

Valley County Planning and Zoning

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STAFF REPORT: SUB 26-006 Bears Den 2 Subdivision - Preliminary Plat
MEETING DATE: July 9, 2026
TO: Planning and Zoning Commission
STAFF: Cynda Herrick, AICP, CFM
Planning and Zoning Director
**APPLICANT /
PROPERTY OWNER:** Kenneth R. Purdom II Trust, C/O Dr. Kenneth R Purdom
#6217 Hill Ave, Whittier, CA 90601
SURVEYOR: John Russell, Russell Surveying INC
PO Box 945, McCall ID 83638
LOCATION: South side of Nisula Road;
52.2 acres of parcel RP16N03E050605 located in the NW ¼ Section 5,
T.16N, R.3E, Boise Meridian, Valley County, Idaho
SIZE: 52.2 acres
REQUEST: Single-Family Residential Subdivision – 5 Residential Lots
EXISTING LAND USE: Agricultural

Kenneth Purdom is requesting a conditional use permit for a five-lot single-family residential subdivision. Proposed lots are approximately 10 acres in size.

Individual septic and wells are proposed. Overhead power and phone lines are along Nisula Lane; the applicant proposes underground extension to all lots.

Any wetlands will be delineated on the final plat. The site has water rights.

The lots would be accessed off Nisula Road, a public road.

The applicant has proposed dedicating to Valley County a 70-ft wide road right-of-way for Nisula Road.

A Wildland Urban Interface Fire Protection Plan (short form) was submitted.

FINDINGS:

1. Pre-Application meetings were held February 10, 2026, and February 24, 2026.
2. A neighborhood meeting as required by VCC 9-5H-1.D was held January 30, 2026.
3. Part of the application was received on April 24, 2026. Additional submittals were received May 11, 2026.

4. Legal notice was posted in the *Star News* on June 18, 2026, and June 25, 2026. The applicant was notified by letter on June 9, 2026. Potentially affected agencies were notified on June 9, 2026. Property owners within 300 feet of the property line were notified by fact sheet sent by mail on June 12, 2026. The notice was posted online at www.co.valley.id.us on June 9, 2026. The site was posted on June 18, 2026.

5. Agency comment received:

Brent Copes, Central District Health, stated test holes with engineer and CDH present; ground water monitoring and engineering are required. (June 14, 2026)

Mara Hiwatschek, Valley County Wildfire Mitigation Program Director, approved the Wildfire Mitigation Plan contingent upon the full implementation of all wildfire mitigation measures identified in the approved plan and verification through inspection that the work has been completed as stated in the plan. Required inspections shall occur prior to final plat approval and/or issuance of building permits. (June 10, 2026)

Jerry Holenbeck, Donnelly Fire Marshal, listed requirements for roads, driveways, and water supply for fire protection. A 10,000-gallon underground water storage tank is required. (June 22, 2026)

Paul Ashton, Parametrix and Valley County Engineer, stated:

- Site grading and drainage plans are not required for review.
- Stormwater improvements along Nisula Road, including culverts, shall meet criteria outlined in the Valley Stormwater improvements along Nisula Road, including culverts under driveways, shall meet the criteria outlined in the Valley County Minimum Standards for Private/Public Road Design and Construction.
- Additional stormwater resulting from site improvements will need to be retained on site and appropriate temporary and permanent best management practices (BMPs) and erosion control measures are required to protect adjacent properties, waterways, and roadway ditches.
- Improvements to Nisula Road, a public local road, shall meet the criteria outlined in the Valley County Minimum Standards for Public Road Design and Construction, with a 70-ft right-of-way and 35-ft minimum on each side of roadway centerline.
- A traffic impact study is not required for this 5-lot subdivision; however, a development agreement identifying public road impacts may be required. (July 1, 2026)

Brandon Flack, Idaho Fish and Game Regional Technical Assistance Manager, submitted general recommendations for subdivisions, which include controlling pets, vegetative recommendations, prohibiting feeding of wildlife, riparian barriers around wetlands, pond requirements, and wildlife friendly fencing. (November 21, 2024)

Janeen Maxell, Postmaster, requests subdivision applicants contact her to determine if a cluster mailbox is appropriate for this location. (2024)

Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) provided general comments on air quality, wastewater, drinking water, surface water, solid waste, hazardous waste, water quality, ground water contamination, and best management practices. (June 15, 2026)

6. Public comment received: none

7. Physical characteristics of the site: Relatively flat and grass covered. May be wetlands. There is irrigation flow through the property.
8. The surrounding land use and zoning includes:
 - North: Agricultural (Irrigated Grazing); Single-Family Residential Lots (Bears Den)
 - South: Agricultural (Irrigated Pasture)
 - East: Remainder of Parcel, Agricultural (Irrigated Grazing) with home sites
 - West: Agricultural (Dry Grazing) with home site; U.S. Bureau of Reclamation Land
9. Valley County Code (Title 9): In Table 9-3-1, this proposal is categorized under:
 - 2. Residential Uses (c) Subdivision for single-family subdivision.

Review of Title 9 - Chapter 5 Conditional Uses and Title 10 Subdivision Regulations should be done.

TITLE 9 LAND USE AND DEVELOPMENT

9-1-10 DEFINITIONS

Lot Coverage: That portion of a lot that is occupied by the principal building and its accessory buildings, including overhangs, along with any structures requiring a building permit, and other impervious surfaces, such as driveways, patios, and accessory structures.

9-4-8: TABLE 4-A, STANDARDS FOR PERMITTED USES:

Use Description	Building Setbacks (feet)				Minimum Lot Area Acres	Max. Lot Cover	Minimum Street Frontage	Max. Building Height
	Front	Side	Side Street	Rear				
Residential Uses	20	7.5	20	20	Var.	35%	30 ft	35 ft

9-5-3: STANDARDS:

B. Setbacks:

1. Structures Exceeding Three Feet In Height: The setbacks for all structures exceeding three feet (3') in height are specified herein under the site and development standards for the specific use.
2. Highway 55: All structures shall be set back one hundred feet (100') from the right of way line of Highway 55 unless a more restrictive setback is required within other sections of this title.
3. High Water Line: All residential buildings shall be set back at least thirty feet (30') from high water lines. All other buildings shall be set back at least one hundred feet (100') from high water lines.
4. Front Yards: Front yards shall be determined by the structure establishing the principal use on the property and the location of the access street or road.
5. Encroachment On Yards: No other structure may encroach on the yards determined for the structure establishing principal use.
6. Measurement: All building setbacks shall be measured horizontally, on a perpendicular to the property line, to the nearest corner or face of the building including eaves, projections, or overhangs.

9-5A-1: GRADING:

- A. Permit Required: Grading to prepare a site for a conditional use or grading, vegetation removal, construction or other activity that has any impact on the subject land or on adjoining properties is a conditional use. A conditional use permit is required prior to the start of such an activity.
- B. Exemptions: Grading for bona fide agricultural activities, timber harvest, and similar permitted uses herein are exempt from this section.

- C. Flood Prone Areas: Grading within flood prone areas is regulated by provisions of section 9-6-2 of this title and title 11 of this code. A permit, if required, shall be a part of the conditional use permit.
- D. Wetlands: Grading or disturbance of wetlands is subject to approval of the U.S. Corps of Engineers under the federal clean water act. The federal permit, if required, shall be part of the conditional use permit.
- E. Site Grading Plan:
1. The conditional use permit application shall include a site grading plan, or preliminary site grading plan for subdivisions, clearly showing the existing site topography and the proposed final grades with elevations or contour lines and specifications for materials and their placement as necessary to complete the work. The plan shall demonstrate compliance with best management practices for surface water management for permanent management and the methods that will be used during construction to control or prevent the erosion, mass movement, siltation, sedimentation, and blowing of dirt and debris caused by grading, excavation, open cuts, side slopes, and other site preparation and development. The plan shall be subject to review of the county engineer and the soil conservation district. The information received from the county engineer, the soil conservation district, and other agencies regarding the site grading plan shall be considered by the planning and zoning commission and/or the board of county commissioners in preparing the conditions of approval or reasons for denial of the applications. The Valley County Engineer or assigns shall approval all site grading and stormwater management plans prior to earthwork being don on-site.
 2. For subdivisions, preliminary site grading plans and stormwater management plans must be presented for review and approval by the commission as part of the conditional use permit application. However, prior to construction of the infrastructure, excavation, or recordation of the final plat, the final plans must be approved by the county engineer or assigns.
 3. For purposes of sizing stormwater basin permanent management facilities (excluding first flush water quality treatment facilities), Drainage Peak Flow Calculations shall use the Soil Conservation Service (SCS) method as preferred, but the Rational Method is acceptable for smaller areas (generally 100 acres or less). See VCC 9-6-6C for requirements that apply to detention basins within the Riparian Area Overlays.
 - a. Public Roads Require: 100-yr storm event for major roads, bridges, etc. and 50-year for all other facilities.
 - b. Private Roads Require: 100-yr storm event for major roads, bridges, etc. and 25-year event for all other facilities.
 - c. Site Development not directly specified shall use the 25-year storm event.
- F. Land Surfaces Not Used For Roads, Buildings And Parking: All land surfaces not used for roads, buildings and parking shall be covered either by natural vegetation, other natural and undisturbed open space, or landscaping.
- G. Stormwater Management Plan: Prior to issuance of building permits, the administrator must receive a certification from the developer's engineer verifying that the stormwater management plan has been implemented according to approved plans.
- H. Riparian Area Overlay: Grading within the Riparian Area Overlay is regulated by provisions of section 9-6-6 of this title. A permit, if required, shall be part of the conditional use permit.

9-5A-2: ROADS AND DRIVEWAYS:

- A. Roads For Public Dedication And Maintenance: Roads for public dedication and maintenance shall be designed and constructed in accordance with title 10 of this code and in accordance with "Construction Specifications And Standards For Roads And Streets In Valley County, Idaho".
- B. Access Roads Or Driveways: Residential developments, civic or community service uses, and commercial uses shall have at least two (2) access roads or driveways to a public street wherever practicable.
- C. Private Roads: Private roads shall meet the provisions of the Valley County subdivision ordinance and any policies adopted by the board of county commissioners.
- D. Cattle Guards: Cattle guards shall not be installed in public roads within residential developments.

- E. Access To Highway 55: Access to Highway 55 shall be limited at all locations and may be prohibited where other access is available. An access permit from the Idaho transportation department may be required.

9-5A-4: LANDSCAPING:

9-5A-5: FENCING:

- C. Livestock In Residential Development: If livestock are allowed in a residential development, then fencing shall be installed to keep livestock out of public street rights of way. Cattle guards shall not be installed in public roads within residential developments.
- E. Construction And Materials: Fence construction and materials shall be in accordance with commonly accepted good practices to produce a neat appearing durable fence. The location, height, and materials used for constructing a fence shall be approved by the commission and specified in the conditional use permit. Fences required for any conditional use shall be maintained in good repair.
- F. Conditional Use Adjoins Agricultural Uses: Where a conditional use adjoins an agricultural use where animal grazing is known to occur for more than thirty (30) consecutive days per year, the permittee shall cause a fence to be constructed so as to prevent the animals from entering the use area. The permittee shall provide for the maintenance of said fence through covenants, association documents, agreement(s) with the adjoining owner(s), or other form acceptable to the commission prior to approval of the permit so that there is reasonable assurance that the fence will be maintained in functional condition so long as the conflicting uses continue.
- G. Obstruction Of Vision: Sight obscuring fences, hedges, walls, latticework, or screens shall not be constructed in such a manner that vision necessary for safe operation of motor vehicles or bicycles on or entering public roadways is obstructed.

9-5A-6: UTILITIES:

- A. Direct Access Required: All lots or parcels, for or within conditional uses, shall be provided, or shall have direct access to, utility services including telephone, electrical power, water supply, and sewage disposal.
- B. Central Water Supply And Sewage Systems: Central water supply and sewage systems serving three (3) or more separate users shall meet the requirements of design, operation, and maintenance for central water and sewage systems in the subdivision ordinance.
- C. Probability Of Water Supply: Probability of water supply, as referred to in subsection A of this section, can be shown by well logs in the general area or by a determination of a professional engineer, hydrologist, or soil scientist.
- D. Individual Septic Systems: If individual septic systems are proposed to show compliance with sewage disposal requirements in subsection A of this section, sanitary restrictions must be lifted on every lot prior to recordation unless it is designated as a lot where a building permit will never be issued for a residential unit, such as pasture lot, common area, open space, or a no build lot.
- E. Easements Or Rights Of Way: Easements or rights of way shall be set aside or dedicated for the construction and maintenance of utilities in accordance with the provisions of the subdivision ordinance.
- F. Utility Plan: A utility plan showing the schedule of construction or installation of proposed utilities shall be a part of the conditional use permit.

9-5B-2: LIGHTING

9-5B-4: EMISSIONS:

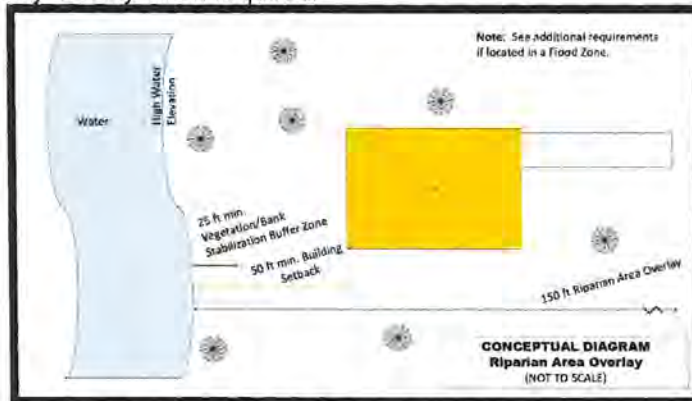
- C. Wood Burning Devices: Wood burning devices shall be limited to one per site. Wood burning devices shall be certified for low emissions in accordance with EPA standards.

9-5C-2: MINIMUM LOT AREA:

- B. New Subdivisions:

inspections may be needed in some instances. The applicant's engineer shall also submit a certification that the approved plan was implemented prior to final occupancy.

- f. Basin design shall comply with Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR) water rights requirements.
4. There shall be no filling or dredging of lake bottoms, rivers, or wetlands without proper jurisdictional permits, i.e. IDWR, USACE, Valley County, etc.
5. There shall be no excessive clearing of vegetation.
6. Stormwater harvest and infiltration techniques are encouraged.
7. Riprap for shoreline protection is allowed with the proper turbidity controls and permits from appropriate jurisdictions (IDWR, USACE, USBR, IDL, etc), including a Floodplain Development Permit from Valley County when required.



100' ft min. Building Setback for all other buildings.

TITLE 10 SUBDIVISION REGULATIONS

10-4-3: LOTS:

- A. Size, Depth, Shape, Orientation And Setback Lines: The lot size, width, depth, shape and orientation, and the minimum building setback lines shall be appropriate for the location of the subdivision and for the type of development and use contemplated. Every lot shall abut upon a street. Corner lots for residential use shall have extra width to permit appropriate building setbacks from, and orientation to, both streets.
- B. Double Frontage And Reverse Frontage Lots: Double frontage, and reverse frontage lots, shall be avoided, except where essential to provide separation of residential development from traffic arteries or to overcome specific disadvantages of topography and orientation. A screening easement of at least ten feet (10'), and across which there shall be no right of access, shall be provided along the line of lots abutting such a traffic artery or other disadvantageous use.
- C. Side Lot Lines: Side lot lines shall be within twenty degrees (20°) of right angles or radial to street lines.

10-4-6: EASEMENTS:

- A. Utility Easements: There shall be provided easements for the utilities upon and across the front of lots of a width of a minimum of twelve feet (12') (except for entrance service) or as and where considered necessary by the commission.
- B. Stormwater Easement Or Drainage Right Of Way: Where a subdivision is crossed or bounded by a watercourse, drainageway, channel, irrigation ditch, or stream there shall be provided a stormwater easement or drainage right of way conforming substantially with the lines of such watercourse, and such further width or construction, or both, as will be adequate for the purpose.
- C. Drainage: Provisions for adequate drainage shall be made by the subdivider as prescribed by the county engineer in accordance with the manual containing the drainage standards and specifications as adopted by Valley County.
- D. Existing Easements: All existing easements must be shown on the subdivision plat.

10-5-1: STREET AND UTILITY IMPROVEMENTS:

- A. Installation Required: Public street, utility, conduit for fiber optics, and other off site improvements, as hereinafter listed, shall be installed in each new subdivision at the subdivider's expense or at the expense of the party agreeing to install the same, in accordance with the minimum standards set forth below prior to the acceptance of any final plat for recordation, except as provided in subsections C and D of this section. A right of way permit will be required (see section 5-7-2 of this code).
- B. Acceptance By County: The county shall not accept the dedication of any public rights of way and any easements shown on the plat, together with appurtenant facilities lying therein which the county would have a duty to maintain after dedication, which are not improved, or construction thereof guaranteed in accordance with the provisions of this title or with the policies, standards, designs and specifications set forth in the road and street specifications adopted by Valley County. The Valley County Board of Commissioners have the sole discretion to set the level of service for any public road; the level of service can be changed. All plats shall contain in their notes this statement: "The Valley County Board of Commissioners have the sole discretion to set the level of service for any public road; the level of service can be changed."
- Dedication of public rights-of-way does not guarantee that the public road will be maintained by Valley County. Public rights of way are allowed with roads that are maintained by homeowners. Public rights of way shall be provided through properties to adjacent lands for the purpose of circulation, when reasonable.
- C. Private Road Declaration: In the event that private roads, streets and ways are shown on a subdivision plat, the width of the right of way must meet specifications set forth in road and street specifications adopted by the board of county commissioners. A private road declaration shall be recorded and state that the county will have no responsibility for the installation or maintenance of the private roads, shall describe who is responsible for maintenance of the private roads, and describe the construction schedule for the private roads. Construction of private roads shall be the responsibility of the subdivider and shall be constructed to the minimum standards as set forth in the road and street specifications for private roads adopted by the county.
- D. Declaration Of Installation Of Utilities: A declaration of installation of utilities shall also be recorded. The declaration shall describe the utilities that will be placed by the subdivider, verify when the utilities will be installed and state that Valley County will have no responsibility for the installation or maintenance of utilities. If all utilities are not installed prior to recordation of the plat, a note shall be placed on the face of the plat that states: "Utilities have not been installed at the time of recordation of this plat".
- E. Connection To Public Road Required: The county shall not accept any new subdivision unless the streets within the subdivision, whether public or private, are connected directly to an existing public road. In the event the subdivision is not connected to a public road with an approved minimum standard as determined by the Valley County Road Director, then the subdivider shall construct, or guarantee the construction as provided by this title, a connector road to county standards, either private roads or public roads, which shall provide access to the subdivision. All subdivisions shall be required to be accessed by a road system that meets the minimum standard as determined by the Valley County Road Director. When access has historically been provided through the subdivision to other ownerships, the subdivider shall provide for continuation of the public right of way.

CHAPTER 7 WILDLAND URBAN INTERFACE FIRE PROTECTION PLAN

10-7-2: DEFINITIONS

FORESTED: Idaho Code title 38, chapter 1 (Idaho forestry act) defines "forestland" as meaning "any land which has upon it sufficient brush or flammable forest growth of any kind or size, living or dead, standing or down, including debris or growth following a fire or removal of forest products, to constitute a fire menace to life (including animal) or property".

10-7-4: SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS:

- A. General: All developers of proposed subdivisions shall provide a wildland urban interface fire protection plan (the plan) for review and approval by the planning and zoning commission with their preliminary plat application or planned unit development submittal. The plan shall be submitted to the Wildfire Mitigation Director by Planning and Zoning Staff for review and comments to the Planning and Zoning Commission.
- B. Content: The plan shall be based upon a site specific wildfire risk assessment that includes consideration of location, topography, aspect, flammable vegetation, climatic conditions and fire history. The plan shall address water supply, access, fire protection systems and equipment, defensible space, and vegetation management.
 - 1. Preparation: The plan shall be developed by a "professional" (see definition in section 10-7-2 of this chapter). Professionals can be prequalified by the commission and a list will be maintained at the Valley County planning and zoning office.
 - 3. Submittal, Implementation And Verification:
 - a. The plan shall be submitted with the preliminary plat application to the Valley County planning and zoning office.
 - b. Planned mitigation work must be completed or financially guaranteed prior to the recordation of the final plat. A schedule for the phased completion of mitigation work may be approved in conjunction with recordation of final plats.
 - c. Verification of completed implementation of mitigation actions will be the responsibility of the jurisdictional structural fire district. Where no structural fire district exists, the Valley County sheriff shall appoint a county representative. Each authority will act in conjunction with the Wildfire Mitigation Director.
 - 4. Exceptions: Proposed administrative plats of less than five (5) lots and proposed subdivisions with lands less than twenty percent (20%) "forested" (see definition in section 10-7-2 of this chapter) are exempt from the professional requirement. For proposed subdivisions fitting these descriptions, the developer may complete the plan (see the fire protection form). The plan for an administrative plat can be approved by the administrator upon receiving an approval letter from the Valley County Wildfire Mitigation director in conjunction with the applicable fire district.
 - 5. Cost: The cost and implementation of the plan preparation shall be the responsibility of the applicant.
 - 6. Plan Retention: The approved plan shall be retained at the Valley County planning and zoning office and the jurisdictional fire district or designated agency where no fire district exists.

SUMMARY:

Staff's compatibility rating is a +11.

The Planning and Zoning Commission should do their own compatibility rating prior to the meeting (form with directions attached). Be prepared to submit your compatibility rating or state which lines on staff's compatibility rating needs to be changed.

STAFF COMMENTS / QUESTIONS:

- 1. This site is within the Donnelly Fire District, and Water District 65. It is not within an irrigation district nor a herd district.
- 2. Utility easements shall be shown on the final plat.
- 3. Plat Note 15 shall be changed; the WUI short form has been submitted.
- 4. The parcel number included in the area for the Treasurer's Signature shall be corrected to RP16N03E050605
- 5. What is the plan for the irrigation water that flows through the property?
- 6. Are there water rights on this property? If so, you must allocate them to this site for future surface water irrigation.

Question to P&Z Commission:

1. Does this subdivision meet the minimum standards in Title 9, Chapter 5, of the Valley County Code in regards to frontage, lot size, etc.? If not, which ones does it not comply with?
2. Does this subdivision meet the minimum standards in Title 10 of the Valley County Code in regards to the access road, etc.?
3. Are impacts being properly mitigated? If not, which impacts are not mitigated?

Standard of Approval:

1. Will the application result in an increase in value of private property? VCC 9-5-2(B)(3).
2. Will the approval of the application result in an undue adverse impact on the environment? VCC 9-5-2(B)(3).
3. Will the approval of the application result in an undue adverse impact on adjoining properties? VCC 9-5-2(B)(3).
4. Will the approval of the application result in an undue adverse impact on governmental services? VCC 9-5-2(B)(3).
5. Is the application consistent with the Valley County Comprehensive Plan? VCC 9-5-2(B)(3).
6. Conditional uses may be approved only after a C.U.P. has been evaluated to determine that the impacts can be mitigated through conformance with conditions of approval. VCC 9-5-2(A).

These six standards should be a significant focus of attention during the public hearing and deliberations because they need to be resolved in order to justify approval. VCC 9-5-1(C) directs the decision-making body to encourage conditional uses where noncompatible aspects of the application can be satisfactorily mitigated through development agreements for the costs to service providers and impacts to surrounding land uses. Because mitigation measures are a requirement of approval the applicant needs to understand that he/she will be required to perform some off-site improvements. They are not mandatory but without them the application cannot satisfy the mitigation of impacts requirement and would be denied under the ordinance.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Proposed Conditions of Approval
- Blank Compatibility Evaluation and Instructions
- Compatibility Evaluation by Staff
- Location Map
- Aerial Map
- Images from Google Maps
- Photos taken June 18, 2026
- Assessor Plat – T.16N R.3E Section 5
- Proposed Plat
- Responses

- Standard Final Plat Notes and Standard Recommended CCRs
- Lighting Handout
- Septic Handout

Proposed Conditions of Approval

1. The application, the staff report, and the provisions of the Land Use and Development Ordinance are all made a part of this permit as if written in full herein. Any violation of any portion of the permit will be subject to enforcement and penalties in accordance with Title 9-2-5; and, may include revocation or suspension of the conditional use permit.
2. Any change in the nature or scope of land use activities shall require an additional Conditional Use Permit.
3. The issuance of this permit and these conditions will not relieve the applicant from complying with applicable County, State, or Federal laws or regulations or be construed as permission to operate in violation of any statute or regulations. Violation of these laws, regulations or rules may be grounds for revocation of the Conditional Use Permit or grounds for suspension of the Conditional Use Permit.
4. A Development Agreement may be required for mitigation of off-site impacts. The applicant shall work with the Valley County Road Director and Planning and Zoning Director on an agreement for off-site infrastructure improvements that will be approved by the Board of County Commissioners.
5. The final plat shall be recorded within two years, or this permit will be null and void.
6. The applicant shall prepare a deed from the applicant to Valley County for the transfer of road right-of-way along Nisula Road.
7. Sanitary Restrictions must be removed by Central District Health prior to recording the final plat.
8. A letter of approval is required from Donnelly Fire District for the final plat.
9. A letter of approval of the Wildland Urban Interface Fire Protection Plan is required from the Valley County Wildfire Mitigation Director or assignee prior to recording the plat.
10. Must have a fencing plan with neighboring properties if they run livestock for over 30 days per year.
11. Fertilizer on lawns shall be wildlife friendly and not contribute to degradation of water quality.
12. Shall place addressing numbers at the residence and at the driveway entrance if the house numbers are not visible from the road. Said numbers shall contrast with their background and be at least three and one-half inches (3 ½-in) height.
13. All easements shall be shown on the final plat.
14. Shall contact Donnelly U.S.P.S. Postmaster to determine if a Cluster Box Unit for mail delivery to this development is appropriate.
15. Standard Plat Notes shall be included on the final plat.
16. CCR's, if recorded, shall include Standard Conditions of Approval for CCRs.

END OF STAFF REPORT

Compatibility Questions and Evaluation

Matrix Line # / Use: _____

Prepared by: _____

YES/NO X Response
Value

Use Matrix Values:

(+2/-2) _____ X 4 _____

1. Is the proposed use compatible with the dominant adjacent land use?

(+2/-2) _____ X 2 _____

2. Is the proposed use compatible with the other adjacent land uses (total and average)?

(+2/-2) _____ X 1 _____

3. Is the proposed use generally compatible with the overall land use in the local vicinity?

Site Specific Evaluation (Impacts and Proposed Mitigation)

(+2/-2) _____ X 3 _____

4. Is the property large enough, does the existence of wooded area, or does the lay of the land help to minimize any potential impacts the proposed use may have on adjacent uses?

(+2/-2) _____ X 1 _____

5. Is the size or scale of proposed lots and/or structures similar to adjacent ones?

(+2/-2) _____ X 2 _____

6. Is the traffic volume and character to be generated by the proposed use similar to the uses on properties that will be affected by proximity to parking lots, on-site roads, or access roads?

(+2/-2) _____ X 2 _____

7. Is the potential impact on adjacent properties due to the consuming or emission of any resource or substance compatible with that of existing uses?

(+2/-2) _____ X 2 _____

8. Is the proposed use compatible with the abilities of public agencies to provide service or of public facilities to accommodate the proposed use demands on utilities, fire and police protection, schools, roads, traffic control, parks, and open areas?

(+2/-2) _____ X 2 _____

9. Is the proposed use cost effective when comparing the cost for providing public services and improving public facilities to the increases in public revenue from the improved property?

Sub-Total (+) _____

Sub-Total (--) _____

Total Score _____

The resulting values for each questions shall be totaled so that each land use and development proposal receives a single final score.

9-11-1: APPENDIX A, COMPATIBILITY EVALUATION:

- A. General: One of the primary functions of traditional zoning is to classify land uses so that those which are not fully compatible or congruous can be geographically separated from each other. The county has opted to substitute traditional zoning with a multiple use concept in which there is no separation of land uses. Proposed incompatible uses may adversely affect existing uses, people, or lands in numerous ways: noise, odors, creation of hazards, view, water contamination, loss of needed or desired resources, property values, or infringe on a desired lifestyle. To ensure that the county can continue to grow and develop without causing such land use problems and conflicts, a mechanism designed to identify and discourage land use proposals which will be incompatible at particular locations has been devised. The compatibility evaluation of all conditional uses also provides for evaluations in a manner which is both systematic and consistent.
- B. Purpose; Use:
1. The compatibility rating is to be used as a tool to assist in the determination of compatibility. The compatibility rating is not the sole deciding factor in the approval or denial of any application.
 2. Staff prepares a preliminary compatibility rating for conditional use permits, except for conditional use permits for PUDs. The commission reviews the compatibility rating and may change any value.
- C. General Evaluation: Completing the compatibility questions and evaluation (form):
1. All evaluations shall be made as objectively as possible by assignment of points for each of a series of questions. Points shall be assigned as follows:
 - Plus 2 - assigned for full compatibility (adjacency encouraged).
 - Plus 1 - assigned for partial compatibility (adjacency not necessarily encouraged).
 - 0 - assigned if not applicable or neutral.
 - Minus 1 - assigned for minimal compatibility (adjacency not discouraged).
 - Minus 2 - assigned for no compatibility (adjacency not acceptable).
 2. Each response value shall be multiplied by some number, which indicates how important that particular response is relative to all the others. Multipliers shall be any of the following:
 - x4 - indicates major relative importance.
 - x3 - indicates above average relative importance.
 - x2 - indicates below average relative importance.
 - x1 - indicates minor relative importance.
- D. Matrix - Questions 1 Through 3: The following matrix shall be utilized, wherever practical, to determine response values for questions one through three (3). Uses classified and listed in the left hand column and across the top of the matrix represent possible proposed, adjacent, or vicinity land uses. Each box indicates the extent of compatibility between any two (2) intersecting uses. These numbers should not be changed from proposal to proposal, except where distinctive uses arise which may present unique compatibility considerations. The commission shall determine whether or not there is a unique consideration.
- E. Terms:
- DOMINANT ADJACENT LAND USE:** Any use which is within three hundred feet (300') of the use boundary being proposed; and
1. Comprises at least one-half (1/2) of the adjacent uses and one-fourth (1/4) of the total adjacent area; or
 2. Where two (2) or more uses compete equally in number and are more frequent than all the other uses, the one with the greatest amount of acreage is the dominant land use; or
 3. In all other situations, no dominant land use exists. When this occurs, the response value shall be zero.
- LOCAL VICINITY:** Land uses within a one to three (3) mile radius. The various uses therein should be identified and averaged to determine the overall use of the land.
- F. Questions 4 Through 9:
1. In determining the response values for questions 4 through 9, the evaluators shall consider the information contained in the application, the goals and objectives of the comprehensive plan, the provisions of this title and related ordinances, information gained from an actual inspection of the site, and information gathered by the staff.
 2. The evaluator or commission shall also consider proposed mitigation of the determined impacts. Adequacy of the mitigation will be a factor.

APPENDIX A

MATRIX FOR RATING QUESTIONS 1, 2, and 3

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
1. AGRICULTURAL		+2	-1	-2	-2	-2	-2		+1	+1	+1	+2	+1	+1	-1	-1	-1	+2	-1	-2	+1	+2	+1
2. RESIDENCE, S.F.	+2		+2	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	-1	+2	+1	-2	+1	-1	+1	+1	+1	-1	+1	+1	-2	-2
3. SUBDIVISION, S.F.	-1	+2		+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	-1	+2	+1	-2	+1	-1	+1	+2	+1	-1	+2	+1	-2	-2
4. M.H. or R.V. PARK	-2	+1	+1		+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	-1	+2	+1	-2	+1	-1	+1	+1	+1	-1	+1	+1	-2	-2
5. RESIDENCE, M.F.	-2	+1	+1	+1		+2	+2	+1	+1	-1	+2	+1	-2	+1	-1	+1	+1	+1	-1	+1	+1	-2	-2
6. SUBDIVISION, M.F.	-2	+1	+1	+1	+2		+2	+1	+1	-1	+2	+1	-2	+1	-1	+1	+1	+1	-1	+1	+1	-2	-2
7. P.U.D., RES.	-2	+1	+1	+1	+2	+2		+1	+1	-1	+2	+1	-2	+1	-1	+1	+1	+1	-1	+1	+1	-2	-2
8. REL., EDUC & REHAB	+1	+2	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1		+1	+1	-1	+2	-2	-1	-1	+2	+2	+1	+1	-1	+1	-2	-1
9. FRAT or GOVT	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1		+1	-1	+2	-2	-1	-1	+1	+1	+1	+1	-1	+1	-2	-2
10. PUBLIC UTIL. (1A-3.1)	+1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	+1	+1		+1	+1	-1	+1	+1	+1	-1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+2	+2
11. PUBLIC REC.	+1	+2	+2	+2	+2	+2	+2	-1	-1	+1		+2	-1	+1	+1	+1	+2	+1	+1	+1	+1	-1	+1
12. CEMETERY	+2	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+2	+2	+2	+2		+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+2	+1	+1
13. LANDFILL or SWR. PLANT	+1	-2	-2	-2	-2	-2	-2	-2	-2	-2	-1	+1		-1	-1	-2	-2	-2	-2	-1	+2	+2	+2
14. PRIV. REC. (PER)	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	-1	-1	+1	+1	+1	-1		+1	+1	+1	+2	+1	+2	+2	-1	+1
15. PRIV. REC. (CON)	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	+1	+1	+1	-1	+1		-2	-2	-1	-2	-2	+2	-1	+1
16. NEIGHBORHOOD BUS.	-1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+2	+1	+1	+1	+1	-2	+1	-2		+1	+2	+2	+1	+2	-1	-1
17. RESIDENCE BUS.	+2	+2	+2	+1	+1	+1	+1	+2	+1	-1	+2	+1	-2	+1	-2	+1		+1	+1	+1	+1	-2	-2
18. SERV. BUS.	-1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+2	+2	+2	+2	+2	+1		+2	+2	+1	+1	+1
19. AREA BUS.	-2	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	-2	+1	-2	+2	-1	+2		+1	+2	-2	-2
20. REC. BUS.	-2	+2	+2	+1	+1	+1	+1	-1	-1	+1	+1	+1	-1	+2	-2	+1	+1	+2	+1		+2	-2	+1
21. LIGHT IND.	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+2	+2	+2	+2	+2	+2	+2	+2	+2		+1	+1
22. HEAVY IND.	+2	-2	-2	-2	-2	-2	-2	-2	-2	+2	-1	+1	+2	-1	-1	-1	-1	-2	-1	-2	+1		+2
23. EXTR. IND.	+2	-2	-2	-2	-2	-2	-2	-1	-2	+2	+1	+1	+2	+1	+1	-1	-1	-2	-1	-2	+1	+1	+2

RATE THE SOLID SQUARES AS +2

Compatibility Questions and Evaluation

Matrix Line # / Use: #3 S.F. Subdivision

Prepared by: CH

YES/NO X Response Value
(+2/-2) -1 X 4 -4

(+2/-2) -1 X 2 -2

(+2/-2) +1 X 1 +1

(+2/-2) +1 X 3 +3

(+2/-2) -1 X 1 -1

(+2/-2) +1 X 2 +2

(+2/-2) +2 X 2 +4

(+2/-2) +2 X 2 +4

(+2/-2) +2 X 2 +4

Sub-Total (+) 18

Sub-Total (-) -7

Total Score +11

Use Matrix Values:

1. Is the proposed use compatible with the dominant adjacent land use?

Agricultural

2. Is the proposed use compatible with the other adjacent land uses (total and average)?

Agricultural

3. Is the proposed use generally compatible with the overall land use in the local vicinity?

S.F. Residential

Site Specific Evaluation (Impacts and Proposed Mitigation)

4. Is the property large enough, does the existence of wooded area, or does the lay of the land help to minimize any potential impacts the proposed use may have on adjacent uses?

No - Flat, but only

5.

one unit on 10 acres

Is the size or scale of proposed lots and/or structures similar to adjacent ones?

No - No other units

6. Is the traffic volume and character to be generated by the proposed use similar to the uses on properties that will be affected by proximity to parking lots, on-site roads, or access roads?

Yes to residential on Norwood & N. Hale

7. Is the potential impact on adjacent properties due to the consuming or emission of any resource or substance compatible with that of existing uses?

Yes

8. Is the proposed use compatible with the abilities of public agencies to provide service or of public facilities to accommodate the proposed use demands on utilities, fire and police protection, schools, roads, traffic control, parks, and open areas?

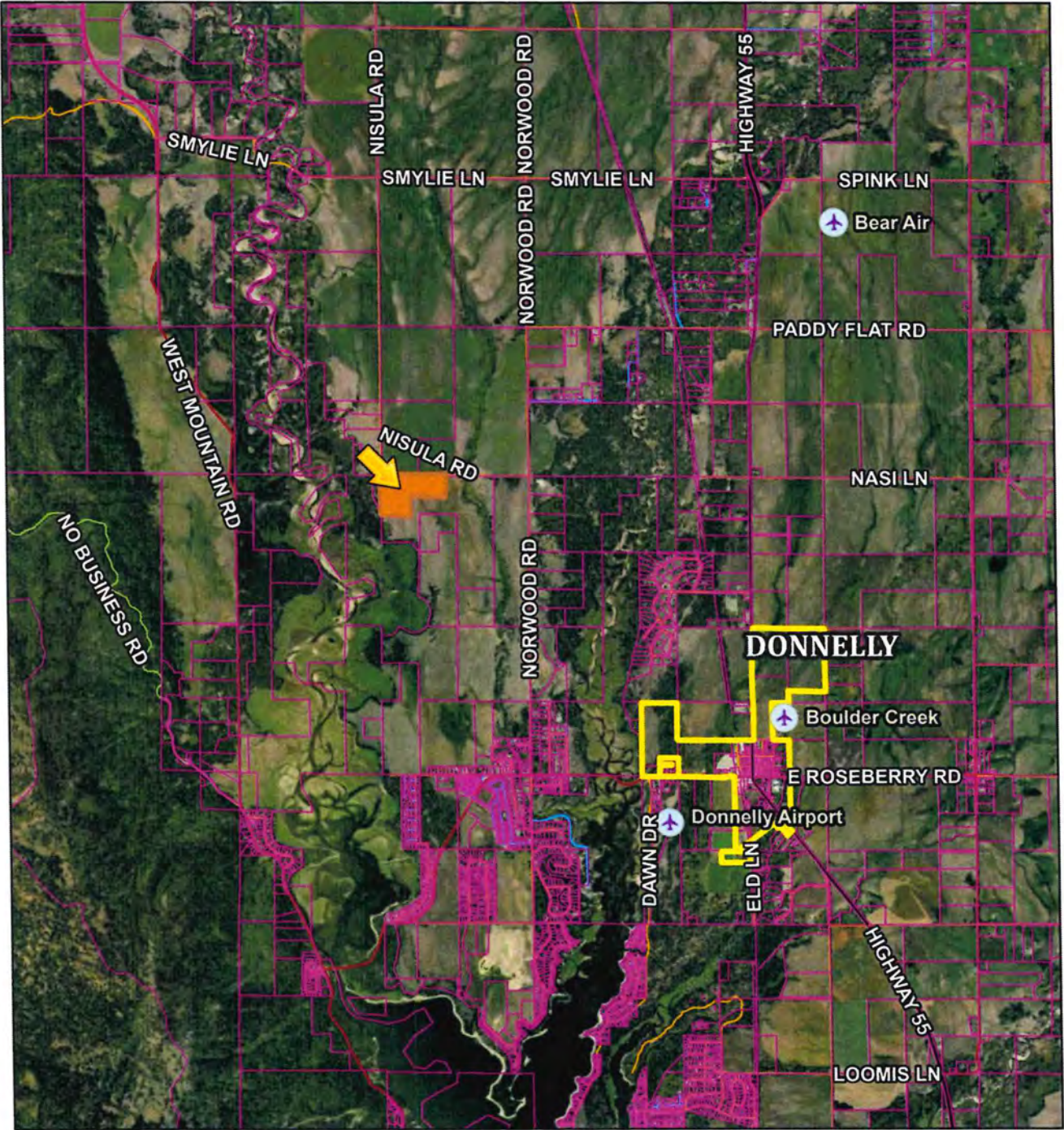
Yes

9. Is the proposed use cost effective when comparing the cost for providing public services and improving public facilities to the increases in public revenue from the improved property?

Yes

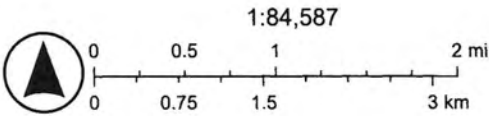
The resulting values for each questions shall be totaled so that each land use and development proposal receives a single final score.

SUB 26-006 Location Map



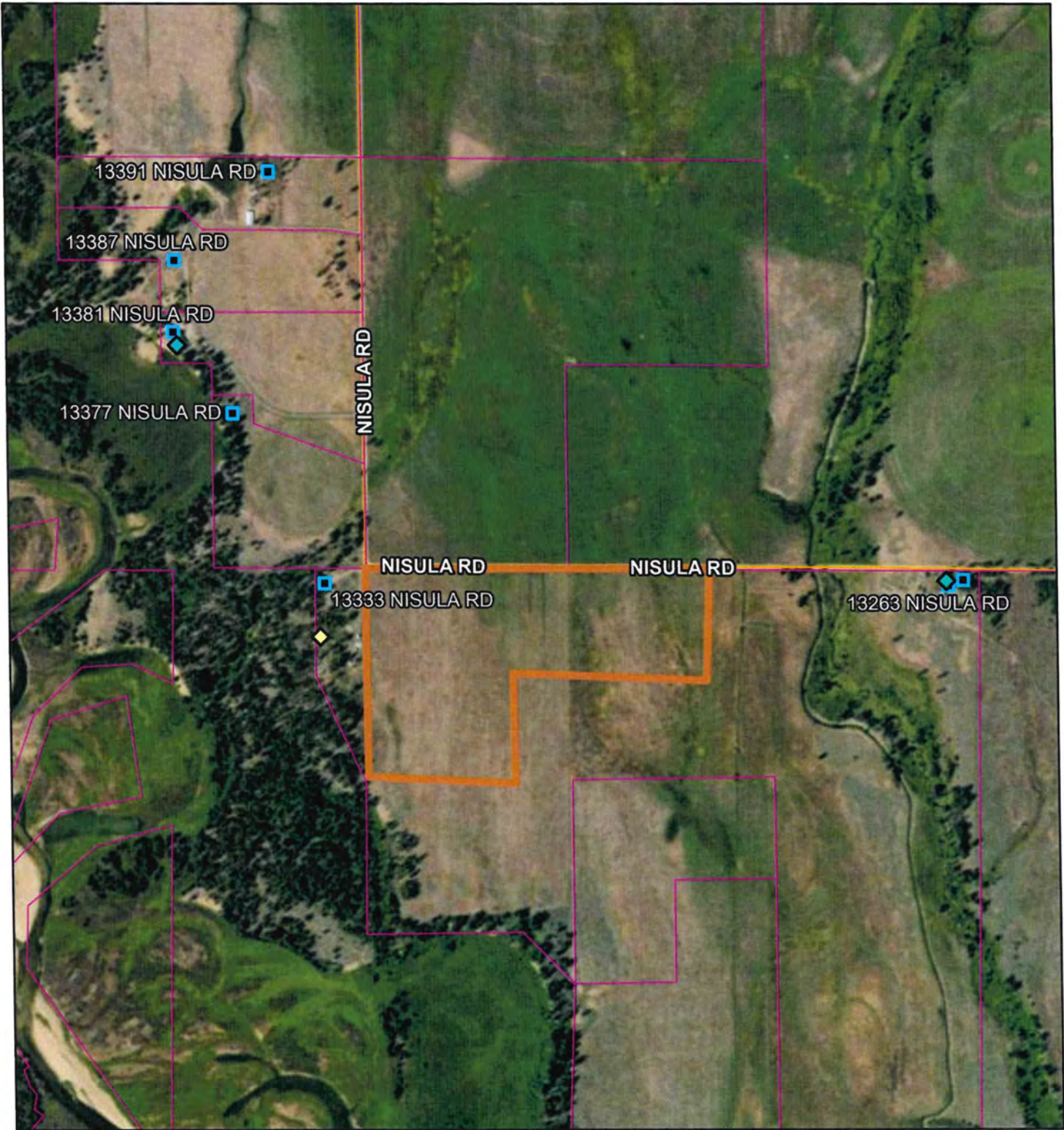
5/29/2026, 4:54:37 PM

- Airstrips
- Municipal Boundaries
- Parcel Boundaries
- Roads
- MAJOR
- MINOR COLLECTOR
- COLLECTOR
- URBAN/RURAL
- USFS
- PRIVATE
- OTHER
- Other



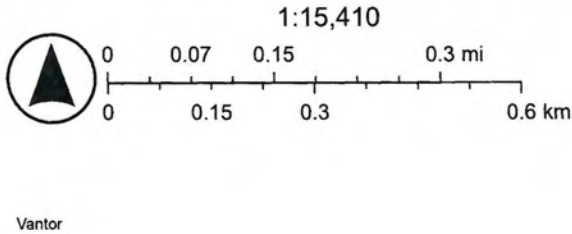
Earthstar Geographics

SUB 26-006 Aerial Map - Approximate Location



5/29/2026, 4:52:12 PM

Permits	◆ RVC	○ Undefined	— COLLECTOR
◆ CUP	◆ STR	✈ Airstrips	— URBAN/RURAL
◆ ADU	◆ STS	■ Address Points	— USFS
◆ FP	◆ VAC	▬ Municipal Boundaries	— PRIVATE
◆ GF	◆ VAR	▬ Parcel Boundaries	— OTHER
◆ EXC	◆ PSP	— Roads	— Other
◆ Privy	◆ HBB	— MAJOR	
◆ RES		— MINOR COLLECTOR	



Google Maps – Aerial View

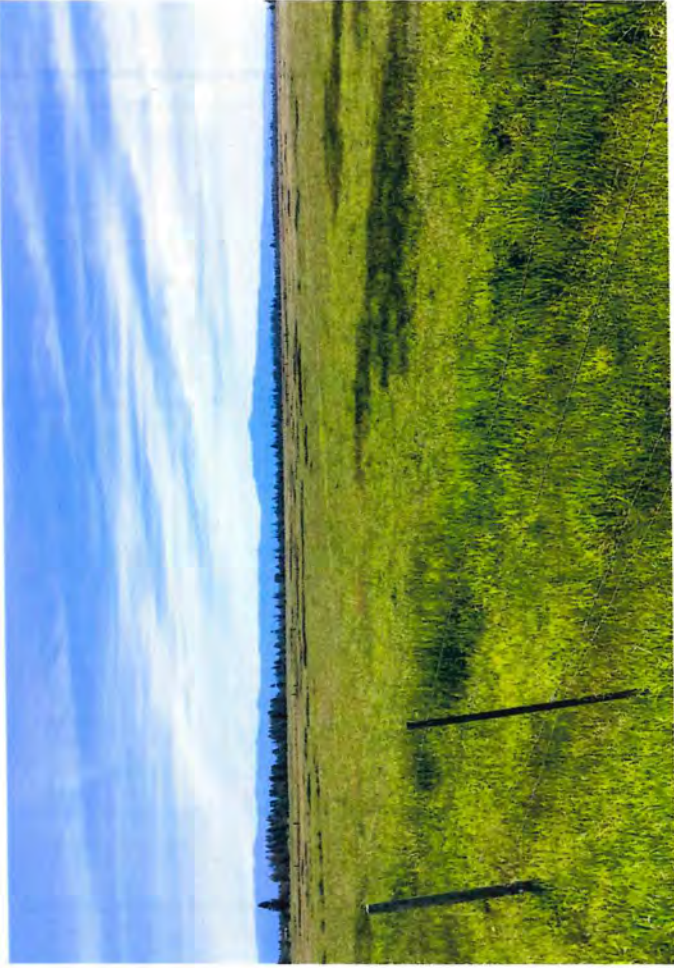


Looking Southerly from Nisula Road
(Source Google Maps – Street View, October 2007)



Looking Southerly from Nisula Road
(Source Google Maps – Street View, October 2007)



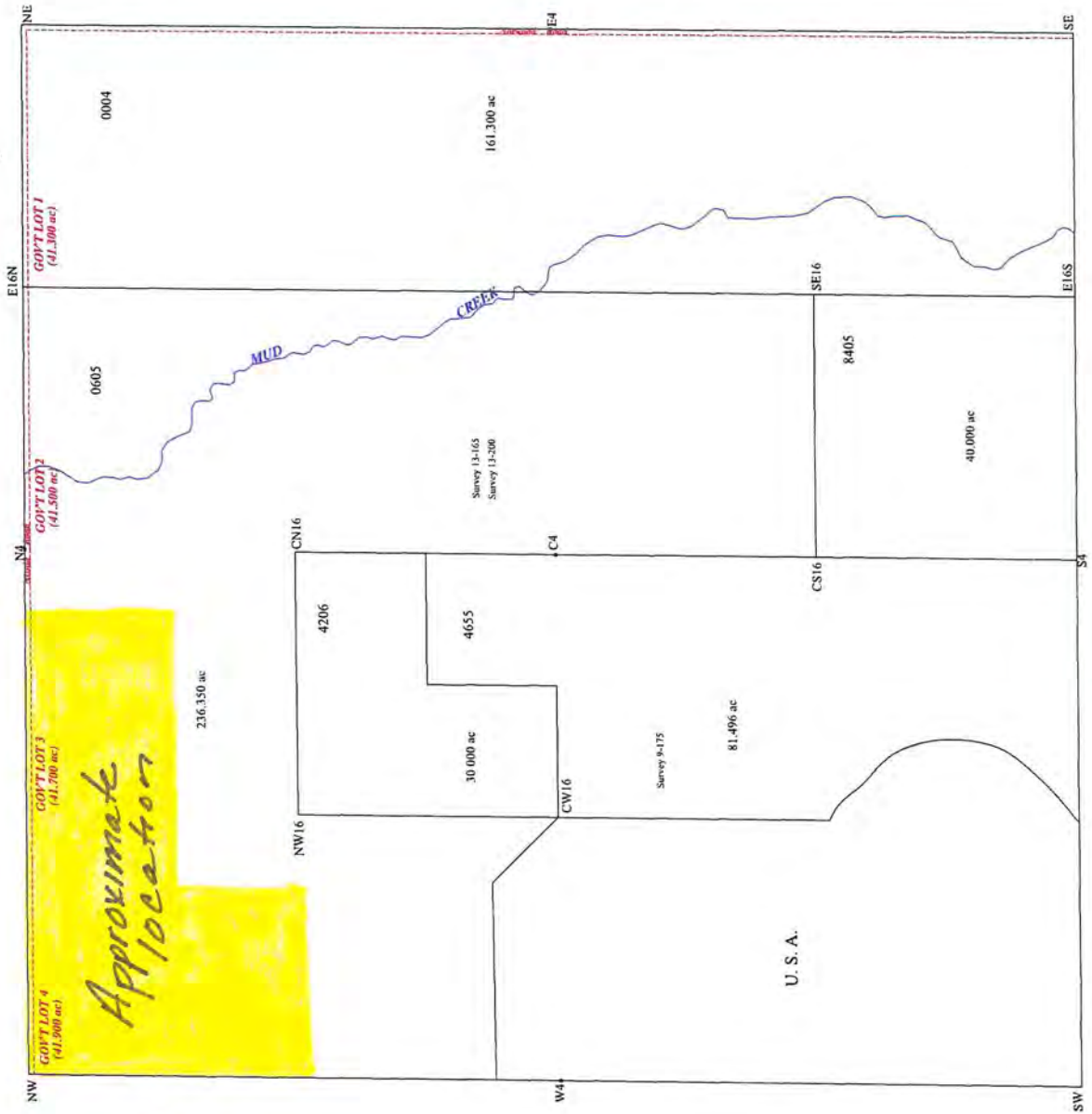


PLAT TITLE

T W P . 1 6 N R O 3 E S E C . 0 5

VALLEY COUNTY
Cartography Dept.
Assessor's Office
Cascade, ID 83611

Filename:
Valley County Base Map
Scale: 1" = 400 ft.
Date: 6/25/2025
Drawn by: L. Frederick



This drawing is to be used for reference purposes only. The County is NOT responsible for any inaccurate conditions shown.

situated in the Northwest 1/4, Section 5,
T.16N., R.03E., B.M., Valley County, Idaho
2026

PLAY NOTES BEAR'S DEN No. 2:

1. This subdivision shall be subject to the Declarations of Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions (CC&Rs) for Bear's Den No. 2 subdivision, recorded as

2. Overhead power and underground phone utilities are installed along Nisula Road, a county road

3. Utilities will be completed as provided in the Declaration of Installation of Utilities, which is being recorded concurrently with this plat as

4. All driveways are privately owned and maintained and shall not be the responsibility of Valley County.

5. Minimum building setback lines shall be in accordance with the zoning ordinance at the time of the issuance of any building permit.

5. There shall be a 10 foot Utility & Drainage Easement contiguous to all Public Road rights-of-way and centered on all lot lines.

7. There shall only be one wood burning device per lot.

- A Exterior Lighting shall comply with the Valley County "dark sky" Ordinances.

9. The right of access for maintenance and repair of the irrigation ditches and laterals shall not be impaired.

10. This plat is subject to Idaho Code Section 31-3805. Rights to irrigation water will only be expanded with approval of Water District 65-D.
11. As per Idaho Code Section 67-6537, only surface water will be used for irrigation purposes.

12. Valley County Commissioners have the sole discretion to set the level

12. Vane County carries out the maintenance and repair of service for any public road, and that level of service shall be subject to change.

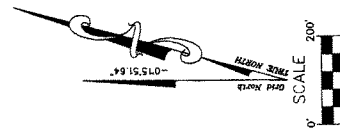
14. Parcel does not fall in a flood hazard area, as per FIRM 16085C 1025C dated 2/1/18, and is regulated by Titles 9 & 11 Valley County Code.

- dated 2/1/19, and is regulated by rules 9 & 11 valley code

16. Lots shall not be reduced in size except in compliance with the CC&Rs, through application with Valley County Planning & Zoning, and in compliance with the requirements of Central District Health (CDH).

17. No additional domestic water supplies shall be installed beyond the water system recovered in the sanitary restriction release.

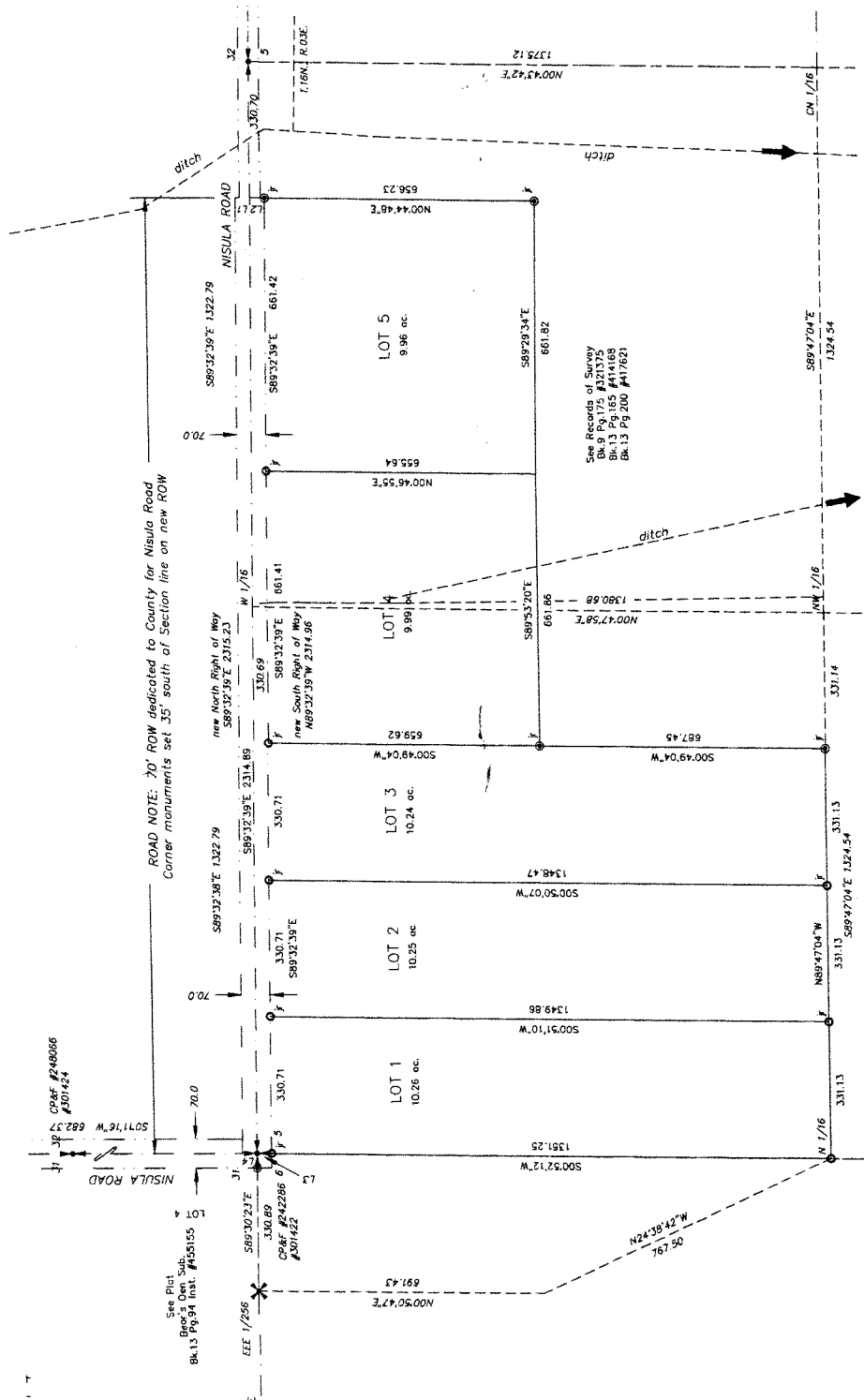
18. Reference is made to Public Health Letter on file regarding additional restrictions.



Bearings based on GPS derived
State Plane Grid, Idaho West Zone 1103,
NAD83 (2011) Epoch 2010
Coordinates projected to Ground by a
Combined Factor of 1.00286532
Distances are Ground in U.S. Survey Feet
Elevations based on Geoid 18, NAVD88

Russell Surveying, Inc.
McCall, Idaho 2026

SHEET 1 of 2



LEGEND - OTHER SYMBOLS

	= Found Section, 1/4, or 1/256 corners
	= Found unmarked 1/2" rebar

LINE TABLE		
LINE	LENGTH	BEARING
L1	35.00	N00°44'48"E
L2	35.00	N00°44'48"E
L3	35.00	N00°52'12"E
L4	35.00	N00°11'56"E

SURVEY NARRATIVE [i.e. 55-1906-6 (o-c)]
a. The survey was performed to subdivide five 10 acre parcels from an original 30 acre parcel. All parcels have access to Nisula Road.

236 acre prices. An parents have been

All found monuments appear to be original and in two plain patterns. Measured distances between found original monuments are shown.

b. The Dependent Resurveys by Bureau of Reclamation, together with several

other Records of Survey control this survey.

c. No vertical component is required in this survey.

For a multiple bond survey (IC 55-1906-5):

ties to public land survey [i.e., 36-100-01].
Corner Record instrument numbers are shown.



Valley County Transmittal
Division of Community and Environmental Health

Return to:

- ☐ Cascade
☐ Donnelly
☐ McCall
☐ McCall Impact
☒ Valley County

Rezone # _____

Conditional Use # _____

Preliminary / Final / Short Plat Sub 26-006 Bears Den 2

- ☐ 1. We have No Objections to this Proposal.
- ☐ 2. We recommend Denial of this Proposal.
- ☐ 3. Specific knowledge as to the exact type of use must be provided before we can comment on this Proposal.
- ☐ 4. We will require more data concerning soil conditions on this Proposal before we can comment.
- ☐ 5. Before we can comment concerning individual sewage disposal, we will require more data concerning the depth of:
☐ high seasonal ground water ☐ waste flow characteristics
☐ bedrock from original grade ☐ other _____
- ☐ 6. This office may require a study to assess the impact of nutrients and pathogens to receiving ground waters and surface waters.
- ☐ 7. This project shall be reviewed by the Idaho Department of Water Resources concerning well construction and water availability.
- ☐ 8. After written approvals from appropriate entities are submitted, we can approve this proposal for:
☐ central sewage ☐ community sewage system ☐ community water well
☐ interim sewage ☐ central water
☐ individual sewage ☐ individual water
- ☐ 9. The following plan(s) must be submitted to and approved by the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality:
☐ central sewage ☐ community sewage system ☐ community water
☐ sewage dry lines ☐ central water
- ☐ 10. Run-off is not to create a mosquito breeding problem
- ☐ 11. This Department would recommend deferral until high seasonal ground water can be determined if other considerations indicate approval.
- ☐ 12. If restroom facilities are to be installed, then a sewage system MUST be installed to meet Idaho State Sewage Regulations.
- ☐ 13. We will require plans be submitted for a plan review for any:
☐ food establishment ☐ swimming pools or spas ☐ child care center
☐ beverage establishment ☐ grocery store

- ☒ 14. Test holes with engineer and CDH present, ground water monitoring, and engineering required.

Reviewed By: Brian H. Cooper

Date: 6/14/26

Valley County Wildfire Mitigation

P.O. Box 1350 • 219 N. Main Street
Cascade, Idaho 83611-1350



Phone (208) 382-7145 x 1404
Cell (208) 817-1103

MARA HLAWATSCHEK

Program Director

mhlawatschek@co.valley.id.us

June 10, 2026

To whom it may concern,

The **Wildfire Mitigation Director** has reviewed the Wildfire Mitigation Plan submitted for the **Bears Den No2**. The plan was prepared in compliance with Valley County Code, Chapter 7 – Wildland Urban Interface Fire Protection Plan.

The Wildfire Mitigation Plan has been **approved and no additional request for mitigation treatments**. The approved plan adequately identifies wildfire risks associated with the proposed subdivision and includes appropriate mitigation measures to reduce as it pertains to wildfire mitigation treatments. As this development primarily consist of grassy and sage areas. Respective Fire District should be consulted for water, access and commercial development requirements within the Subdivision WUI Fire Protection Plan.

This approval is contingent upon the full implementation of all wildfire mitigation measures identified in the approved plan and verification through inspection that the work has been completed as stated in the plan. Required inspections shall occur prior to final plat approval and/or issuance of building permits, as determined by Valley County. Inspections for water, access and commercial development requirements shall be request to Respective Fire District.

Ongoing maintenance of defensible space, vegetation management, and Firewise practices shall remain the responsibility of the property owner(s) and/or homeowners association, as applicable.

This decision is effective on the date of approval and shall remain in effect unless modified or revoked in accordance with Valley County Code.

Thank you

Mara Hlawatschek

Mara Hlawatschek

Wildfire Mitigation Director

mhlawatschek@valleycountyid.gov

208-817-1103



Donnelly Rural Fire Protection District

P.O. Box 1178 Donnelly, Idaho 83615

208-325-8619 Fax 208-325-5081

June 22, 2026

Valley County Planning & Zoning Commission
P.O. Box 1350
Cascade, Idaho 83611

RE: SUB 26-006 Bear's Den No. 2

After review, the Donnelly Rural Fire Protection District will require the following.

1. **Fire Apparatus Access Roads (IFC 503 / Appendix D, DRFPD Access Standards):**
 - All access roads must have a minimum unobstructed width of 26 feet (exclusive of shoulders) and vertical clearance of 13 feet 6 inches.
 - Inside turning radius: minimum 30 feet; outside: 45 feet.
 - Dead-end roads >150 feet require approved turnarounds per IFC Table D103.4 (e.g., hammerhead, Y-turn, or cul-de-sac).
 - Roads must be installed, inspected, and operable prior to final plat or building construction (IFC 501.4).
2. **Driveways and Additional Access:**
 - Driveways: minimum 12 ft width, 13'6" height; turnarounds if >150 ft; support 70,000-lb apparatus; grade ≤10%.
 - Address posting at each driveway entrance (visible both directions).
3. **Water Supply for Fire Protection (IFC 507, DRFPD Water Storage Tank Standard:**
 - Provide an approved 10,000-gallon underground water storage tank at DRFPD approved location.
 - Tanks must comply with NFPA 22, including:
 - 5" female dry hydrant (Storz/NH) draft connection (36–48" above grade, painted red/labeled).
 - Manual fill (Siamese clappered 2½" NST).
 - Water level indicator (visible red/green).
 - Connected to a well with automatic fill capability.
 - Permanent signage: "FIRE WATER STORAGE – XX,XXX GALLONS – DRAFT CONNECTION."
 - Location: fire apparatus can park within 10 ft of draft connection. Access surface must support 75,000-lb apparatus (all-weather per IFC Appendix D).
 - Submit tank manufacturer's certification, pressure/leak test results and volume verification (fill log or test data)

- Tank, piping and fittings must be inspected and hydrostatically tested by DRFPD prior to final approval prior to issuance of building permits.

Please contact me with any questions.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jerry Holenbeck".

Jerry Holenbeck

Fire Marshal

Donnelly Fire Department

firemarshal@donnellyfire.net

Cell: (208) 849-2438

Parametrix No. 314-4875-001

Cynda Herrick, AICP, CFM
Valley County Planning and Zoning
700 South Main Street
PO Box 1350
Cascade, ID 83611

Re: July 9, 2026, Planning and Zoning Commission Agenda Items

Dear Cynda:

I have reviewed the items you requested us to review as listed on the July 9, 2026, Valley County (VC) Planning and Zoning Commission agenda and have the following comments for your consideration:

New Business:

1. SUB 25-006 Bear Den 2 Subdivision – Preliminary Plat

All subdivision lots directly access Nisula Road and no new roads will be constructed so site grading and drainage plans are not required for review by the Valley County engineer. Stormwater improvements along Nisula Road, including culverts under driveways, shall meet the criteria outlined in the Valley County Minimum Standards for Private/Public Road Design and Construction. Additional stormwater resulting from site improvements will need to be retained on site and appropriate temporary and permanent best management practices (BMPs) and erosion control measures are required to protect adjacent properties, waterways, and roadway ditches.

Improvements to Nisula Road, a public local road, shall meet the criteria outlined in the Valley County Minimum Standards for Public Road Design and Construction. The roadway shall maintain a 70-ft right-of-way with 35 feet minimum on each side of roadway centerline.

A traffic impact study is not required for this 5-lot subdivision; however, a development agreement identifying public road impacts may be required.

2. SUB 25-010 Starview Estates Subdivision – Preliminary Plat

Detailed site grading and drainage plans and drainage design documentation signed by a licensed PE for the site improvements will be required for review and approval by the Valley County engineer. Additional stormwater resulting from site improvements will need to be retained on site and addressed in the design and calculations. Improvements to offsite drainage features may be required. Appropriate temporary and permanent best management practices (BMPs) and erosion control measures are required to protect adjacent properties, waterways, and roadway ditches.

The proposed extension of Johnson Lane, a public local road, shall meet the criteria outlined in the Valley County Minimum Standards for Public Road Design and Construction. The roadway shall maintain a 70-ft right-of-way with 35 feet minimum on each side of roadway centerline and may require a turnaround to accommodate a standard emergency vehicle, as determined by the fire department.

A traffic impact study is not required for this 2-lot subdivision; however, a development agreement identifying public road impacts may be required.



The applicant will need to delineate existing wetlands to confirm that there are no wetland impacts. If wetlands are impacted, the project may require approval of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers under the federal Clean Water Act.

3. SUB 25-011 North Fork Landing (fka Valley View Landing)– Preliminary Plat

Detailed site grading and drainage plans and drainage design documentation signed by a licensed PE for the site improvements will be required for review and approval by the Valley County engineer. Additional stormwater resulting from site improvements will need to be retained on site and addressed in the design and calculations. Improvements to offsite drainage features may be required. Appropriate temporary and permanent best management practices (BMPs) and erosion control measures are required to protect adjacent properties, waterways, and roadway ditches.

Improvements to Loomis Lane, a public major collector road, shall meet the criteria outlined in the Valley County Minimum Standards for Public Road Design and Construction. The roadway shall maintain a 100-ft right-of-way with 50 feet minimum on each side of roadway centerline.

Valley County requires a 100-foot setback from ITD ROW for any permanent structures (as shown on the preliminary plat).

A traffic impact study and a development agreement identifying public road impacts will be required for this subdivision.

4. VAR 26-005 Poulsen Setback Variance

Not reviewed.

5. CUP 26-013 Brown RV Camp

Not reviewed.

6. VAR 26-006 Merrick Setback Variance

This project is subject to the Riparian Area Overlay (RAO) requirements. If a setback variance is granted to construct the new deck within the footprint of the existing deck, stormwater retention measures and Best Management Practices (BMPs) will be required to protect the lake from stormwater and sediment pollution.

Given the steepness of the slope and the proximity of the work to the lake (encroaches the 25-foot stabilization buffer), an engineered stormwater management plan will be required for this project. The plan should include both temporary and permanent BMPs to be implemented during and after construction to minimize erosion and prevent sediment from entering the lake.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Parametrix



Paul Ashton, PE



Subdivision Recommendations

From: Flack,Brandon<brandon.flack@idfg.idaho.gov>

To:Lori Hunter

Cc:Berkley,Regan; Messner,Jordan; Royse,Josh

Thu 11/21/2024 10:00 AM

Hi Lori,

I got your voicemail. Hopefully this is what you were looking for. All of these won't apply to every residential development, e.g., not every subdivision will have a private pond where they need a water right from IDWR or a private pond permit from IDFG.

In general, IDFG recommends the following practices for residential subdivisions/developments:

- Residents should control pets, including cats, at all times (fenced yard, keep indoors, kenneled, leashed, etc.). Pets, at-large, dramatically increase a residential subdivision's negative effects on wildlife.
- Avoiding or minimizing the potential for wildlife depredations in a subdivision is the responsibility of the individual property owner.
 - Prohibit the feeding of wildlife and require that potential wildlife attractants (pet food, trash cans, gardens, hay stacks, bird feeders, etc.) be maintained in a way to reduce attraction of wildlife species (skunks, foxes, raccoons, magpies, big game, etc.).
 - For example, leaving livestock feed outside will attract big game animals. Make sure any feed is stored in a closed barn or shed.
 - The developer and individual homeowners should be made aware that ornamental plants can attract big game animals and they will eat those plants. Therefore, protecting ornamental plants is the responsibility of the individual property owner.
 - Yew species are highly toxic to wildlife, pets, and humans and should not be used as landscaping plants.
- Native vegetation should be retained to the extent possible during project implementation to support native birds, small mammals, and pollinator species.
- Retain buffers of riparian vegetation that surround any wetland resources on the project property.
- If ponds exist or are developed on the project property, legal water rights issued by the Idaho Department of Water Resources are required for the appropriate beneficial use (storage, irrigation, recreation, etc.). If the ponds will be used for fishing, a private pond permit from IDFG is required to stock the ponds with fish, and a live fish transport permit from IDFG may also be required.
- All fencing within and around the subdivision should be wildlife friendly. IDFG can provide additional details upon request.

Please let me know if you have additional questions.

Brandon Flack

Regional Technical Assistance Manager

Idaho Dept. of Fish and Game

Southwest Region

15950 N. Gate Blvd.

Nampa, ID 83687

Ph: (208) 854-8947





RE: New Mode of Mail Delivery for Builder or Developer Associations

Dear Builder or Developer Association:

The United States Postal Service® is proud to continue its vital role in today's changing mail environment. That role includes responsibility for establishing the method or mode of delivery, the type of mailbox, and location of the mailbox for each street delivery address. Centralized delivery, through the use of Cluster Box Units (CBUs), is our preferred delivery method and box type. These CBU boxes have the advantage of being "package friendly," in that they are designed to accommodate the majority of packages delivered through the U.S. Mail.

Online ordering of merchandise has dramatically increased package volume. Many residential delivery mailboxes in use today are designed on the basis of specifications implemented nearly a century ago and are too small to accommodate contemporary parcel volume. As a result, packages delivered by our carriers often cannot fit into residential mail receptacles and must be redelivered, retrieved at a Post Office™, or left on adjacent doorsteps. This latter option leaves the packages susceptible to weather damage. Centralized delivery minimizes these risks.

The Postal Service™ is directed by statute to provide reliable and efficient service. Centralized delivery fulfills our responsibility for safe, efficient delivery for both the customer and the Postal Service as we move into the 21st Century. Postal Operations Manual section 631.2 explains the standards used by local postal managers in determining the mode through which such delivery is to be provided, including type of equipment and location of boxes.

I am available to meet with you or any members of your association in the early planning stages of community development or redesign to ensure that all options are provided to you and that mailboxes are installed in an approved location. Meeting early in the planning process will help avoid potential service problems or disruptions.

Please contact me at (208)325-8746 or janeen.s.maxwell@usps.gov to schedule a time to discuss.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Janeen Maxwell".

Janeen Maxwell
POSTMASTER

Cell # 208-849-2712

U.S. MAIL SUPPLY
America's Mailbox Headquarters

Website: www.usmailsupply.com
Phone: 1-800-571-0147

25	50	75	OTHERS
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June 15, 2026

Cynda Herrick, Planning & Zoning Director
Valley County Planning & Zoning
700 S. Main Street, Cascade, ID 83611
cherrick@valleycountyid.gov

Subject: Agency Notice - PZ Commission - July 9, 2026

Dear Cynda Herrick:

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to your request for comment. While DEQ does not review every project on a project-specific basis, we attempt to provide the best review of the information provided. DEQ encourages agencies to review and utilize the Idaho Environmental Guide to assist in addressing project-specific conditions that may apply. This guide can be found at: <https://www2.deq.idaho.gov/admin/LEIA/api/document/download/15083>.

The following information does not cover every aspect of this project; however, we have the following general comments to use as appropriate:

1. AIR QUALITY D5

- Please review IDAPA 58.01.01 for all rules on Air Quality, especially those regarding fugitive dust (58.01.01.651), trade waste burning (58.01.01.600-617), and odor control plans (58.01.01.776).
For questions, contact David Luft, Air Quality Manager, at (208) 373-0201.
- IDAPA 58.01.01.201 requires an owner or operator of a facility to obtain an air quality permit to construct prior to the commencement of construction or modification of any facility that will be a source of air pollution in quantities above established levels. DEQ asks that cities and counties require a proposed facility to contact DEQ for an applicability determination on their proposal to ensure they remain in compliance with the rules.
- For questions, contact the DEQ Air Quality Permitting Hotline at 1-877-573-7648.

AIR QUALITY C1, D1, D2, D3

- Please review IDAPA 58.01.01 for all rules on Air Quality, especially those regarding fugitive dust (58.01.01.651), and trade waste burning (58.01.01.600-617).
- For new development projects, all property owners, developers, and their contractors must ensure that reasonable controls to prevent fugitive dust from becoming airborne are utilized during all phases of construction activities per IDAPA 58.01.01.651.
- DEQ recommends the city/county require the development and submittal of a dust prevention and control plan for all construction projects prior to final plat approval. Dust prevention and control plans incorporate appropriate best management practices to control fugitive dust that may be generated at sites.

- Citizen complaints received by DEQ regarding fugitive dust from development and construction activities approved by cities or counties will be referred to the city/county to address under their ordinances.
- Per IDAPA 58.01.01.600-617, the open burning of any construction waste is prohibited. The property owner, developer, and their contractors are responsible for ensuring no prohibited open burning occurs during construction.
- For questions, contact David Luft, Air Quality Manager, at (208) 373-0550.

AIR QUALITY C2, D4, D6

- No Comments

2. WASTEWATER AND RECYLED WATER

- DEQ recommends verifying that there is adequate sewer to serve this project prior to approval. Please contact the sewer provider for a capacity statement, declining balance report, and willingness to serve this project.
- IDAPA 58.01.16 and IDAPA 58.01.17 are the sections of Idaho rules regarding wastewater and recycled water. Please review these rules to determine whether this or future projects will require DEQ approval. IDAPA 58.01.03 is the section of Idaho rules regarding subsurface disposal of wastewater. Please review this rule to determine whether this or future projects will require permitting by the local public health district.
- All projects for construction or modification of wastewater systems require preconstruction approval. Recycled water projects and subsurface disposal projects require separate permits as well.
- DEQ recommends that projects be served by existing approved wastewater collection systems or a centralized community wastewater system whenever possible. Please contact DEQ to discuss potential for development of a community treatment system along with best management practices for communities to protect groundwater.
- DEQ recommends that cities and counties develop and use a comprehensive land use management plan, which includes the impacts of present and future wastewater management in this area. Please schedule a meeting with DEQ for further discussion and recommendations for plan development and implementation.
- For questions, contact Valerie Greear, Water Quality Engineering Manager at (208) 373-0459.

3. DRINKING WATER

- DEQ recommends verifying that there is adequate water to serve this project prior to approval. Please contact the water provider for a capacity statement, declining balance report, and willingness to serve this project.
- DEQ recommends verifying if the current and/or proposed drinking water system is a regulated public drinking water system. A drinking water system is a Public Water System (PWS) if it has at least 15 service connections or regularly serves an average of 25 or more people per day for at least 60 days per year (refer to the DEQ website at: <https://www.deq.idaho.gov/water-quality/drinking-water/>). For non-regulated systems, DEQ recommends annual testing for total coliform bacteria, nitrate, and nitrite.
- IDAPA 58.01.08 is the section of Idaho rules regarding public drinking water systems. Please review these rules to determine whether this or future projects will require DEQ approval.
- All projects for construction or modification of public drinking water systems require preconstruction approval.
- If any private wells will be included in this project, we recommend that they be tested for total coliform bacteria, nitrate, and nitrite prior to use and retested annually thereafter.

- DEQ recommends using an existing drinking water system whenever possible or construction of a new community drinking water system. Please contact DEQ to discuss this project and to explore options to both best serve the future residents of this development and provide for protection of groundwater resources.
- DEQ recommends cities and counties develop and use a comprehensive land use management plan which addresses the present and future needs of this area for adequate, safe, and sustainable drinking water. Please schedule a meeting with DEQ for further discussion and recommendations for plan development and implementation.
- For questions, contact Valerie Greear, Water Quality Engineering Manager at (208) 373-0459.

4. SURFACE WATER

- A Construction General Permit from DEQ may be required for projects that meet the eligibility criteria and have an allowable discharge of storm water or authorized non-storm water associated with construction activities. For questions, contact Emily Montague, IPDES Compliance Supervisor, at (208) 813-0872.
- Please contact DEQ to determine whether this project will require an Idaho Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (IPDES) Permit. A Multi-Sector General Permit from DEQ may be required for facilities that have an allowable discharge of storm water or authorized non-storm water associated with the primary industrial activity and co-located industrial activity.
- For questions, contact Emily Montague, IPDES Compliance Supervisor, at (208) 373-0433.
- If this project is near a source of surface water, DEQ requests that projects incorporate construction best management practices (BMPs) to assist in the protection of Idaho's water resources. Additionally, please contact DEQ to identify BMP alternatives and to determine whether this project is in an area with Total Maximum Daily Load stormwater permit conditions.
- The Idaho Stream Channel Protection Act requires a permit for most stream channel alterations. Please contact the Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR), Western Regional Office, at 2735 Airport Way, Boise, or call (208) 334-2190 for more information. Information is also available on the IDWR website at:
<https://idwr.idaho.gov/streams/stream-channel-alteration-permits.html>
- The Federal Clean Water Act requires a permit for filling or dredging in waters of the United States. Please contact the US Army Corps of Engineers, Boise Field Office, at 10095 Emerald Street, Boise, or call 208-345-2155 for more information regarding permits.
- For questions, contact Lance Holloway, Surface Water Manager, at (208) 373-0564.

5. SOLID WASTE, HAZARDOUS WASTE AND GROUNDWATER CONTAMINATION

- **Solid Waste.** No trash or other solid waste shall be buried, burned, or otherwise disposed of at the project site. These disposal methods are regulated by various state regulations including Idaho's Solid Waste Management Regulations and Standards (IDAPA 58.01.06), Rules and Regulations for Hazardous Waste (IDAPA 58.01.05), and Rules and Regulations for the Prevention of Air Pollution (IDAPA 58.01.01). Inert and other approved materials are also defined in the Solid Waste Management Regulations and Standards.
- **Hazardous Waste.** The types and number of requirements that must be complied with under the federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) and the Idaho Rules and Standards for Hazardous Waste (IDAPA 58.01.05) are based on the quantity and type of waste generated. Every business in Idaho is required to track the volume of waste generated, determine whether each type of waste is hazardous, and ensure that all wastes are properly disposed of according to federal, state, and local requirements.

- **Water Quality Standards.** Site activities must comply with the Idaho Water Quality Standards (IDAPA 58.01.02) regarding hazardous and deleterious-materials storage, disposal, or accumulation adjacent to or in the immediate vicinity of state waters (IDAPA 58.01.02.800); and the cleanup and reporting of oil-filled electrical equipment (IDAPA 58.01.02.849); hazardous materials (IDAPA 58.01.02.850); and used-oil and petroleum releases (IDAPA 58.01.24.060 and 58.01.24.061). Petroleum releases must be reported to DEQ in accordance with IDAPA 58.01.24.060.01 and 58.01.24.061.04. Hazardous material releases to state waters, or to land such that there is likelihood that it will enter state waters, must be reported to DEQ in accordance with IDAPA 58.01.02.850.
- **Groundwater Contamination.** DEQ requests that this project comply with Idaho's Ground Water Quality Rules (IDAPA 58.01.11), which states that "No person shall cause or allow the release, spilling, leaking, emission, discharge, escape, leaching, or disposal of a contaminant into the environment in a manner that causes a ground water quality standard to be exceeded, injures a beneficial use of ground water, or is not in accordance with a permit, consent order or applicable best management practice, best available method or best practical method."
- For questions, contact Matthew Pabich, Waste & Remediation Manager, at (208) 373-0510.

6. ADDITIONAL NOTES

- If an underground storage tank (UST) or an aboveground storage tank (AST) is identified at the site, additional regulations may apply. If an UST is present, the site should be evaluated to determine whether the UST is regulated by DEQ. If an AST is identified, EPA may have additional requirements. Both UST and AST sites should be assessed to determine whether there is potential soil and ground water contamination. Please call DEQ at (208) 373-0550, or visit the DEQ website <https://www.deq.idaho.gov/waste-management-and-remediation/storage-tanks/leaking-underground-storage-tanks-in-idaho/> for assistance. If applicable to this project, DEQ recommends that BMPs be implemented for any of the following land uses: wash water from cleaning vehicles, fertilizers and pesticides, animal facilities, composted waste, ponds and outdoor gun ranges. Please contact DEQ for more information on any of these conditions.

We look forward to working with you in a proactive manner to address potential environmental impacts that may be within our regulatory authority. If you have any questions, please contact me, or any of our technical staff at (208) 373-0550.

Sincerely,



Troy Smith
Regional Administrator

Standard Final Plat Notes

- Floodplain Note:

FEMA FIRM panel(s): # _____ FIRM effective date(s): _____

Flood Zone(s): Zone _____ Base Flood Elevation(s): _____ (NAVD'88)

Flood Zones are subject to change by FEMA & all land within a floodway or floodplain is regulated by Title 9 and Title 11 of the Valley County Code.

- "Declaration of Installation of Utilities recorded as instrument # _____."
(shall reference electrical, phone, and fiber; along with a fire tank maintenance)
- "Declaration of Private Roads recorded as instrument # _____." (if applicable)
- "Shared Driveway Maintenance Agreement recorded as instrument # _____."
(if applicable)
- "Wildfire Urban Interface Protection Plan recorded as instrument # _____."
- "Development Agreement recorded as instrument # _____."
- "CCR's recorded as instrument # _____."
- "The Valley County Board of Commissioners have the sole discretion to set the level of service for any public road; the level of service can be changed."
- "All lighting must comply with the Valley County Lighting Ordinance."
- "Only one wood burning device per lot."
- "Surrounding land uses are subject to change."
- Note wetlands and riparian area overlays as "no build" area.
- "Easements recorded as instrument # _____." (show all easements)

Plats with Irrigation Water or within Irrigation District/Company Boundaries:

- This subdivision is subject to the provisions of Idaho Code Section 31-3805 (1) regarding the delivery of irrigation water.

Standard Condition of Approval for CCR recommendation, if recorded:

1. Shall address lighting, noxious weeds, septic maintenance, wildfire prevention, prohibiting yews in landscaping, dogs being a nuisance to adjacent agricultural uses, and limit each lot to one wood-burning device.
2. Shall provide for long-term maintenance of requirements identified in the Wildland Urban Interface Fire Protection Plan and memorialize any buried tanks and their continued maintenance.
3. Should address whether short-term rentals will be allowed per the HOA.

The installation of mercury vapor lamps is prohibited.

Flashing or intermittent lights, lights of changing degree of intensity, or moving lights shall not be permitted. This shall not be construed so as to prohibit holiday lights during the holiday season.

Sensor activated lights It is located in such a manner as to prevent glare and lighting onto properties of others or into a public right of way, set to only go on when activated and to go off within five (5) minutes after activation. The lights shall not be triggered by activity off the property.

Uplighting for flags is allowed provided the flag is of a government and the maximum lumen output is 1300 lumens. Flags are encouraged to be taken down at sunset to avoid the need for lighting. LED lighting shall not exceed 3000 degrees Kelvin.

Tod Costello Code Compliance
208-382-7145 ext., 1390

ALL OTHER OUTDOOR LIGHTING SHALL MEET THE FOLLOWING STANDARDS

The height of any light fixture or illumination source shall not exceed thirty feet (30').

All lighting or illumination units or sources **shall be hooded or shielded in a downward direction** so they do not produce glare or cause light trespass on any adjacent lot or real property as depicted in section Valley County Code 6-2-7.

Lights or illumination units shall not direct light, either directly or through a reflecting device, upon any adjacent lot or real property. **Lighting should not illuminate the sky or reflect off adjacent water bodies or produce glare or cause light trespass on any adjacent lot or real property.**

All outdoor lights used for parking areas, walkways, and similar uses mounted on poles eight feet (8') or greater in height shall be directed downward. The light source shall be shielded so that it will not produce glare or cause light trespass on any adjacent lot or real property.



Outdoor Lighting Dark Sky Compliance

Valley County Code 6-2-5 **PURPOSE**

The purpose is to promote the health, safety and welfare, the quality of life, and the ability to view the night sky, by establishing regulations and a process for review of exterior lighting.

APPLICABILITY

These standards shall apply to all outdoor lighting including, but not limited to, search, spot, or flood light.

PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

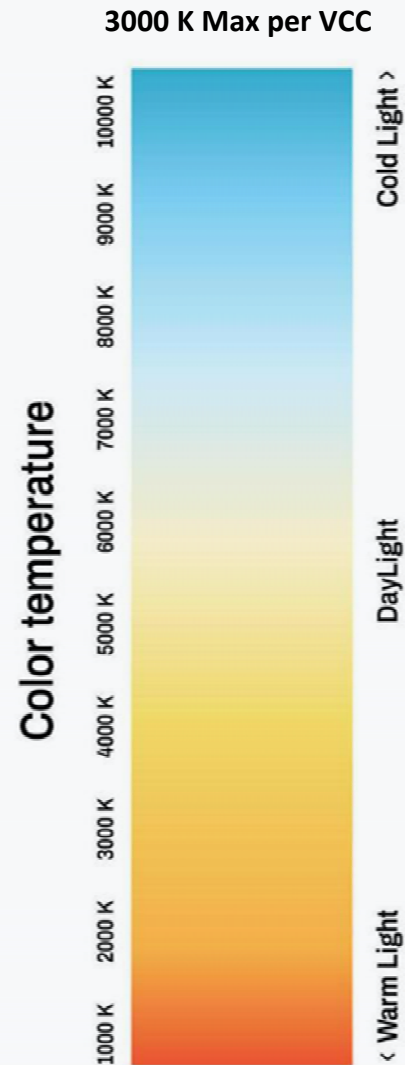
All nonessential exterior commercial and residential lighting is encouraged to be turned off after business hours and/or when not in use. Lights on a timer are encouraged. Sensor activated lights are encouraged to replace existing lighting that is desired for security purposes.

Examples of Shielded Lights



NOTE : "Cannot See the Bulb"

Basic LED Colors/Kelvin Temperatures

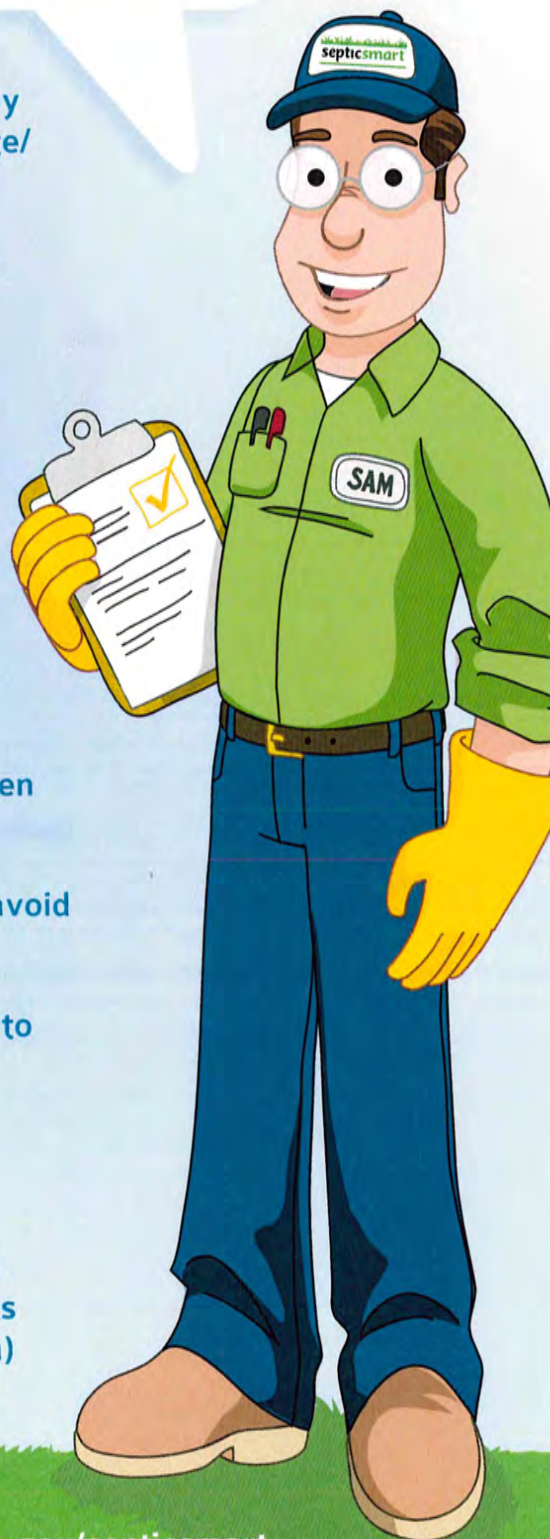


Here are some examples of options to bring your lights into Dark Sky Compliance



Top 10 Ways to Be a Good Septic Owner

- ✓ Have your system inspected every three years by a qualified professional or according to your state/ local health department's recommendations
- ✓ Have your septic tank pumped, when necessary, generally every three to five years
- ✓ Avoid pouring harsh products (e.g., oils, grease, chemicals, paint, medications) down the drain
- ✓ Discard non-degradable products in the trash (e.g., floss, disposable wipes, cat litter) instead of flushing them
- ✓ Keep cars and heavy vehicles parked away from the drainfield and tank
- ✓ Follow the system manufacturer's directions when using septic tank cleaners and additives
- ✓ Repair leaks and use water efficient fixtures to avoid overloading the system
- ✓ Maintain plants and vegetation near the system to ensure roots do not block drains
- ✓ Use soaps and detergents that are low-suds, biodegradable, and low- or phosphate-free
- ✓ Prevent system freezing during cold weather by inspecting and insulating vulnerable system parts (e.g., the inspection pipe and soil treatment area)



A Homeowner's Guide to Septic Systems



**Idaho Department of Environmental Quality
1410 N. Hilton
Boise, ID 83706**

January 2001

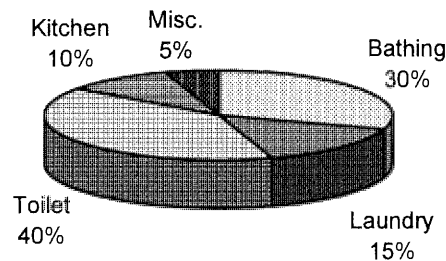


Do you have a home septic system? As an Idaho resident, there is a good chance you do—thirty-six percent of Idaho's homes, or about 210,000 residences, use septic systems to treat their sewage. These systems discharge more than 53 million gallons of wastewater into Idaho's soils annually, and this figure grows each year. In 1999, Idaho's seven health districts issued over 6,100 permits for new septic systems.

Septic systems dispose of household sewage, or wastewater, generated from toilet use, bathing, laundry, and kitchen and cleaning activities. Because septic systems are underground and seldom require daily care, many homeowners rarely think about routine operations and maintenance. However, if a septic system is not properly designed, located, constructed, and maintained, groundwater may become contaminated.

Household Wastewater

Households that are not served by public sewers depend on septic tank systems to treat and dispose of wastewater. Household wastewater carries with it all wastes that go down the drains in our homes, including human waste, dirt, food, toilet paper, soap, detergents, and cleaning products. It contains dissolved nutrients, household chemicals, grease, oil, microorganisms (including some that cause disease), and solid particles. If not properly treated by your septic system, chemicals and microorganisms in wastewater can travel through the soil to groundwater and pose a health hazard.



The average person uses between 50 and 75 gallons of water per day; mostly in the bathroom. Reducing your water use will help your septic system to work more efficiently.

Your Septic System

A conventional septic system has three working parts: a septic tank, a drainfield, and surrounding soil.

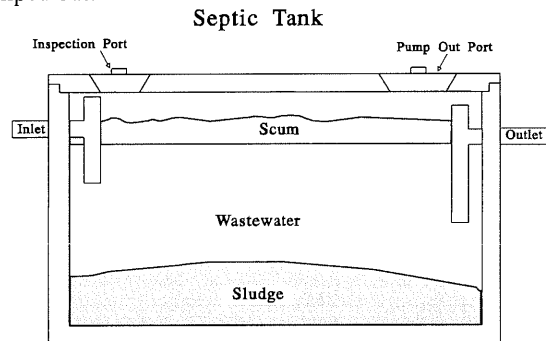
Septic Tank

Septic tanks can be made of concrete, fiberglass, or plastic and must be approved by the state. Minimum sizes of tanks have been established for residences based on the number of bedrooms in the dwelling. In Idaho, a 1,000-gallon septic tank is required for homes with three or four bedrooms. Larger tanks are required for larger homes. Local district health departments issue permits for septic systems and specify the minimum size tank. Some systems installed before the current rules and regulations may have smaller septic tanks.

A septic tank has three main functions:

- to remove as many solids as possible from household wastewater before sending the liquid, called “effluent,” to a drainfield;
- to decompose solids in the tank; and
- to store solids that do not decompose.

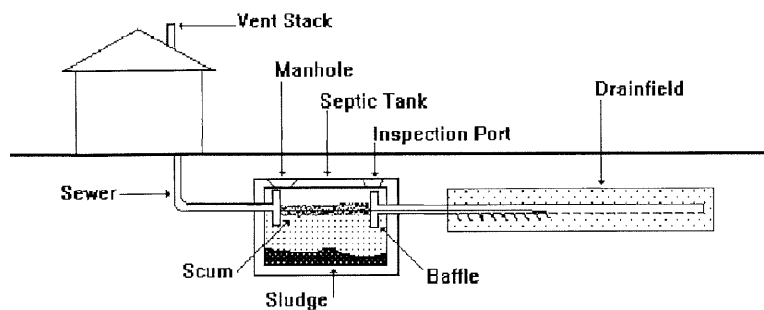
When raw wastewater enters the tank, heavy solids sink to the bottom of the tank as sludge. Light solids, such as grease and paper, float to the surface as scum. During the wastewater storage period, bacteria digest organic material in the wastewater. During this process, the solid material is reduced in volume and composition. Solids that do not decompose accumulate in the tank and eventually must be pumped out.



Tees, or baffles, are provided at the tank's inlet and outlet pipes. The inlet tee slows the incoming wastes and reduces disturbance of the settled sludge. The outlet tee keeps the solids and scum in the tank. As new wastewater enters the tank through the inlet tee, an equal amount of wastewater is pushed out of the tank through the outlet tee. The effluent that leaves the tank has been partially treated but still contains disease-causing bacteria and other pollutants.

Drainfield

Each time raw wastewater enters the tank it forces an equal amount of effluent into a drainfield. A standard drainfield is composed of a series of perforated pipes buried in gravel-filled trenches in the soil. The effluent seeps out of the perforated pipes and percolates through the gravel to the soil.



Soil

The soil below the drainfield provides the final treatment and disposal of the septic tank effluent. After the effluent has passed into the soil, most of it percolates downward and outward, eventually entering the groundwater. Soils are critical to the treatment of septic tank wastewater.

A system that is not functioning properly will release nutrient-rich and bacterial-laden wastewater into the groundwater and/or surface water. These contaminated waters pose a significant public health threat to people that come into contact with them. Wastewater that moves with groundwater can transport bacteria considerable distances. This can result in a threat to public health and adversely affect the quality of ground and surface waters.

Caring for Your Septic System

Installing Your System

In order to have a septic system installed on your property, you must first obtain a permit. Permit applications are available from your local district health department. Next, you must have a site evaluation performed. Make arrangements for this with your district health department and with a licensed septic system installer. Note that not all property is suitable for septic systems, so some permits may be denied. It is recommended that you have a site evaluation performed before you purchase property. Finally, have your system installed by a licensed installer and inspected by your local health district. Provide regular, preventative, maintenance to keep your system running smoothly.

Inspecting Your System

When too much sludge and scum are allowed to accumulate in your tank, the incoming sewage will not have enough time in the septic tank for solids to settle. Solids may flow to the drainfield and clog the pipes, causing the sewage to overflow to the ground surface, where it exposes humans and animals to disease-causing organisms. To prevent this from happening, it is very important to inspect your tank regularly and have it serviced when needed. All tanks have accessible manholes for inspecting and pumping. Some excavation work may be needed to uncover the manhole.

Properly designed tanks should have enough capacity for three to eight years of use before needing service. This is dependent upon the amount of wastewater generated. It is recommended that an average family of four have its septic tank pumped out every three to five years. Don't wait for signs of system failure to have your tank pumped. Your tank should be checked annually to measure sludge and scum levels. A licensed septic tank pumper can provide a septic tank inspection and recommend when the tank should be pumped. A tank inspection should include measuring the depth of scum and sludge and inspecting the tees in the septic tank.

If you do the inspection yourself, it is important to understand that septic tanks always appear full because both the inlet and the outlet are at the top of the tank. What you will need to know is how much of the tank's volume is being taken up by scum and sludge. When sludge and scum take up more than 35 percent of the tank volume, these solids need to be removed by pumping. A pole wrapped in a coarse weave cloth can be used to check the sludge depth. An extension on the pole can be used to measure the scum depth. Record these measurements as part of your pumping records. To check the tees, uncover the inspection ports.

Never allow anyone to enter your septic tank. Dangerous gases and the lack of oxygen can kill in minutes.

While it is impractical to inspect the pipes in your drainfield, it is important to watch for drainfield failure or overuse. See "Warning Signs of System Failure" in this booklet for information.

Maintaining Your System

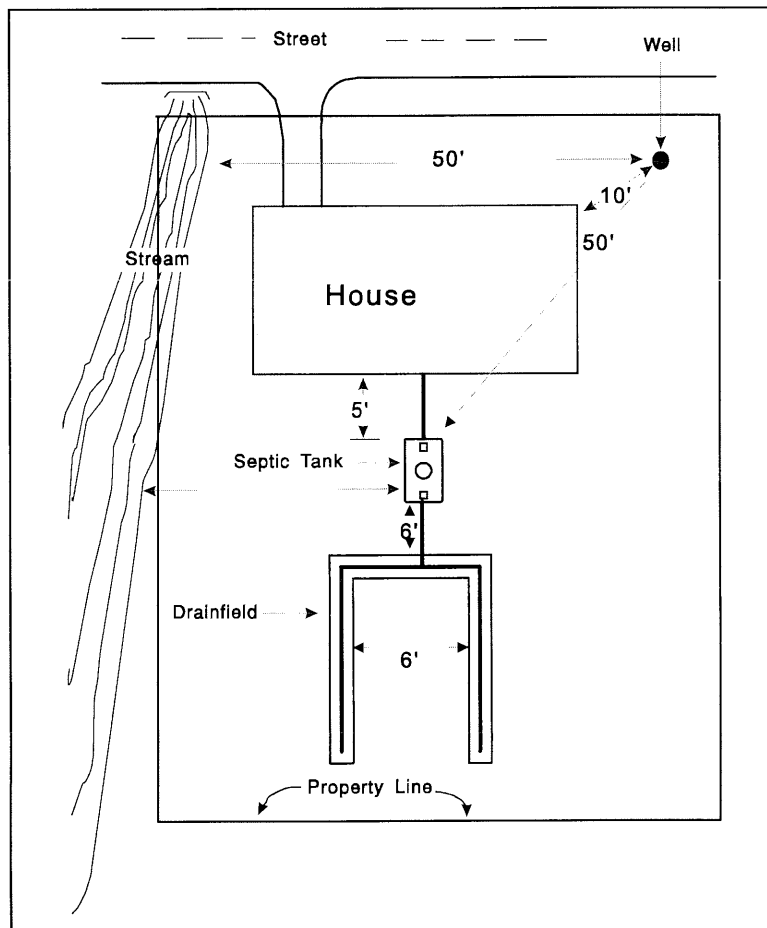
Pumping your septic tank every three years (or as determined by your inspections) will remove accumulations of solids, help keep the drainfield from becoming clogged, and help prevent you from experiencing sewage backups or septic system failure. An accumulation of sludge exceeding 35% of the total water depth in the septic tank could cause solids to enter the drainfield and clog the system. Hire a licensed septic tank pumper to pump your tank for you.

Mapping Your System

In order to take proper care of your septic system, you must know the location of the septic tank and drainfield. The location of your septic tank can be determined from plot plans, septic system inspection records, architectural or landscape drawings, or from observations of the house plumbing. If you do not have access to drawings, find where the sewer pipe leaves your house. Some installers mark the location where the waste pipe comes out of the house with an "S" on the foundation. You may want to do this as well. Probe in the ground 10 to 15 feet directly out from the location where the pipe leaves your house to find your tank.

Once the septic tank has been located, make several plot plan diagrams (with measurements) that include a rough sketch of your house, septic tank cover, drainfield area, well, and any other permanent reference points (such as trees or large rocks) and place them with your important papers. You'll find a sample system diagram on the next page, and a place to draw your own inside the front cover of this booklet. You may also want to hang a diagram in your garage and provide one to your local district health office.

Maintain a permanent record of any septic system maintenance, repair, sludge and scum levels, pumping, drainfield condition, household backups, and operations notes.



Create a septic system diagram, similar to this one, for your system.

Warning Signs of System Failure

While proper use, inspections, and maintenance should prevent most septic tank problems, it is still important to be aware of changes in your septic system and to act immediately if you suspect a system failure. There are many signs of septic system failure:

- surfacing sewage or wet spots in the drainfield area;
- plumbing or septic tank backups;
- slow draining fixtures;
- gurgling sounds in the plumbing system;
- sewage odors in the house or yard (note that the house plumbing vent on the roof will emit sewage odors and this is normal); and
- tests showing the presence of bacteria in well water.

If you notice any of these signs, or if you suspect your septic tank system may be having problems, contact a licensed septic system professional or your local district health agency for assistance.

Septic System Dos and Don'ts

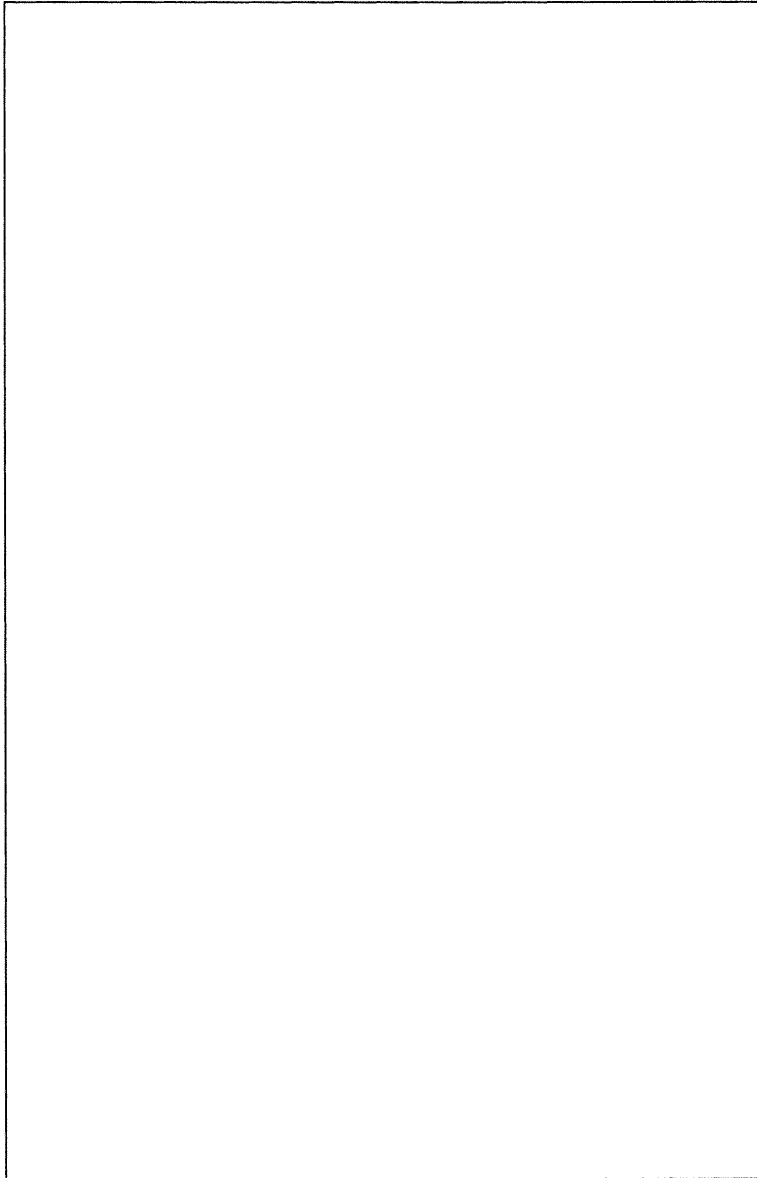
Proper operation of a septic system can prevent costly repairs or replacement. Observing the following guidelines will help to keep your system running efficiently.

Do

- ...practice water conservation. The more wastewater you produce, the more wastewater your system must treat and dispose. By reducing and balancing your use, you can extend the life of your system and avoid costly repairs.
 - Use water saving devices such as low flow showerheads.
 - Repair leaky faucets and plumbing fixtures immediately.
 - Reduce toilet reservoir volume or flow.
 - Take short showers.
 - Take baths with a partially filled tub.
 - Wash only full loads of dishes and laundry.
 - Shut off the water while shaving or brushing your teeth.
 - Balance your water use (e.g., avoid washing several loads of laundry in one day).
- ...keep accurate records. Know where your septic tank is, keep a diagram of its location using the space provided in this booklet, and keep a record of system maintenance.
- ...inspect your system annually. Check the sludge and scum levels inside the tank and periodically check the drainfield for odors, wet spots, or surfacing sewage.
- ...pump your system routinely. Pumping your septic tank is probably the single most important thing you can do to protect your system.
- ...keep all runoff away from your system. Water from roofs and driveways should be diverted away from the septic tank and drainfield area. Soil over your system should be mounded slightly to encourage runoff.
- ...protect your system from damage. Keep vehicles and livestock off your drainfield. The pressure can compact the soil or damage the pipes. Before you dig for any reason, check the location of your system and drainfield area.
- ...landscape your system properly. Plant grass over the drainfield area. Don't plant trees or shrubs or place impermeable materials, such as concrete or plastic, over the drainfield.
- ...use cleaning chemicals in moderation and only according to manufacturer's directions.

Don't

- ...flood irrigate over your system or drainfield area. The best way to irrigate these areas is with sprinklers.
- ...use caustic drain openers for clogged drains. Use boiling water or a drain snake to clean out clogs.
- ...enter a septic tank. Poisonous gases or a lack of oxygen can be fatal.
- ...use septic tank additives. They are not necessary for the proper functioning of your tank and they do not reduce the need for pumping. In fact, some additives can even harm your system.
- ...flush harmful materials into your tank. Grease, cooking oil, coffee grounds, sanitary napkins, and cigarettes do not easily decompose in septic tanks. Chemicals, such as solvents, oils, paints, and pesticides, are harmful to your systems operation and may pollute groundwater.
- ...use a garbage disposal. Using a garbage disposal will increase the amount of solids entering the septic tank and will result in the need for more frequent pumping.



Map your septic system here

For More Information

If you need to obtain a permit for a new or replacement septic system, or if you have questions about septic systems and their operation and maintenance, please contact your local health district.

Panhandle District Health Department
8500 N. Atlas Road
Hayden, ID 83835
208-415-5100

North Central District Health Department
215 10th Street
Lewiston, ID 83501
208-799-0353

Southwest District Health Department
920 Main Street
Caldwell, ID 83605
208-455-5400

Central District Health Department
707 N. Armstrong Place
Boise, ID 83704
208-327-7499

South Central District Health Department
1020 Washington Street North
Twin Falls, ID 83303
208-734-5900

Southeastern District Health Department
1901 Alvin Ricken Drive
Pocatello, ID 83201
208-239-5270

District 7 Health Department
254 "E" Street
Idaho Falls, ID 83402
208-523-5382