



Sharon Fox <sfox@co.teton.id.us>

Wildlife Study Review

Gary Armstrong <garmstrong@co.teton.id.us>

Fri, Aug 28, 2020 at 4:36 PM

To: Sharon Fox <sfox@co.teton.id.us>, Teton Planner <jchase@co.teton.id.us>

Please add this to the file, and also upload it to the project file in the agenda.

Thanks!

Gary

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Gray, Jacob** <jacob.gray@idfg.idaho.gov>

Date: Fri, Aug 28, 2020 at 3:32 PM

Subject: RE: Wildlife Study Review

To: Gary Armstrong <garmstrong@co.teton.id.us>

Cc: Teton Planner <planner@co.teton.id.us>

Gary,

Thanks for the opportunity to take a look at this and comment. The wildlife study is of the appropriate scale and detail for the proposed action. I have circulated the study around to the appropriate IDFG staff and have some comments for the county. I believe the best and most timely way to summarize this information is the bulleted list below:

- Teton Creek provides important riparian habitat used by a myriad of wildlife species but especially notable in this instance is the use by large ungulates (deer, elk, moose), especially Moose. The Teton Creek Riparian habitat is used year-round by large ungulates but is increasingly utilized winter months.
- We did notice and take into account the proposal is adjacent to the already approved and platted Targhee Hill Estates (Correct?). Which when fully developed will have a substantially greater impact the Teton Creek Riparian habitat than this proposed campground/housing area.
- Recommendation: Clustering development, should it need occur, makes the most sense if minimization of the deleterious impacts to the surrounding wildlife habitat is a desired outcome. It is IDFG's understanding that this proposal is adjacent to another area already approved and platted for development. Assuming that is the case, the only recommendation that IDFG can offer to the county and the applicant for consideration is if there is a way to move the proposed campground/housing area further to the east along the northern boundary of the property that would:
 - Increase the straight-line distance from the Riparian Habitat along Teton Creek thus minimizing the potential additional impacts to that important wildlife habitat from this proposal.
 - Decrease the likelihood of Human-Wildlife conflicts, especially with moose.
 - These benefits would be most evident in the period of time between the establishment of the campground/housing area and additional development of the Targhee Hill Estates.

I believe that is the information we can offer that is most germane to the decision at hand. If any additional information or follow-up conversation is warranted or desired we are happy to further engage at the county's request.

Jacob

Jacob Gray

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