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**Skamania County**  
**Community Development Department**  
**Building/Fire Marshal • Environmental Health • Planning**

Skamania County Courthouse Annex  
Post Office Box 1009

Stevenson, Washington 98648

Phone: 509-427-3900 Inspection Line: 509-427-3922

**ADMINISTRATIVE DECISION**

**APPLICANT:** Skamania County PUD #1  
Interlaken Conservancy

**FILE NO.:** NSA-24-20

**DESCRIPTION:** Removal of approximately 4,800 feet of existing overhead power line and refeed power through the installation of 5,300 feet of underground power lines within a 2 1/2" conduit. 1,400 ft will be placed along the shoulder of Ash Lake roadway, the remaining 3,900 ft will be installed on Interlaken property resulting in no visual impacts or removal of trees. Upgraded water lines and communication facilities such as telephone, fiber, or cable may also be installed in the joint ditch in a separate conduit.

**LOCATION:** 231 Ash Lake Rd  
#02-07-11-0-0-0500-00  
#02-07-14-0-0-0200-00

**ZONING:** GMA – Large Woodland (F-2)

**DECISION:** Based upon the record and the Staff Report, the applicant's proposal, described above, is found to be consistent with SCC Title 22 and is hereby **APPROVED** subject to the conditions set forth below.

Although the proposed development is approved, it may not be buildable due to inadequate soils for septic and/or lack of potable water. These issues are under the jurisdiction of Skamania County's

Building Division and the Skamania County Environmental Health Division. Approval of this request does not exempt the applicant or successors in interest from compliance with all other applicable local, state, and federal laws.

## **CONDITIONS OF APPROVAL:**

The following conditions are required to ensure that the subject request is consistent with Skamania County Code Title 22. **THIS DOCUMENT, OUTLINING THE CONDITIONS OF APPROVAL, MUST BE RECORDED BY THE APPLICANT IN THE DEED RECORDS OF THE SKAMANIA COUNTY AUDITOR** in order to ensure notice of the conditions of approval to successors in interest. SCC §22.06.120(C)(2).

1. As per SCC §22.06.120(C)(2), this Administrative Decision **SHALL BE RECORDED** by the applicant in the County deed records prior to the commencement of the approved project.
2. A variance to the water resource buffers required by SCC 22.18.030 is granted to allow development as depicted on the approved plan sheets.
3. Traffic and lane closures along Ash Lake Road shall be the minimum necessary to perform the work throughout the duration of the project.
4. The size of all installed equipment shall be the minimum necessary to provide the service.
5. Only grading which is necessary for site development is permitted. Grading activities shall be limited to the maximum extent practicable. All graded areas left bare shall be re-seeded with native vegetation before final inspection by the Community Development Department.
6. The applicant shall meet all conditions of approval enacted to achieve visual subordination prior to final inspection by the Community Development Department. A final inspection approval will not be issued until compliance with all conditions of approval; including visual subordination criteria have been verified. The Community Development Department will conduct at least one site visit during construction. A site visit for Final Inspection shall also be conducted. Each inspection may take up to four business days from the time of calling for the inspection. Inspections should be arranged by calling the Community Development inspection line at 509-427-3922 or by emailing [permitcenter@co.skamania.wa.us](mailto:permitcenter@co.skamania.wa.us).
7. All previously vegetated areas disturbed and left bare shall be reseeded with native vegetation as soon as practicable and prior to project completion. The applicant shall be responsible for the proper maintenance of planted vegetation, and replacement of such vegetation that does not survive.
8. Junction Boxes and Transformers shall be dark earth tones in color. The following colors are consistent with this condition and are hereby approved: Junction Boxes and Transformers will both be painted Dark Green. Any proposed changes to the approved colors shall be submitted to the Community Development department for review and approval prior to installation. All new junction boxes be dark earth tone in color.

9. Except as is necessary for the construction of access roads, building pads, leach fields, etc., the existing tree cover screening the development from key viewing areas shall be retained.
10. All equipment shall be staged on existing paved or gravel surfaces. Removal of vegetation for staging areas is prohibited. Best Management Practices to protect water resources are required and shall be implemented throughout the duration of potential project impacts to nearby water resources. Project contractors shall apply best practices throughout the duration of activities to prevent inadvertent discharges into water resource buffer areas and be prepared to respond throughout the duration of the project in the event fuel or other hazardous materials are released. An HPA determination by WDFW shall be made before work may begin.
11. Except for development approved in the administrative decision, all associated and undisturbed water resource buffer areas shall be retained in their natural condition. Where buffer disturbance occurs during project development, revegetation with native vegetation shall be required and shall provide and maintain habitat diversity beneficial to the fish, wildlife, and native plants. All natural vegetation shall be retained to the greatest extent practicable, including aquatic and riparian vegetation. Nonstructural controls and natural processes shall be used to the greatest extent practicable. Temporary and permanent control measures shall be applied to minimize erosion and sedimentation when riparian areas are disturbed. The proposed utilities work meets the criteria of 22.20.020(B)(2) and is an allowed use within a water resource zone.
12. A permit shall be gained from the WDFW if bird nests or eggs need to be removed from power poles prior to the deconstruction of the utility pole.
13. An Inadvertent Discovery Plan embodying the provisions of SCC 22.22.060 (Condition #9) and SCC 22.22.070 (Condition #10) shall be prepared and posted in a conspicuous place at the development site and shall remain posted until all project activities are concluded.
14. The following procedures shall be effected when cultural resources are discovered during construction activities:
  - a. Halt Construction. All construction activities within 100 feet of the discovered cultural resource shall cease. The cultural resources shall remain as found; further disturbance is prohibited.
  - b. Notification. The project applicant shall notify the Administrator and the Gorge Commission within twenty-four (24) hours of the discovery. If the cultural resources are prehistoric or otherwise associated with Native Americans, the project applicant shall also notify the Indian tribal governments within twenty-four (24) hours.
  - c. Survey and Evaluations. The Gorge Commission shall survey the cultural resources after obtaining written permission from the landowner and appropriate permits from the DAHP (See Revised Code of Washington 27.53). It shall gather enough information to evaluate the significance of the cultural resources. The survey and evaluation shall be documented in a report that generally follows the provisions in Section 22.22.030 of this Chapter. Based upon the survey and evaluation report and any written comments, the Administrator shall make a final decision on whether the

- resources are significant. Construction activities may recommence if the cultural resources are not significant.
- d. Mitigation Plan. Mitigation plans shall be prepared according to the information, consultation and report provisions contained in Section 22.22.050 of this Chapter. Construction activities may recommence when conditions in the mitigation plan have been executed.
15. The following procedures shall be effected when human remains are discovered during a cultural resource survey or during construction. Human remains means articulated or disarticulated human skeletal remains, bones or teeth, with or without attendant burial artifacts.
- a. Halt of Activities. All survey, excavation and construction activities shall cease.
  - b. Notification. Local law enforcement officials, the Administrator, the Gorge Commission, and the Indian tribal governments shall be contacted immediately.
  - c. Inspection. The county coroner, or appropriate official, shall inspect the remains at the project site and determine if they are prehistoric/ historic or modern. Representatives of the Indian tribal governments shall be contacted immediately and have an opportunity to monitor the inspection.
  - d. Jurisdiction. If the remains are modern, the appropriate law enforcement official shall assume jurisdiction and the cultural resource protection process may conclude.
  - e. Treatment. The procedures set out in RCW 27.44 and 68.05 shall generally be implemented if the remains are prehistoric/ historic. If human remains will be reinterred or preserved in their original position, a mitigation plan shall be prepared in accordance with the consultation and report requirements set out in Section 22.22.050 of this Chapter. The mitigation plan shall accommodate the cultural and religious concerns of Native Americans. The cultural resource protection process may conclude when conditions set forth in Section 22.22.050(C) of this Chapter are met and the mitigation plan is executed.

Dated and signed this 11th day of December, 2024, at Stevenson, Washington.



Melissa Fahrni, Planner I  
Skamania County Community Development

**NOTE:**

Any new development not included in the approved site plan on file with the Skamania County Community Development department will require a new application and review.

**EXPIRATION:**

As per SCC §22.06.150(A), this Administrative Decision approving a proposed development action shall become void in two years if the development is not commenced within that period, or once development has commenced the development action is discontinued for any reason for one continuous year or more.

If the development does not include a structure the permit shall expire two years after the date the land use approval was granted unless the use or development was established according to all specifications and conditions of approval in the approval. For land divisions, "established" means the final deed or plat has been recorded with the county auditor.

If the development includes a **structure** the permit shall expire when construction has not commenced within two (2) years of the date the land use approval was granted; or once the structure has been started and if the structure has not been completed within two (2) years of the date of commencement of construction the permit shall expire. Completion of the structure for this purpose means the completion of the exterior surface(s) of the structure; and compliance with all conditions of approval in the land use approval, including, but not limited to, painting of the exterior of the structure.

**APPEALS:**

**The Director reserves the right to provide additional comment and findings of fact regarding this decision, if appealed.**

This Administrative Decision shall be final unless reversed or modified on appeal. A written Notice of Appeal form must be filed by an interested person within 20 days from the date hereof. Appeals are to be made to the Skamania County Hearing Examiner, P.O. Box 1009, Stevenson, WA 98648. Notice of Appeal forms and mailing lists are available at the Community Development Department and must be accompanied by a \$2,450.00 nonrefundable-filing fee and a Certificate of Mailing.

The final determination of the Environmental Threshold Determination related to this underlying government action can be appealed to a court of competent jurisdiction, along with the underlying government action, only by the parties with standing to the Environmental Threshold Determination. If the underlying government action was exempt from SEPA review, this section does not apply.

**A copy of this Decision, including the Staff Report, was sent to the following:**

Persons submitting written comments in a timely manner  
Yakama Indian Nation  
Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation  
Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation  
Nez Perce Tribe  
Cowlitz Tribe  
Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation  
Columbia River Gorge Commission  
U.S. Forest Service –NSA Office  
Board of County Commissioners  
State of Washington Department of Commerce – Paul Johnson  
Department of Fish and Wildlife