



State of Washington
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
Southwest Region 5 • 5525 South 11th Street, Ridgefield, WA 98642
Telephone: (360) 696-6211

October 30, 2025

City of Camas, SEPA Official
Community Development Department
616 NE Fourth Avenue
Camas, WA 98607

Dear SEPA Official:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on **The Reserve at Green Mountain (SUB25-1004)** project. The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) has reviewed this proposal and offers the following comments for your consideration.

Our primary interest is in regard to the critical areas on site, particularly the multiple Oregon white oak (OWO) trees present within the project area. We offer our best management recommendations and guidance for the avoidance and minimization of impacts to OWO habitat.

WDFW considers Oregon white oak (OWO) woodlands to be a type of priority habitat per the agency's [Priority Habitats and Species \(PHS\) List](#). OWO provide valuable food and habitat for many native Washington animal species, including migratory birds (rufous hummingbirds, band-tailed pigeons, chipping sparrows, and more), nuthatches, woodpeckers, raptors, squirrels, and a wide array of invertebrates, including oak-obligate species. OWOs take decades to reach maturity. Once established, oak trees can live for hundreds of years, providing immense benefits for local ecological communities. WDFW's [Best management practices for mitigating impacts to Oregon white oak habitat](#) (Nolan & Azerrad 2024) is the most current science when referencing guidance for avoiding, minimizing, and mitigating for impacts to OWO.

We appreciate that the project proponent has identified sixteen Oregon white oak trees onsite, and we commend the decision to preserve these trees. The removal of an asphalt driveway within an oak habitat area, as well as the enhancement of the native oak woodland understory, are beneficial actions that are expected to enhance the functioning of the oak habitat. For the driveway removal as well as all nearby construction activities, we advise that precautions be taken to avoid/minimize impacts to the oak trees' root systems. The Oregon State University Extension Service offers a useful resource on this topic: [Tree Protection Construction and Development Sites: A Best Management Practices Guidebook for the Pacific Northwest](#) (2009). We also recommend consultation with an ISA-certified arborist if any of the trees show declining health post-construction.

WDFW assistance is available upon request for guidance on avoiding and minimizing impacts to priority habitats and species, including Oregon white oaks and riparian habitat.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joy Peplinski".

Joy Peplinski, Habitat Biologist
Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife