



June 30, 2017

Corey Watson
Quadrant Homes
14725 SE 36th Street
Bellevue, Washington 98006

Re: Blue Heron Farms Plat, Lemolo Creek Stream Buffer Enhancement.

Dear Corey:

Ecological Land Services, Inc. (ELS) was contracted to develop the voluntary stream buffer enhancement plan for the onsite buffer of Lemolo Creek. The buffer enhancement focuses on establishing a forested community similar to the narrow offsite forested stream buffer. Buffer enhancement is proposed within the onsite buffer, which is composed heavily grazed horse pasture and arenas, between the east property line of Blue Heron Farms and the future residential lots. It extends south along the entire east side of the project to the future detention pond. The buffer narrows significantly at the south end due to the interruption created by Heron Pond Lane, which provides access to homes east of the project site. This area of interrupted buffer is included in the buffer enhancement plan. A trail is proposed along the edge of the buffer to connect with the trail on the Mountain Aire project to the north. The lots begin at the buffer edge and fences will be along the edge of the buffer and on the east side of the trail to reduce access to the enhanced stream buffer by trail users.

Prior to development of the buffer enhancement plan, an onsite meeting was conducted with Alison O'Sullivan, biologist with the Suquamish Indian Tribe to discuss options for improvement of the stream buffer. Included in the discussion was the potential for grading of the buffer to create a gradual slope down from the proposed lots. Ms. O'Sullivan indicated that it would not be an issue from the tribe's point of view because of the long term use as a horse boarding and training facility, which has resulted in a mostly denuded buffer area. Grading of the buffer will not result in impacts to existing native vegetation and once it is planted, the graded soils will appear natural. In addition, she provided some guidance for plant selection within the buffer and suggested that the plan propose installation of species growing in the offsite forested buffer. Therefore, the plant list includes four tree species (western red cedar, Douglas fir, western hemlock, and bigleaf maple) installed at roughly 10-foot spacing and five shrub species (Indian plum, hazelnut, ocean spray, Nootka rose, and Oregon grape) to be installed at roughly 5-foot spacing. A total of 2,970 trees and shrubs will be installed in the buffer enhancement area. Additional species from the existing forested buffer areas will also spread into the enhanced buffer naturally.

The enhancement plan shall be implemented following completion of construction activities and during the winter months so that the plants are dormant and are in the ground prior to the start of the growing season. The trail will be constructed prior to installation of the plants but the fences will likely be constructed following completion of plant installation. Because the proposed enhancement plan will be implemented voluntarily, a formal monitoring plan is not proposed to track the growth of the installed plants. However, an as built plan will be submitted to the city of Poulsbo to document the full implementation of the buffer enhancement plan. Although monitoring is not proposed, the plants will be watered regularly and invasive plant cover will be removed several times a year for at least 5 years to ensure the development of a native, forested buffer community.

If there are any questions regarding the implementation of the enhancement plan, please contact me at 360-710-3305 or joanne@eco-land.com.

Sincerely,

Joanne Bartlett, PWS
Senior Biologist

