



Janna Brown <janna.brown@bonnercountyid.gov>

[EXT SENDER] RE: Bonner County Planning - VA0001-24 Agency Review - Administrative - Shoreline Setback - Reiner

1 message

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

Thu, Feb 8, 2024 at 10:36 AM

Hi Janna,

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

208.769.1414 office

208.251.4509 mobile

merritt.horsmon@idfg.idaho.gov

From: Bonner County Planning <planning@bonnercountyid.gov>**Sent:** Wednesday, January 31, 2024 1:13 PM**To:** Avista Copr - Jay West <jay.west@avistacorp.com>; Avista Corp - Peggy George <peggy.george@avistacorp.com>; Road & Bridge - Matt Mulder <matt.mulder@bonnercountyid.gov>; GIS Department <gis@bonnercountyid.gov>; Horsmon, Merritt <merritt.horsmon@idfg.idaho.gov>; IDL Nav Waters <polclerical@idl.idaho.gov>; School District 84 Transportation - James Koehler <james.koehler@lposd.org>; US Fish & Wildlife Services - Christy Johnson Hughes <fw1idahoconsultationrequests@fws.gov>; West Pend Oreille

Fire District <wpofd1@gmail.com>; Bryan Quayle <quaylelanduseconsulting@gmail.com>; layers@priestriver-id.gov; Dan McCracken <Dan.McCracken@deq.idaho.gov>; Kristie May <Kristie.May@deq.idaho.gov>; Erik Sjoquist <esjoquist@idl.idaho.gov>; Northern Info <northerninfo@idwr.idaho.gov>; PHD <EHapplications@phd1.idaho.gov>; joekren@sd83.org; Steffie Pavey <steffiepavey@sd83.org>
Cc: Robert Winningham <robertb.winningham@bonnercountyid.gov>; Travis Haller <travis.haller@bonnercountyid.gov>

Subject: Bonner County Planning - VA0001-24 Agency Review - Administrative - Shoreline Setback - Reiner

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,

Janna Brown, Administrative Assistant III

Bonner County Planning Department

208-265-1458 ext - 1252

 **BC_VA0001-24_PriestR_SLSetback_Reiner.pdf**
208K



IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

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

Brad Little / Governor
Jim Fredericks / Director

February 7, 2024

Rob Winningham, Planner I
Bonner County Planning Department
1500 Highway 2, Suite 208
Sandpoint, ID 83864

REFERENCE: VA0001-24 – Shoreline Setback Administrative Variance - Reiner

Dear Mr. Winningham:

We have reviewed the above-named request for an administrative variance for a 62-foot stream shoreline setback where 75 feet is required to make improvements to an existing home on the shoreline of Priest River. The purpose of these comments is to assist the decision-making authority by providing technical information that can be used to minimize fish and wildlife impacts.

Lower Priest River is water quality impaired and has a 2019 Idaho Department of Environmental Quality and Environmental Protection Agency approved TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Load) for temperature and a basin wide 2003 TMDL for sedimentation/siltation. It is currently not meeting criteria for the beneficial use of coldwater aquatic life and salmonid spawning, which has had negative effects on the fishery. Additionally, Lower Priest River has been designated by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service as critical habitat for ESA listed (threatened) Bull Trout.

The Bonner County Code (subchapter 7.1) states that the purpose of the shoreline setback chapter is to preserve both the quality and quantity of Bonner County water resources. Additionally, it aims to reduce erosion and sedimentation into waterways. Finally, Bonner County Code Section 12-711(A)2 states “for rivers, streams, creeks or other similar flowing bodies of water....no structure shall be located closer than seventy-five feet (75’).

In this case, the variance is being requested due to design errors and a narrow building envelope due to the slope of the parcel. Additionally, the applicant is trying to avoid cutting trees and removing vegetation.

Appropriate mitigation for building 62 feet from Priest River could consist of installation of biofiltration swales, or shoreline riparian buffers. The property currently appears to have a sufficient shoreline riparian buffer.

Keeping Idaho's Wildlife Heritage

A native riparian vegetation buffer functions efficiently as a biofiltration agent and does not require the fertilizers, pesticides, and watering that lawns require.

IDFG recommends that the existing riparian buffer be maintained and/or possibly enhanced with additional native vegetation to prevent negative effects to water quality.

IDFG recommends that the applicant consider installing a biofiltration swale between the modified structure and the shoreline of Priest River

If variances to code become regularly allowed, we would expect that to lead to modified shorelines, increased nutrient inputs to waterways, declines in water quality, and subsequent negative effects to fisheries.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Carson Watkins
Panhandle Regional Supervisor

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