



Janna Brown <janna.brown@bonnercountyid.gov>

[EXT SENDER] RE: Bonner County Planning - VA0017-25 Agency Review - Administrative – Property Line, Street and Waterfront setback

1 message

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

Wed, Jul 2, 2025 at 11:10 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

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merritt.horsmon@idfg.idaho.gov**From:** Bonner County Planning <planning@bonnercountyid.gov>**Sent:** Tuesday, June 17, 2025 9:35 AM

To: Alan Brinkmeier <alan.brinkmeier@bonnercountyid.gov>; Amber Burgess <clerk@ebsewerdistrict.com>; 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>; Becky Meyer <becky.meyer@lposd.org>; Bill Berg <billb@bbsewer.org>; Bonner County Assessors <assessorsgroup@bonnercountyid.gov>; BONNER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND MUSEUM

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Cc: Kyle Snider <kyle.snider@bonnercountyid.gov>; Alexander Feyen <alexander.feyen@bonnercountyid.gov>

Subject: Bonner County Planning - VA0017-25 Agency Review - Administrative – Property Line, Street and Waterfront setback

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_VA0017-25_LPO_Edwards.pdf

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IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

PANHANDLE REGION

2885 West Kathleen Avenue

Coeur d'Alene, Idaho 83815

Brad Little / Governor
Jim Fredericks / Director

June 30, 2025

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

REFERENCE: VA0017-25– Shoreline Setback Administrative Variance – Lake Pend Oreille

The Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) has reviewed the above-named request for a variance for a 28-foot shoreline setback where 40 feet is required to build a home on the shoreline of Lake Pend Orielle. 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.

Lake Pend Oreille has a 2002 Idaho Department of Environmental Quality and Environmental Protection Agency approved TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Load) for total phosphorus. It is currently not meeting criteria for the beneficial use of coldwater aquatic life or salmonid spawning.

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. Mitigation for decreased shoreline setback can be in the form of a stormwater and erosion plan, biofiltration swales, or riparian buffers. A native riparian vegetation buffer functions efficiently as a biofiltration agent, and does not require the fertilizers, pesticides, and watering that lawns require. Additionally, riparian vegetation has complex root systems that can withstand increased wave action more effectively than banks that are sparsely vegetated, or grass covered.

IDFG Recommendations:

- Mitigation for the decreased shoreline setback be implemented to prevent negative effects to Lake Pend Orielle water quality.
- Should this variance be granted, we recommend the applicant retain as much of the native vegetation as practicable to maintain a shoreline riparian buffer. Additional native planting would help to ameliorate any negative effects to water quality.
- All shoreline building BMPs for sedimentation and erosion be adhered to during the building process. The Idaho DEQ catalog of storm water BMPs is linked below.
 - <https://www2.deq.idaho.gov/admin/LEIA/api/document/download/14968>

Keeping Idaho's Wildlife Heritage

If variances to Bonner County Code become regularly allowed, we would expect that to lead to modified shorelines, increased nutrient inputs to the lake, declines in water quality, and subsequent negative effects to the fishery.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Carson Watkins
Panhandle Regional Supervisor

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