

**From:** Andrew & Brenna Collins

**Subject:** 11/7/2023 Chelatchie

**Date:** November 7, 2023 at 05:22

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I have many concerns, and I hope that you are able to provide clarity, for my neighbors and I, as this project has been devastating our lands, waters, and our lifestyles.

On November 5, 2023 Eric Temple wrote to the Council that he is planning to begin work again in Chelatchie this coming week.

Let me be clear, I did not want this. My family did not move here to be bullied, to be referred to as Nazis, and to be called liars. Our family is simple, we desire a small life. I did not pick this fight. But it is now a question of moral intelligence, and I cannot sit by and watch one menace use this County as his personal prey. I will stand up against his lies, I will stand up for the hard working EXPERTS of our State agencies, and I will continue to fight for the sensitive environment that is forever altered by a negligent and irresponsible business.

It is time that the County stick up for themselves and the citizens that it is sworn to protect. It is time to enforce compliance. PVJR is in breach of the lease agreement that it has made, and it is a company that shows no integrity, no responsibility, no good will, and a complete lack of respect for the staff of the County, and the State agencies.

My neighbors and I would like answers to the following questions, please direct them to whomever can answer them for us:

1. In a letter on October 17, 2023 from Mrs. Otto to Mr. Temple she states, "The County is committed to working with PVJR. With that said, it is essential that PVJR follows state, local and federal regulations, which have both been outlined in writing, and stated verbally, to ensure compliance. The County respectfully asks that PVJR cease all further actions taken at the Chelatchie Prairie site and Barberton until such compliance is established." She also stated, "I reiterate the importance of adhering to regulations regarding wetland impacts, including, mitigation and remediation."

Temple would like to resume work this week, and has yet to be in compliance on any of the aforementioned items, as well as the following (also stated by Mrs. Otto in the same letter): "apply for a permit and needs to do so within thirty (30) days," and "no further work, including, moving dirt, shall be done until a permit with Ecology is in place," as well as, "fill out a SEPA application in order for Ecology to evaluate and determine any other potential permits or regulations that may be needed." As of today, there have been zero efforts to mitigate/remediate the wetland impacts in Chelatchie.

According to the County, is Temple approved to begin work again in the Chelatchie area? And when is that appropriate to commence?

2. On October 19, 2023 in a letter to Councilors, Mr. Temple stated, in reference to the clear cutting in Chelatchie, "the trees being removed are not owned by PVJR, and the individuals responsible for this activity are not employed or associated with PVJR through any contractual arrangement."

Then who is responsible? Who is being held responsible? There are no permits on record for logging in this area.

3. In that same letter that Temple sent to the Council on October 19, he stated that, "it is evident that a logging road did indeed exist." This is simply untrue. The best evidence of this is the Geo-technical report for the Warnke property that Temple, himself, sent to Councilors On October 17, 2023. In that report there is a photo of the land prior to any logging (lest 30 years prior). The logging road, that was now a small trail, ran above the streams, near the top of the Warnke driveway. Back then, they understood that they shouldn't disrupt the water flows, and ensured the safety of the wetlands.

When will the County call Temple out-of-bounds here? Will the County just continue to allow him to twist and shape the narrative, so that it allows him access to do whatever he pleases along the railway?

It is not true, and the County has a moral obligation to ensure that the truth, facts, and evidence are on top- not someone's opinions, and certainly not their business aspirations.

4. On October 17, 2023, in the same letter that Temple sent the Geo technical report, he stated, "visit the site was the

4. On October 17, 2023, in the same letter that Temple sent the Geo-technical report, he stated, "Visit the site was the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife. They conducted a thorough inspection and concluded that PVJR had not impeded water flow or harmed any fish." Again, another lie. On the 21st of October, he said "The Army Corps of Engineers, a federal agency, as well as the State of Washington's Ecology and Fish and Wildlife departments, all joined Clark County's own team in examining this matter. Dietrich Bonhoeffer's famous words resonate here, "To not speak is to speak," and it is crucial to consider the silence of these agencies in the past three weeks."

When will the County stand up and support their State agencies?

5. In that same email, he states, "the substantial physical evidence that contradicts the accounts of the fishy neighbors, the abundance of video and photographic evidence that refutes their claims, and the unanimous declarations of neighboring property owners discrediting the fish tales." Again, untrue. My neighbors and I have compiled and sent all of the evidence, and it continues to pile up.

When will the County stand up against this out-of-town business owner disparaging the citizens of *our* community?

And finally,

6. On October 5, 2023, 13 days after work began in Chelatchie, and 7 days after they excavated out the waterway and built the road on top of it (without culverts), Temple sent the letter below to the Council and states "For your records, please see the attached letter which will be hand delivered to all the residents within a half mile of our on going Chelatchie Yard expansion." Then on the 6th of October he states, "Also, we have begun construction to expand the Chelatchie Yard. We are in the process of handing the attached letter to all our neighbors up there."

To this date, I, nor any of my neighbors have received this letter from PVJR. If you read the text, they ensure a "commitment to be good neighbors," and an "objective to protect Chelatchie Creek" both statements mock the experience that my neighbors and I have had with this company.

When will the County put the interests of their citizens, lands, and waters before a business that has no interest in working in unity and collaboration with the County and State agencies?

This is a historic debate for the County Council and staff. To go along with the way that the County is treated by Temple sets the precedent for the relationships that it has with other entities. It would show that your governing body values and prioritizes a business man's agenda and greed, over the health of our lands, waters, and citizens.

To continue allowing this kind of manipulative gaslighting of our County and Council, state experts, and staff- by a man that lacks the moral intelligence to tell the truth, is quite a statement to the people that live here.

In our homeschool, we have a subject, we call "Virtues." Just yesterday, I was explaining to my 6 year old twins about the virtue of being *responsible*. As we, as parents, sit and teach our children to be responsible for their actions, to ensure that they don't place blame on others, and maintain control over themselves- we watch this grown-up ignore enforcement, bulldoze experts, and throw his allies under the bus. The irony runs deep.

The Chelatchie community looks forward to your provided answers. Morally we cannot accept a lack of action. We will continue to pursue the truth, to tell the truth, and to stick up for the truth — — — It would be great if you would join us.

Sincerely,

Brenna Collins

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