



IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

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

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

November 1, 2011

Beth Robrahn, Planning Director
City of Hailey Planning and Zoning
115 Main Street South, Suite H
Hailey, ID 83333

Re: Amended Quigley Canyon Ranch Subdivision Proposal – City of Hailey

Dear Beth:

Idaho Department of Fish and Game (Department) staff has reviewed the amended proposal (dated September 2011) from the Hennessy Company (Applicant) to subdivide lands east of Hailey in Quigley Canyon. It is our understanding this amendment proposes: 1) higher lot densities in the lower portion of the canyon, 2) no development in Deadman Gulch, 2) no development above (east of) Quigley Pond, and 3) designation of two open space wildlife corridors (300 ft. and 475 ft wide) in the mid canyon portion of the development. We understand the amendments were proposed, in part, to address wildlife resource concerns associated with development at this site.

As noted in previous correspondences, Quigley Canyon (and adjacent public properties) provides important seasonal and year-round habitat for a variety of native wildlife. The physical characteristics of the property combined with the intact, contiguous nature of native plant communities are of significant value for a variety of wildlife including fawning habitat for mule deer, migrating mule deer, and winter habitat for mule deer and elk.

In the Department's April 23, 2008 letter to the City of Hailey, we offered the following recommendations to mitigate for potential effects to wintering big game and migrating mule deer: 1) no development in Deadman Gulch, 2) significantly reduced lot densities above Quigley Pond and in the mid canyon reach by clustering more development near the mouth of the canyon, 3) relocated infrastructure (access roads, recreation trails, power lines, etc.) to the south side of the canyon to further buffer winter habitat from development, and 4) reduced density and designation of open space for movement corridors above Quigley Pond. The current proposal specifically addresses recommendations 1, 2, and 4. Based on the information we were provided, we are unable to determine to what degree recommendation 3 has been addressed.

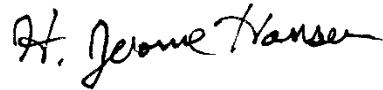
IDFG appreciates the Applicant's efforts to address concerns regarding the potential effects of the previous proposals. We also appreciate Hailey Planning and Zoning and Hailey City Council's attempts to build protective measures into the proposal. Our evaluation suggests the

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current proposal represents considerable progress towards addressing issues of continued mule deer migration and wintering wildlife associated with development in Quigley Canyon.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment. Please contact Mike McDonald, Environmental Staff Biologist, in this office if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "H. Jerome Hansen". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

H. Jerome Hansen
Magic Valley Regional Supervisor

Cc: Hennessy Company (Dave Hennessy)
Blaine County Planning and Zoning (Tom Bergin)
BLM Shoshone Field Office (Ruth Miller)
IDFG (Hebdon)
ECc: IDFG (R4 staff)