

October 12, 2016

Kristine Hilt
Code Compliance Specialist
Blaine County Land Use and Building Services
219 1st Avenue South, Suite 208
Hailey, ID 83333

RE: 121 N. Colorado Gulch Road, Hailey, ID 83333

Dear Kristine,

In response to the letter from you and your office dated August 1, 2016 and per our subsequent phone conversations, I wish to apply for a revision to the existing MOD Site Alteration Permit for my property regarding conifers.

There are a total of 11 conifers on my property – 7 Blue Spruce and 4 Austrian Pines (see map for their locations). I personally planted these around 3 years ago in my front yard to add to the esthetic value of my property which I purchased in foreclosure in February, 2013. It was in pretty bad shape at that time and due to my attention to detail and interest in complimenting a beautiful hillside in Colorado Gulch, I continue to diligently maintain my property personally.

At the time I purchased the home from the bank, I was not provided with any of the information pertaining to the MOD ordinance or regulations regarding it, so this request to remove these beautiful and healthy trees that I care for came as quite a shock. I and my property survived a careless fire in 2014 that spared my home partially due to my diligence in clearing and maintaining a substantial amount of land around the structure. The Blaine County Fire Chief personally commended me and cited my property as an example of good practice with his team after the fire.

One of the Austrian pines is in an area of the front yard that I cleared dead, burned sage and brush out to widen the protected area around my home after the fire. It has been brought to my attention that it is planted on my neighbor, Ken Barker's property. I have spoken with him verbally about this and he is not concerned. He has not responded back to me regarding my offer to purchase that area of land from him as it is completely out of his line of site from his home.

I have spoken directly with Carl Hjelm, a local certified arborist at Alpine Tree Services in Hailey. He reassured me that both Blue Spruce and Austrian Pine trees are in abundance in the Wood River Valley. Although, they are not indigenous, they are also not an invasive species to the area and will not reseed. Thus, I feel that they are truly "native compatible" as stated in D (Design Review Standards of Evaluation) 8 (Native or native compatible...) of the Chapter 21 Mountain Overlay District Statement of Intent and Purposes. They are in full view at many of our neighbors residing below and throughout the Croy Canyon. Other conifers - Douglas Firs are also within view across the canyon above and around Rotarun Ski Hill and up and down the valley corridor hillsides in their natural state.

I am aware now, with further inquiry to Bob Erickson with Public Health in Bellevue that two of my trees may have been inadvertently planted on top of the drain fields in the front yard. He has provided me with a map of the areas affected and I will absolutely relocate those Austrian Pines to another suitable area of my property as soon as possible.

Please find enclosed the information requested and a check for \$300, addressed envelopes to neighbors within 300 ft of my property and 8 copies of the aerial photo showing where the current conifers are planted on my property as requested.

Thank you for your consideration.


Terry Rich
208.860.5703

