

**WATER TRANSFER WORKING GROUP PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

APPLICATION NO./COURT CLAIM NO. Pending		
APPLICANT NAME The Mountaineers (Meany Lodge)	CONTACT NAME Tyson D. Carlson	TELEPHONE NO. 509-895-5923
WATER RIGHT HOLDER'S NAME (if different) The Mountaineers		EMAIL <a href="mailto:tcarlson@aspectconsulting.com">tcarlson@aspectconsulting.com</a>

DATE OF APPLICATION Pending	PRIORITY DATE Post 1905; mitigated by trust water right with June 30, 1873 priority date
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WATER SOURCE: Groundwater	CROP: N/A - Indoor Use Only
INSTANTANEOUS QUANTITY: TBD	ANNUAL QUANTITY: 0.30 acre-feet (consumptive use)
PERIOD OF USE: Continuous – year round	
PLACE OF USE: NE1/4SE1/4 of Section 27, T. 21 N., R. 12 E.W.M.	PURPOSE OF USE: Community Domestic
IRRIGATION METHOD: N/A	

**CONSUMPTIVE USE CALCULATION:**

Meany Lodge operates as ski resort throughout the winter season. Typical winter operations run Fridays through Sundays from December 26 through March 21 for an estimated total of 30 days. Visitor counts fluctuate between 97 and 127 on average throughout the winter season. The majority of these guests are overnight guests staying at the lodge for 2 nights, but some are limited to day use of the facility.

Summer operations are variable, but generally include multiple weekend work events with regular attendance of up to 20 guests, six or more weeks hosting various organizations of up to 60 guests at a time, and full facility rentals to host large weddings with up to 80 guests each. Between these events, the lodge is in operation for an estimated 4,915 visitor days per year.

Following Department of Health guidelines, Meany Chair Lodge is likely classified as a day and night limited use resort facility or luxury camp with a daily water demand of 50 to 150 gallons per day (gpd) per camper. Based on this guidance and using a reasonable estimate of water use (about 66 gpd per camper), it is projected that the lodge uses no more than 1 acre-foot per year for indoor use.

Assuming 30 percent of total use is consumptive; 0.30 ac-ft/yr (CU) will be required to fully mitigate existing indoor water use.

Of the 60 ac-ft/yr currently assigned to the USBR-Ecology Exchange Contract (Contract No. 09XX101700) under the Bruton Ditch project, up to 0.30 ac-ft will be allocated to the subject applications to address impacts to TWSA.

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT:

As directed by Senate Bill 6861, Ecology is providing water banking opportunities for Yakima Basin Camps and Cabin Owners with existing indoor uses to purchase senior mitigation credits to offset the consumptive use of water during years of rationing by the US Bureau of Reclamation.

The Mountaineers operate a backcountry ski lodge near Stampede Pass known as the Meany Chair Lodge. The lodge is supported by a small senior surface water right (see attached) from a tributary (Tombstone Creek) to Stampede Creek, which converges with the mainstem Yakima River just below Keechelus Lake. The lodge depends on surface water for both potable and non-potable uses in and around the lodge.

Recently, the Washington State Department of Health (DOH) indicated that surface water is not suitable for potable domestic uses, cannot approve the surface water source, and will not renew the lodge's existing permit. Based on the determination from DOH, and ongoing conversations with Kittitas County, we consider the permitting need to be a public health or safety emergency that qualifies for expedited priority processing as defined by WAC 173-152-050(1)(a). The applicant will retain its existing surface water right and diversion to supply non-potable and other ancillary uses associated with operation of the lodge. This would include fire protection/fighting, which would otherwise not be available in the event of power loss to the well.

Ecology proposes to offset 0.30 ac-ft/yr of consumptive use with mitigation credits from Trust Water Right Nos. CS4-00195CTCL(A)sb6, CS4-00195CTCL(B)sb6, and CS4-00195CTCL(C)sb6 – collectively known as Bruton Ditch. The Bruton Ditch project was presented to the WTWG on September 14, 2009.

#### PROPOSED USBR-ECOLOGY CONTRACT ASSIGNMENT RATIONALE

Withdrawal of groundwater during rationing years will impact flows in the Yakima River when TWSA irrigation supply period is in effect.

#### IMPACT ANALYSIS

The proposed point of withdrawal will be located near the lodge. Water will be withdrawn, conveyed a short distance to the local for indoor-only use. Water which is not consumptively used will be discharged to an on-site septic and drainfield.

WDFW fish distribution data indicate no occurrence of Bull Trout or other ESA-listed fish in either Tombstone or Stampede Creek (see attached).

#### CONCLUSION

During rationing years, the availability of water to satisfy TWSA in the Yakima River will not be impacted if up to 0.30 ac-ft were held and released from Keechelus Lake. Assignment of 0.30 ac-ft would be in compliance with the consultation threshold in paragraph 18(b) of the USBR-Ecology contract.

#### REFERENCES

Ecology 2011. Columbia River Instream Atlas Project, Publication Number: 11-12-015. Prepared by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. September 2011.

WDFW. SalmonScape. <http://wdfw.wa.gov/mapping/salmonscape/index.html>.

CLAIMANT NAME: **The Mountaineers**

COURT CLAIM NO. 01714

Certificate Number: S4-83032-J

Subbasin: 02 Easton

Source: Tombstone Creek

Use: Continuous community domestic supply for a lodge

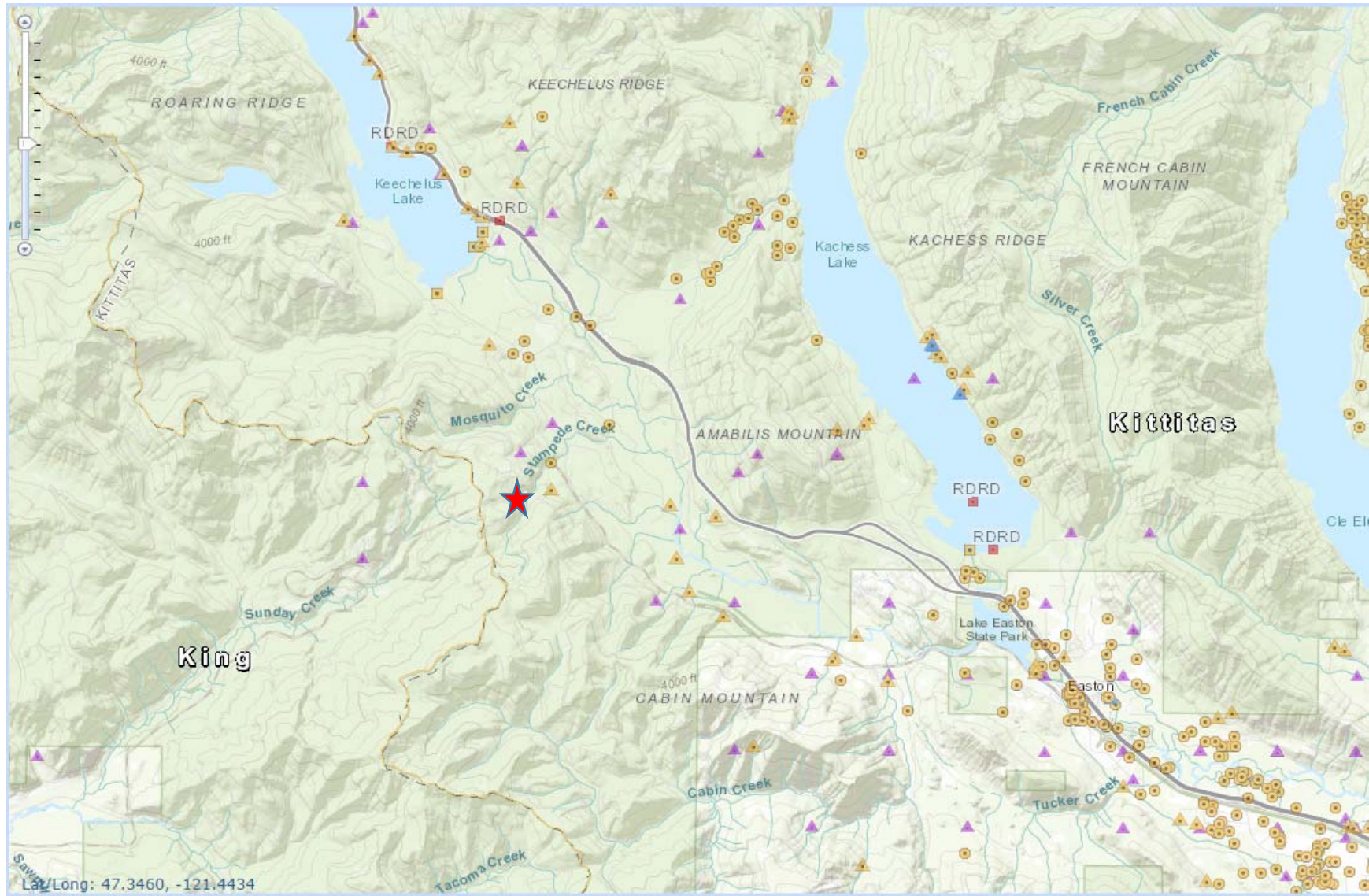
Period of Use: Continuous

Quantity: 0.04 cubic foot per second; 2 acre-feet per year

Priority Date: **June 30, 1889**

Point of Diversion: 70 feet north and 700 feet west from the southeast corner of Section 27, being within the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 27, T. 21 N., R. 12 E.W.M.

Place of Use: That part of the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 27, T. 21 N., R. 12 E.W.M. lying south of the abandoned Burlington Northern Railroad Stampede Tunnel route.



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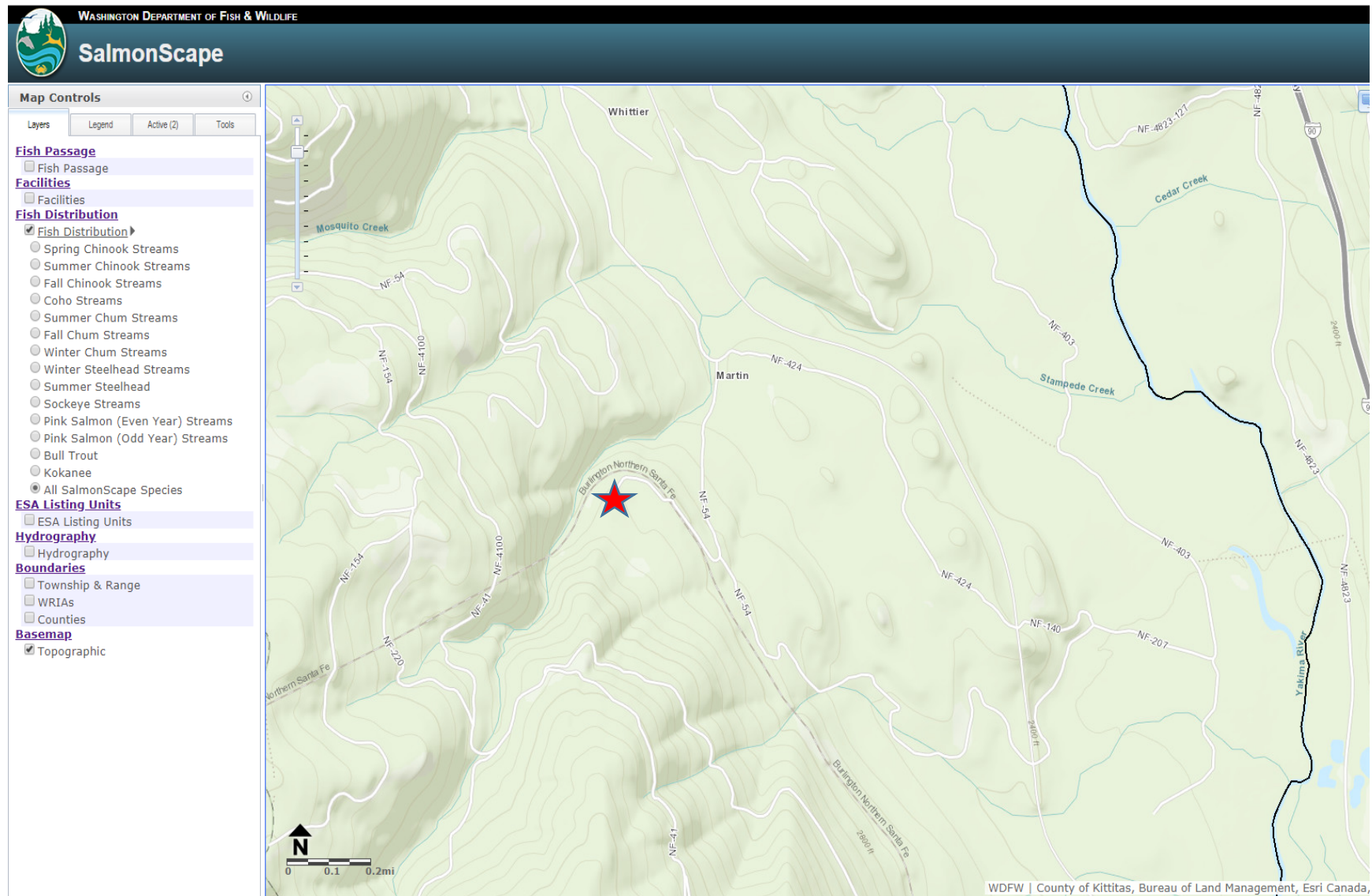
7/26/2018

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**Figure 1**  
**Location Map**

The Mountaineers (Meany Lodge)  
Kittitas County, WA



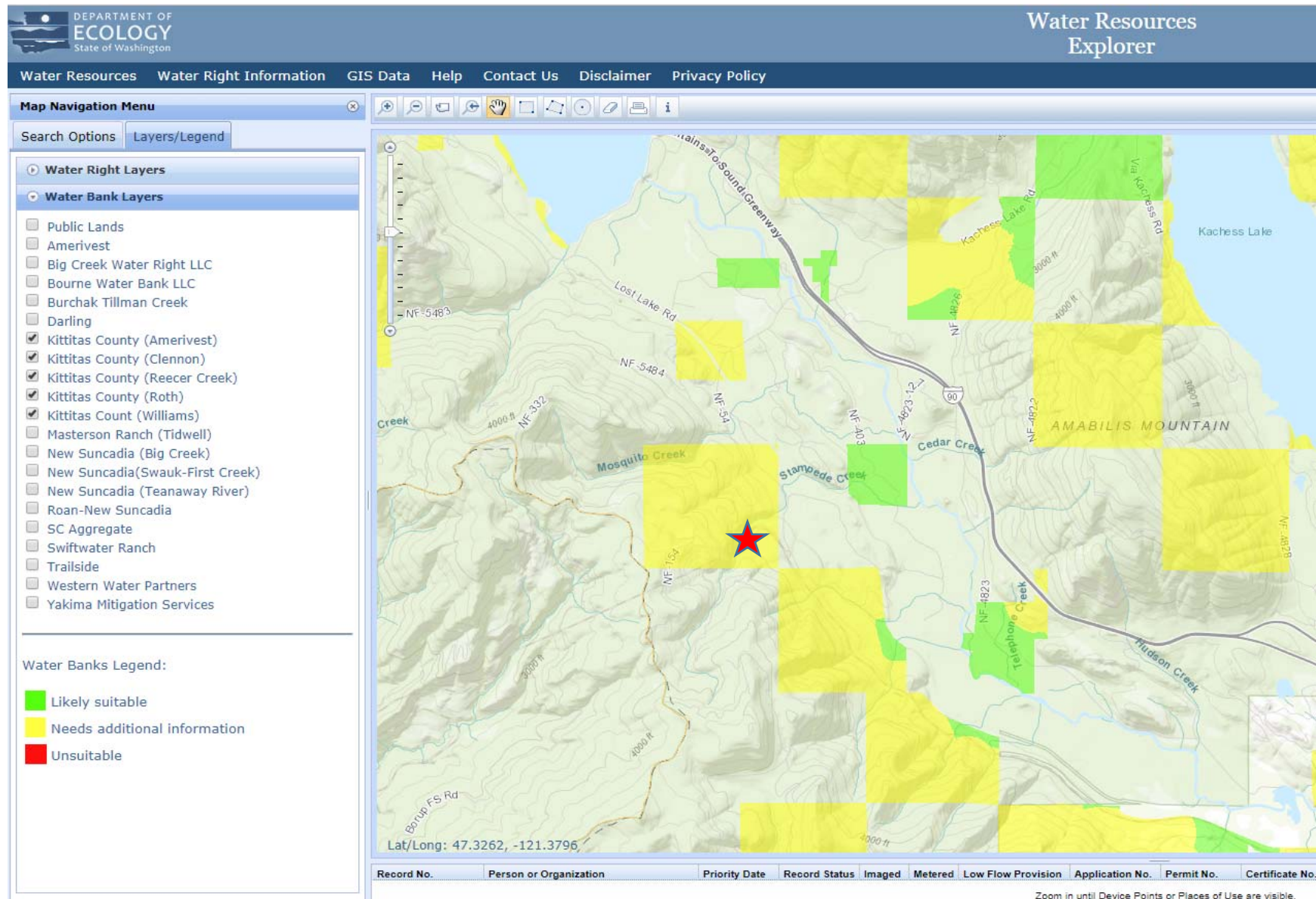


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**Figure 2**  
**WDFW SalmonScape**  
 The Mountaineers (Meany Lodge)  
 Kittitas County, WA



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**Figure 3**  
**Mitigation Suitability Map**

The Mountaineers (Meany Lodge)

Kittitas County, WA