



**IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME**

MAGIC VALLEY REGION  
324 South 417 East, Suite 1  
Jerome, Idaho 83338

Brad Little / Governor  
Ed Schriever / Director

December 8, 2021

Kathy Grotto, Deputy Director  
Blaine County Land Use and Building Services  
219 1st Avenue South, Suite 208  
Hailey, ID 83333

**RE: IDFG Comments – Preliminary Plat for Quigley Ranch Subdivision**

Dear Kathy,

The Idaho Department of Fish and Game's (IDFG) mission is to preserve, protect, perpetuate, and manage fish and wildlife for the public interest (Idaho Code § 36-103). Accordingly, IDFG has reviewed the preliminary plat for the proposed Quigley Ranch Subdivision near Hailey, Blaine County. The proposed site is located on the south side of the floor of Quigley Canyon, approx. 0.5 miles east of the canyon mouth. The preliminary plat appears to show 24 proposed lots with associated infrastructure (septic drainage fields, irrigation easements, etc.). The purpose of these comments is to assist the decision-making authority by providing technical information addressing potential effects on wildlife, and how any adverse effects might be mitigated.

The loss of big game winter habitat to development is a serious ongoing problem in the Wood River Valley. Depending on winter severity, the immediately surrounding hillsides of Quigley Canyon provide important winter range for several hundred deer and elk, and the valley floor provides an important travel route for these wildlife as they migrate between high elevation summer/fall habitat and low elevation winter habitat. Human activity and infrastructure near or within areas used by wildlife can disrupt migrations, reduce the quality and quantity of winter habitat, and increase stress during crucial life history stages.

IDFG recommends that Blaine County consider the proposed subdivision area as Class II Classified Lands, defined in Blaine County Code (Section 9-20-4) as "Lands within Blaine County that include elk migration corridors or mule deer migration corridors as defined within references used by IDFG and other professional sources". As per Blaine County Code of Ordinances (Title 9, Ch. 20, Sections 5-7), subdivisions developed on Classified Lands require the inclusion of a "conservation plan" to reduce wildlife impacts. IDFG is available to assist in the development of a wildlife conservation plan.

IDFG also understands 1,278 acres of Quigley Canyon to be subject to the Quigley Farms Conservation Easement Agreement via the Wood River Land Trust. The proposed plat appears to overlap with the conservation easement and existing recreational trails maintained by the Blaine County Recreation District. IDFG would appreciate clarification within the plat and/or future conservation plans on the location of the existing conservation easement, and details on the easement conditions.

*Keeping Idaho's Wildlife Heritage*

Thank you for the opportunity to review the preliminary plat. Please contact Bradley Dawson (Environmental Staff Biologist; [Bradley.dawson@idfg.idaho.gov](mailto:Bradley.dawson@idfg.idaho.gov)), at this office with questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Craig A. White". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "C".

Craig White  
Magic Valley Regional Supervisor