



IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

UPPER SNAKE REGION
4279 Commerce Circle
Idaho Falls, Idaho 83401

C.L. "Butch" Otter / Governor
Virgil Moore / Director

January 5, 2012

Curt Moore
Teton County Planning and Building Department
89 North Main Street, Suite 4
Driggs, ID 83422

RE: Canyon Creek Ranch proposed Re-Plat

Dear Curt:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the scoping of the proposed re-plat of the Canyon Creek Ranch. Resident species of fish and wildlife are property of all Idaho citizens, therefore Idaho Department of Fish and Game (Department) 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)). In fulfillment of our statutory charge and direction as provided by the Idaho Legislature, we offer the following comments and recommendations. The purpose of these comments is to assist Teton County by providing technical information addressing potential effects on wildlife, wildlife habitat, and how any adverse effects might be mitigated. It is not the purpose of Idaho Department of Fish and Game to support or oppose this proposal.

We note that your request is specifically referencing only the proposed re-plats and whether or not the Department believes these changes will be significant mitigation when compared to the platting that is already approved. We understand that the developer has been approved to proceed with the current plat.

In review of the two options, the re-plat of Area A in the northeast corner of the development would yield some wildlife benefits. The area goes from an approved 58 units to no development. This section then adds to the open space of block 5 and block 1, as well as Nelson Farms to the north and east. However, there will be significant indirect impacts in this area resulting from the extensive adjacent development.

The other two re-plat proposals, to drop ten lots each from two high concentration areas will have relatively little positive impact. While they will result in a decrease in traffic and other human density dependent functions, that relief will be minimal and will not equate to any additional acres reserved for wildlife.

Keeping Idaho's Wildlife Heritage

Given the scale, location, and proposed activities of the proposal, we believe these mitigations will have minor benefits and will not improve the project to the point where any significant wildlife concerns are addressed. We would be happy to work with the County and the developer to locate areas where density and other adjustments would better improve habitat for wildlife.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this proposal. If you have any further questions, please contact Terry Thomas, Regional Habitat Manager, at 525-7290.

Regards,



Steve Schmidt
Regional Supervisor

SLS:TT:jms

cc: Terry Thomas, IDFG
Rob Cavallaro, IDFG
Paul Faulkner, IDFG