

Kathy Grotto

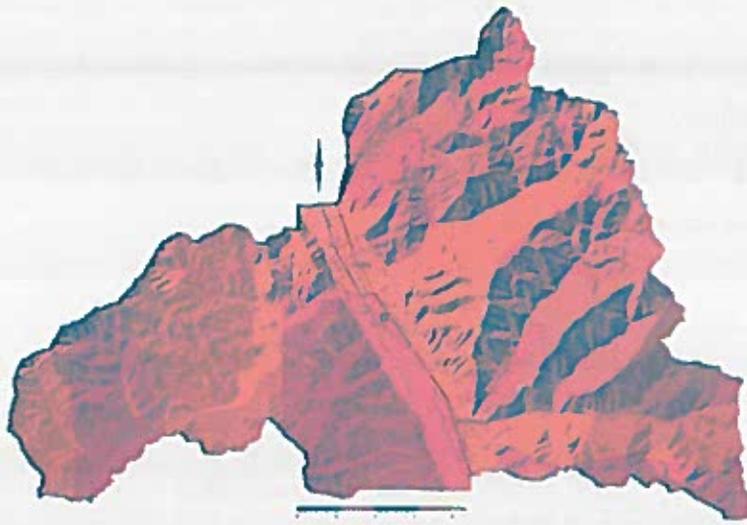
From: Angenie McCleary
Sent: Tuesday, July 19, 2016 12:31 PM
To: Kathy Grotto
Subject: FW: Natural Environment Chapter

FYI

From: Janet Carter [<mailto:haileyjanet@gmail.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, July 19, 2016 12:11 PM
To: Angenie McCleary <AMcCleary@co.blaine.id.us>; Lawrence Schoen <lschoen@co.blaine.id.us>; Jacob Greenberg <jgreenberg@co.blaine.id.us>
Subject: Natural Environment Chapter

From: Janet Carter <haileyjanet@gmail.com>
Subject: Natural Environment Chapter
Date: July 19, 2016 at 11:55:21 AM MDT
To: "lschoen@co.blaine.id.us" "amccleary@co.blaine.id.us",
"jgreenberg@co.blaine.id.us"
Cc: awalton@co.blaine.id.us.

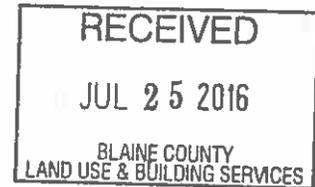
Dear County Commissioners McCleary, Schoen and Greenberg,
First of all, thank you for all you do, and the time spent on all the different difficulties of development in the Wood River Valley. I would say most of us live here because we love the great outdoors and for the many opportunities we have here, to recreate. I am, once again writing to you about my concern for another reason we love to live here, wildlife. On the brightly colored map below, the County, thankfully, shows the north side of Quigley Canyon as winter range for deer and elk, but the north facing slopes on the south side of Fox Acres Road, show nothing. I'm not exactly sure why that whole area has been left blank, while the surrounding hills all have winter range on them. Also the pictures I sent to you last winter were of the elk and deer all over the hills surrounding Quigley Canyon. I have many more pictures of wildlife on the north facing slopes in the same area. I'm concerned that there are plans in the making to have bike trails and walking or snowshoeing paths on those hillsides, that would disrupt and disturb the wildlife during the winter time when they need to conserve their energy. If trails are to go in, I believe there should be temporary closures for wintering wildlife.
Thank you once again for all you do, and for your consideration in this concern.
Sincerely, Janet Carter



pzcounter

From: Jenny Lovell
Sent: Monday, July 25, 2016 8:15 AM
To: pzcounter
Subject: FW: Public Comment, Natural Resources Chapter

Jenny Lovell
Commissioners Assistant
206 1st Avenue South Suite 300
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From: elizabeth lili simpson [mailto:lilisimpso@aol.com]
Sent: Tuesday, July 19, 2016 11:32 AM
To: jgreenber@co.id.blaine.us; Jenny Lovell <jlovell@co.blaine.id.us>
Cc: Lawrence Schoen <lschoen@co.blaine.id.us>; Angenie McCleary <AMcCleary@co.blaine.id.us>
Subject: Public Comment, Natural Resources Chapter

Dear Chair Greenberg;

Please publicly share my comments regarding the draft Natural Resources section of the Comprehensive Plan update. I am unable to attend today.

Maps:

The maps are a very effective tool for considering land use in the County and are a great addition to the Plan.

The Commissioners should understand that the Mapped Wildlife Areas representations of winter range for elk and deer are static and very literal. It should be noted that these animals are migratory, traveling through multiple jurisdictions. They do not move on a particular timetable, during a particular time of day, season, or month. Nor do they travel in sync, or along a defined path or trail. In the Hailey area map, for instance, the area between the north side of Quigley canyon and the south ridge is not included in winter range mapping. It is unscientific and unrealistic to not include the south facing hills in winter range mapping, because they serve both as winter range and migratory corridors. There are particular areas that animals utilize as winter range. For instance, the NE ridges that are on the south facing side of BLM parcel RP02N180110000 harbor elk all winter.

It would be of valuable to note in the text that deer and elk travel through these lower elevation areas in migration in the fall and spring, and may stay for some time. Connectivity for migratory wildlife is vitally important, as are winter range areas not subject to human uses.

Irrigation ditches:

Irrigation ditches and adjacent open areas are the iconic landscapes in the County. Although open ditches are not in favor by some, they are very important for wildlife. They serve as corridors for travel by many animals. They offer cover, nesting, food and reproductive habitat for many organisms. Ditches support vegetation that shades and cools, and reduces wind. Phreatophytes (cottonwoods and willows) are known to return water to depth in a process called hydraulic redistribution, and ditches may help to replenish aquifers.

Zoning:

We live in human altered landscapes in Blaine County. In such settings, it is valuable to create landscapes that are permeable to wildlife. A mosaic of parcel sizes can help to support residential and seasonal movements of wildlife from hillsides to the valley floor at the toe of the hill. Larger parcels that include the bottom of the hillsides support wildlife permeability, particularly if fencing is limited. These areas are called transition zones, as they support higher biodiversity than either the hillside or valley, particularly if there is a riparian zone.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Lili Simpson
Hailey