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Members of the Planning Commission **BONNER COUNTY PLANNING DEPARTMENT** **BONNER COUNTY PLANNING DEPARTMENT**

We, the undersigned, residents of Bonner County, wish to comment on the upcoming Bonner County Comprehensive Plan, as required in Idaho Code. We are limiting our comments to the section on Hazardous Areas, as outlined in Title 67, Chapter 65, section (g). We thank you for the opportunity and hope that you will take our comments into consideration.

Section (g) references Hazardous areas that may result from surface ruptures, landslides, avalanches, and floodplain hazards. Further, Bonner County considers wildfire to be a clear and present threat to the lives, livelihoods, and property within the county. Current research and data clearly indicate that climate changes are a driving force of many of these threats.

Since changes in climate and weather patterns pose a challenge to all of Idaho, planning in Bonner County will consult current and future climate data when planning for future growth and development in each of its planning components.

Goal: Per Idaho Code, local land use planning shall consider previous and existing conditions, trends, compatibility of land uses, desirable goals and objectives, or desirable future situations for each planning component. In addition, local land use planning will increase the ability of the community's resources to adapt to the impact and challenges of climate change built on fact based information.

Goal: Bonner County desires to protect its community from the loss of lives, property, and livelihoods due to flood, fire, landslides, and other events by setting standards for development in high hazard areas.

Objective: Bonner County will develop a series of map overlays indicating areas of high hazard due to flood, fire, avalanche, etc. in planning and zoning.

Objective: Bonner County will increase the capacity of infrastructure to adjust and adapt to increasingly variable and extreme climate events.

Goal: Natural Resource Protection. Policies designed to preserve or enhance environmental areas of concern, such as wetlands, riparian corridors, and

floodplains often include the added benefit of avoiding or minimizing development in hazard areas. These policies build community resilience by not only protecting lives and property from hazards, but also maintaining natural and beneficial functions of systems that often act as buffers against those hazard effects.

Respectfully,

Warren J. Santoro



Jo Anne Kiser



Roderick Barcklay



2304 ONTARIO ST.  
SANDPOINT, ID.

## Resources

Abatzoglou, J. T., Marshall, A. M., Harley, G. L. 2021 “Observed and Projected Changes in Idaho’s Climate.” *Climate Report*

Idaho Code, Title 67 State Government and State Affairs, Chapter 65, *Local Land Use Planning*

FEMA, “Building Community Resilience by Integrating Hazard Mitigation,” *Integrating Hazard Mitigation Into the Local Comprehensive Plan*  
[www.fema.gov/multi-hazard-mitigation-planning](http://www.fema.gov/multi-hazard-mitigation-planning)

Bonner County Comprehensive Plan, “Goals, Objectives and Policies: Suggested Updates,” July 19, 2022