



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
**DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY**

Central Region Office

1250 West Alder St., Union Gap, WA 98903-0009 • 509-575-2490

September 5, 2024

Matt Marsh  
Forest Service, US Department of Agriculture  
1 West Winesap  
Tonasket, WA 98855

**RE: 202403412**

Matt Marsh:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the scoping notice for the Buckhorn Project. We have reviewed the documents and have the following comments.

**Toxics Cleanup Program**

The project area addressed in this proposal includes two known (or suspected) contaminated sites on Ecology's Contaminated Sites List:

- Ecology Facility/Site ID 1076236, TCP Cleanup Site ID 1290 – Crystal Butte Mine  
(<https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/cleanupsearch/site/1290>)
- Ecology Facility/Site ID 12448, TCP Cleanup Site ID 1339 – Beth Lake Prospect  
(<https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/cleanupsearch/site/1339>)

Hazardous substances from past mining activities may be present at these sites in amounts and/or concentrations likely to affect human health or the environment. Cleanup may be required prior to site alteration or development.

Please contact Justin Rice at [justin.rice@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:justin.rice@ecy.wa.gov) or 509-724-8268 if you have any questions.

**Water Resources Program**

If you plan to use water for dust suppression at your project site, be sure that you have a legal right. In Washington State, prospective water users must obtain authorization from the

Department of Ecology before diverting surface water or withdrawing ground water, with one exception. Ground water withdrawals of up to 5,000 gallons per day used for single or group domestic supply, up to 5,000 gallons per day used for industrial purposes, stock watering, and for the irrigation of up to one-half acre of non-commercial lawn and garden are exempt from the permitting process. Water use under the RCW 90.44.050 exemption establishes a water right that is subject to the same privileges, restrictions, laws and regulations as a water right permit or certificate obtained directly from Ecology. Temporary permits may be obtainable in a short time-period. The concern of Water Resources is for existing water rights. In some instances water may need to be obtained from a different area and hauled in or from an existing water right holder. If you have any questions or would like to respond to these Water Resources comments, please contact Nathan Longoria at (509) 907-1752 or email at [nathan.longoria@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:nathan.longoria@ecy.wa.gov).

Sincerely,



Amber Johnson

SEPA Coordinator, Central Region Office

509-723-5677 | [crosepacoordinator@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:crosepacoordinator@ecy.wa.gov)

