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The Hailey Fire Department has received a plan for the development of the Quigley Canyon area. There are several concerns with this project due to it being in an area that could sustain considerable damage if a wildland fire were to occur in that area.

The City of Hailey has adopted the 2009 Wildland-Urban Interface Code in order to properly develop the areas that are designated as urban interface areas by the City. Some of the issues with this plan are directly related to this code. These issues will need to be resolved before the Fire Department and the City can approve this project.

- The landscape of the project has changed from a golf course to sustainable agriculture. This creates a different fuel for wildland fires. Instead of green grass that is mowed and maintained, it will be possibly range land or agricultural crops that could include tall dry brush and grasses that could contribute to faster moving fires.
- The homes in the area will be required to be built to certain ignition resistant standards. The level of resistance is determined by location of the home, access, grade, water supply, and surrounding fuel load. Due to a complete set of scalable plan not being submitted that did not provide any detail to grade of the roads, slope of the terrain, available firefighting water etc., we are unable to determine what those requirements will be.
- We have concerns as to the density of homes in blocks A, B and C. the homes appear to be close together which could create the issue of fire being easily spread from one house to the other. This factor could increase with the addition of landscaping features.
- Some of the homes will be required to have defensible space surrounding them. The size of that area can be determined with a scalable set of plans. The question is who is responsible for maintaining the space? It is usually up to the property owner or home owners group to do this. If the area that surrounds the development is owned by the city, would then the city be responsible for the maintenance.
- The homes located in blocks D, H exceed the amount of homes allowed on a single access road by City Ordinance.

The standards for development in wildland areas are in place to protect lives and property. As we expand our city and develop into these canyons and other designated wildland areas we must ensure that these new subdivisions are held to these standards to increase the safety of our citizens and assist in the protection of these properties.

Mike Baledge
Fire Marshal
City of Hailey.