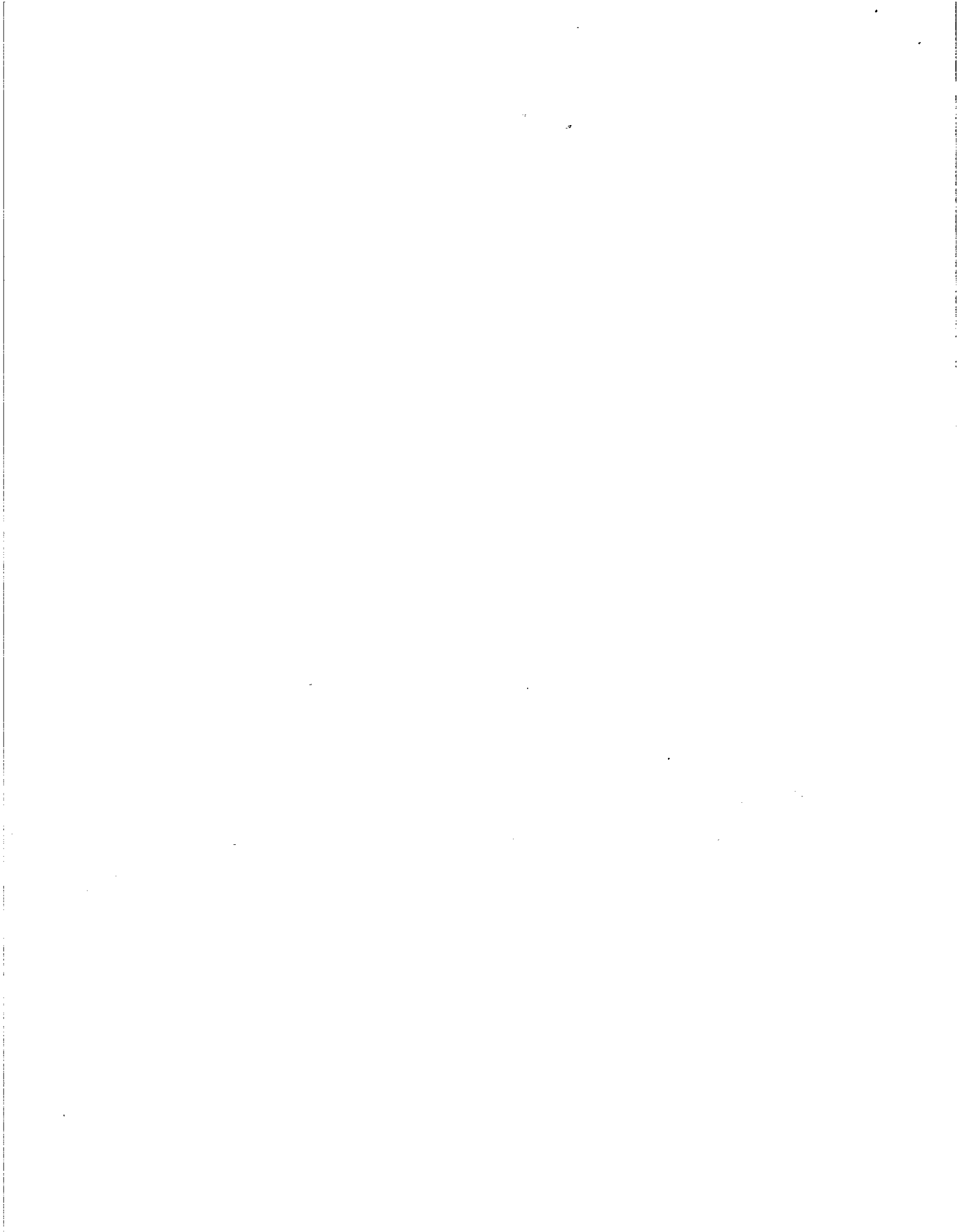
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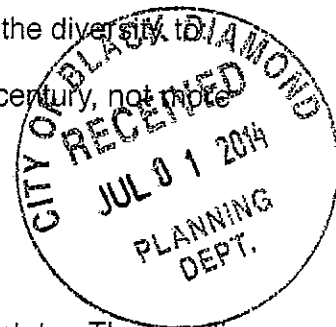
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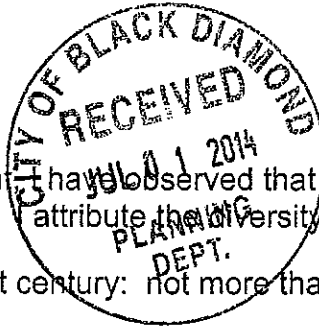
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Wildlife on Plat C

In my experience as a nearby resident, I have observed that the wildlife in this area is particularly diverse and intact. I attribute the diversity to:



1. The pattern of logging over the last century: not more than 40 acres phased in at least 5 year intervals.
2. The timely replanting of logged areas within one year
3. Large interconnected wetland area that has remained in its natural state. The wet ground was difficult to log, large areas of flat undisturbed ground was left.
4. Proximity and connectives with Stampede Pass. The upper Green River valley forms the western approach to Stampede Pass. Shortly before World War I, the City of Tacoma filed for water rights on the Green River. Today, much of the upper valley has become a gated water supply watershed for Tacoma and access is heavily restricted.

Specific Wildlife Information

Endangered Species: Spotted Owl:

Stampede Pass is a low spot in the Cascade range through which the wildlife-finds passage from the high mountains and the east side. There is a presence of Northern Spotted Owl in the pass. One of these Spotted Owl families has made their nesting ground just in the area along the border between Black Diamond sections 14 & 15, and 23 & 22. One of these owlets was separated from the nest in the spring of 2004, and I raised it. She has been back to Black Diamond to raise successfully 3 clutches over the years since. The male shows up in middle to late March, there now are several, I hear them all around especially plat C, and the females are setting by the middle of April. I recognize them by the three note "hoots" and the setting females have a special trill at the end of the hoots when they are on the nest always from a certain spot. There was no successful nest this year but Cocamoe (my name for the owl) did come to watch me walking along Abrams Ave on an early May morning, she will likely check in during October.

Endangered Species: Fisher:

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Threatened Species: Lynx:

I and city employees have encountered a lynx on Abrams Ave. Wildlife Officer Bruce Richards knows of 4 resident lynx. I have also found the remains of their prey, a blue grouse, on my driveway just before encountering the lynx. (I know both these species are supposed to stay above 3000 feet, but perhaps they didn't read the wildlife manuals and are just in an appealing area.)

Other Species of Interest:**Cougar**

The Cougar who have been photographed around our town also have been spotted frequenting plat C over the years, Richards located a cougar and its kill on plat 6 in 2008.

Newt:

There is a newt very much like a Mt. Hood newt thought to be extinct, black with a round, quarter sized head, five finger feet with rounded toe pads. These characters are sort of like frogs who have not metamorphosed, they are skin-breathing amphibians, and have lost the gill slits. They live most of the year in rock scree but come out in early spring for mating. I find them in leaf duff often under sword fern, early in the day when the ground is thawed but the leaf duff is frosty. I think I find them because they are cold enough to be slowed down in these conditions.

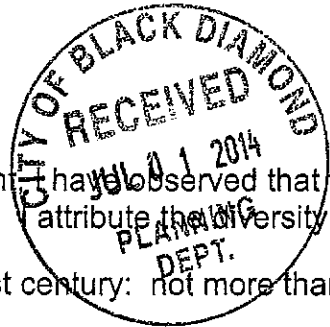
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Unique Protection Needed

To support these predators there is an intact ecosystem, our Riparian Wetland, which the Nature Conservancy found so singular and intact as to prescribe that it needed preservation as a bastion of biodiversity and as a scientific training

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