



Janna Brown <janna.brown@bonnercountyid.gov>

[EXT SENDER] RE: Agency Project Review Request - File AM0001-24 - Component Update - Natural Resources

1 message

Horsmon, Merritt <merritt.horsmon@idfg.idaho.gov>
To: Bonner County Planning Department <planning@bonnercountyid.gov>

Tue, Jan 23, 2024 at 4:12 PM

Hi Jenna,

Please find corresponding Idaho Department of Fish and Game comments attached.

Thank you,

Merritt Horsmon

Regional Technical Assistance Manager

Panhandle Region

2885 W. Kathleen Ave.

Coeur d'Alene, ID 83815

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From: Bonner County Planning Department <planning@bonnercountyid.gov>**Sent:** Monday, January 08, 2024 8:00 AM**To:** Army Corps of Engineers <CENWW-RD-CDA@usace.army.mil>; Avista Copr - Jay West <jay.west@avistacorp.com>; Avista Corp - Peggy George <peggy.george@avistacorp.com>; BNSF - Matthew Jones <matthew.jones@bnsf.com>; Bonner County Historical Society and Museum <DIRECTOR@bonnercountyhistory.org>; Bureau of Land Management CDA District <BLM_ID_CoeurdAleneOffice@blm.gov>; Cindy Vaughn <cindy.vaughn@usda.gov>; City of Clark Fork

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Cc: Jacob Gabell <jake.gabell@bonnercountyid.gov>; Travis Haller <travis.haller@bonnercountyid.gov>; Jenna Crone <jenna.crone@bonnercountyid.gov>
Subject: Agency Project Review Request - File AM0001-24 - Component Update - Natural Resources

CAUTION: This email originated outside the State of Idaho network. Verify links and attachments BEFORE you click or open, even if you recognize and/or trust the sender. Contact your agency service desk with any concerns.

The above-named application has been submitted to the Bonner County Planning Department for processing.

Please review the application relative to your agency's area of expertise and include any recommended conditions of approval and supporting code sections. Please see attached for details.

Thank you,

Jenna Crone, Hearing Coordinator

Bonner County Planning Department

208-265-1458 ext - 1277



BC_AM0001-24RevisedNatural RsourceComponent_BCPC.pdf
2239K



IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

PANHANDLE REGION
2885 West Kathleen Avenue
Coeur d'Alene, Idaho 83815

Brad Little / Governor
Jim Fredericks / Director

January 22, 2024

Bonner County Planning Commission
1500 Highway 2, Suite 208
Sandpoint, ID 83864

REFERENCE: AM0001-24 Text Amendment (Revised) –
Bonner County Planning Commission

Dear Bonner County Planning Commissioners,

We have reviewed the proposed Bonner County Comprehensive Plan proposed revisions for the Natural Resources component. The purpose of these comments is to assist the permitting authorities by providing technical information addressing potential effects on fish, wildlife, and habitat and how any adverse effects might be mitigated. Resident species of fish and wildlife are property of all Idaho citizens, and IDFG and the Idaho Fish and Game Commission are expressly charged with statutory responsibility to preserve, protect, perpetuate and manage all fish and wildlife in Idaho (Idaho Code § 36-103(a)).

The Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) appreciates the opportunity to review the proposed changes to the Bonner County Comprehensive Plan Natural Resource Component updates. IDFG often comments on proposals and applications regarding these topics. While we have been participating throughout this process, in review of these proposed revisions, we offer the following comments.

Section 1.1 – Surface Waters

CURRENT AND POTENTIAL THREATS TO SURFACE WATER RESOURCES

(suggested wording):

“Bonner County should continue implementing land use policies protecting surface water quality and quantity so that it may sustain continued benefit to people and wildlife.

The background for this change is the fact that several of the minimum stream flow water rights in Bonner County held by the Idaho Water Resources Board are not currently being met during certain times of the year. These include:

- Priest River
- The Pack River

Keeping Idaho's Wildlife Heritage

- Grouse Creek
- Pend Orielle River below Albeni Falls Dam
- North Fork of the East River

While streamflow deficiencies aren't directly tied to water use and continuing development, increased water demand will only exacerbate the issue. Northern Idaho's climate is changing, and we are experiencing hotter, drier summers, more precipitation in the form of rain, and a decreased snowpack. Continued drought conditions will have adverse effects on water quantity and Bonner County should proactively explore options to conserve water.

Sediment:

(Suggested wording:)

Land use policies that address excess sedimentation includes:

- Shoreline setbacks
- Wetland Setbacks
- Nearshore impervious surfaces
- Stormwater runoff
- Shoreline buffers
- Construction BMPs
- Wetland destruction

Non-point Source Chemical Run-Off:

Additional sources of phosphorus could include:

- Stormwater runoff
- Shoreline development

High Water Temperatures:

Additional reason for high water temperatures may include:

- Excess sediment
- Lower water discharge in fluvial environments
- Private dams and diversion
- Climate change
- Nearshore development
- Removal of riparian vegetation
- Stormwater runoff

This section seems overly simplified, as there are additional reasons for increased water temperatures than lack of shading. Many, but not all, of the above reasons could potentially be reduced by land use policy.

Shoreline Development Regulations:

(Suggested wording:)

Implementation of stormwater flow control measures on all shoreline properties that slope towards shorelines.

Section 1.3 Wetlands

Uses of wetlands

(Suggested edits:)

Wetlands are flood attenuation tools and can store floodwaters. Additionally, they act as water filters for sediment and many pollutants. Wetlands are an essential habitat for many of Idaho's fish, wildlife, invertebrate, and plant species. Nearly 50% of bird species rely on wetland and riparian habitats. Wetlands, and associated aquatic and riparian habitats, support about 47% of Idaho's wildlife Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) and 46% of the state's rare plant species are dependent on these habitats. The hydrologic, water quality, ecosystem support, and habitat functions of wetlands provide highly valued ecosystem services to Idaho's citizens, including:

- food and fiber (including culturally important fish, waterfowl, plants, etc.)
- groundwater recharge
- irrigation/domestic water supply
- support of base flows for springs, streams, and rivers
- flood minimization
- wastewater treatment
- sediment and shoreline stabilization
- water quality improvement
- carbon sequestration

(M. Horsmon, personal communication (U.S. EPA, 2006) (Murphy, 2014)

Section 1.5 - Fisheries and their Uses

(Suggested edits:)

(M. Horsmon, personal communication, November 14, 2022)

(Idaho Fisheries Management Plan, 2016)

Section 1.6 – Beaches, Harbors and their Uses

“Beaches provide public access to public waters.”

This statement could be confusing to the public, and we encourage revision. Not all beaches are public, and not all beaches provide access. IDFG recommends:

Public Beaches provide access to public waters...

Chapter 4 - Wildlife

Section 4.1 – General Overview

(Suggested edits:)

- IDFG recommends that “can be sensitive” be changed to "are sensitive” in the last sentence of the first paragraph.
- Add Wolverine *Gulo gulo* (Threatened) to list of listed species that have been observed in Bonner County.

At the end of section 4.1, it might be useful to add an “Education and Voluntary Action” section similar to the one in section 1.1, surface waters. There are both education and voluntary actions within the Idaho State Wildlife Action Plan to minimize and mitigate effects to Idaho SGCNs

that may be helpful to some citizens of Bonner County. This section seems like the most appropriate section to add this reference. Additionally, in the critical habitat section, it may be helpful to mention the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, and how to obtain a nest disturbance/removal permit from the Fish and Wildlife Service. IDFG frequently gets questions about this.

IDFG appreciates the opportunity to participate with Bonner County on the Comprehensive Plan Update through the agency comment process. We will continue to partner and engage and provide technical assistance that aligns with our Department's mission and commission approved wildlife action plans.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mickler for CW".

Carson Watkins
Panhandle Regional Supervisor

C: eFile M:\

Citations:

Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG). 2019. Fisheries Management Plan 2019-2024, Boise, ID.

Murphy, C. 2014. Idaho's Wetland Program Plan: A plan for implementing the Idaho Wetland Conservation Strategy focused on Idaho Department of Fish and Game's wetland and riparian habitats. Prepared for U. S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10, Wetland Program Development Grant. Idaho Department of Fish and Game, Wildlife Bureau, Habitat Section, Boise, ID. 99 pp. plus appendix

United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Wetlands: Protecting Life and Property from flooding, EPA843-F-06-001. Office of Water May, 2006