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Resolution No. 23-15

Adopting an Amendment to
The Bonner County Comprehensive Plan
Regarding the Hazardous Areas and Special Areas or Sites Component
File #AM0018-22

BONNER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Resolution 23- 15

Adopting an Amendment to
The Bonner County Comprehensive Plan
Regarding the Hazardous Areas and Special Areas or Sites Component
Bonner County Planning Department File AM0018-22

Whereas, Bonner County, pursuant to Idaho Code §67-6508 and §67-6509, did adopt a Comprehensive Plan by resolution of the Board of County Commissioners on July 21, 1978, recorded at Instrument #202678, Bonner County records; and

Whereas, Bonner County did adopt amendments to the Comprehensive Plan, to add the Hazardous Areas component and to add the Special Areas or Sites components (Resolution #02-34, adopted on May 31, 2002 at Instrument #602167 in Bonner County records), and

Whereas, Bonner County did adopt amendments to the Comprehensive Plan, to add the goals, objectives and policies of Hazardous Areas and Special Areas or Sites components in the Implementation Component among others (Resolution #02-34, adopted on May 31, 2002 at Instrument #602167 in Bonner County records), and

Whereas, Bonner County desires to update its comprehensive plan by amending the Hazardous Areas and Special Areas or Sites components; and

Whereas, the Bonner County Planning Commission did hold a duly noticed public hearing on December 06, 2022 on the proposed amendment, and did recommend approval of the amendment to the Bonner County Comprehensive Plan regarding the Hazardous Areas and Special Areas or Sites components; and

Whereas, the Board of County Commissioners did hold a duly noticed public hearing on January 11, 2023, that was continued to February 22, 2023, on the proposed amendment to the Bonner County Comprehensive Plan regarding the Hazardous Areas and Special Areas or Sites components.

Now, therefore be it resolved by the Board of County Commissioners of Bonner County, Idaho, that the Hazardous Areas and Special Areas or Sites components adopted by the Commissioners at Resolution #02-34, adopted on May 31, 2002 at Instrument #602167 in Bonner County records, are hereby repealed in their entirety and new Hazardous Areas and Special Areas or Sites components are hereby adopted by the resolution of the Board of County Commissioners, Bonner County.

Be it further resolved that, pursuant to Idaho Code, Section 67-6509(c), a copy of this resolution and the accompanying Hazardous Areas and Special Areas or Sites components

shall be kept on file with the Bonner County Clerk and that, with the recording of this document in the records of Bonner County, Idaho, Section 67-6509(c) of the Idaho Code is fulfilled.

Adopted as a resolution of the Board of County Commissioners of Bonner County, Idaho, done this February 22, 2023 upon a majority vote.

BONNER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Steve Bradshaw, Chairman

Asia Williams, Commissioner

Luke Omodt, Commissioner

ATTEST: Michael W. Rosedale, Clerk

By Deputy Clerk

2/22/23
Date

Legal: _____

Bonner County Planning Department

"Protecting property rights and enhancing property value"
1500 Highway 2, Suite 208, Sandpoint, Idaho 83864
Phone (208) 265-1458
Email: planning@bonnercountyid.gov - Web site: www.bonnercountyid.gov

BONNER COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

COMPONENT: HAZARDOUS AREAS

ADOPTED UPDATE – FEBRUARY 22, 2023

Table of Contents

Introduction

Bonner County's unique geography contains a variety of hazardous areas. Identifying these areas and implementing measures to mitigate development risk is critical to protecting nature, property, and people. The Bonner County Revised Code (BCRC) requires any development in hazardous areas follow special permitting processes and engineered plans to safeguard the environment, people, and property. This component of the comprehensive land use plan discusses hazardous areas in Bonner County, BCRC developmental standards, and how different public agencies manage and respond to hazards throughout the County.

Bonner County values its residents, nature, and property. The intent of BCRC Title 12 Environmental Standards then, is: "to protect its community from the loss of lives and property and to reduce public and private financial losses due to flood, fire, mass wasting, avalanches and excessive slopes by setting standards for development within hazard areas and discoursing development in high hazard areas."

Chapter 1 - Ground Failure

Section 1.1 - Faults in Bonner County

There are two major faults that run through Bonner County: the Purcell Trench and the Hope fault (Harrison et al 1972, p. 1). The Purcell Trench runs from Bonners Ferry approximately 200 miles north into Canada. It also extends nearly 80 miles down south from Bonners Ferry to at least the southern end of Lake Coeur d'Alene. The Hope fault occupies Clark Fork Valley for about 40 miles of its length, to the southeast of Hope. It intersects the Purcell Trench near the City of Sandpoint, running northward past Bonners Ferry into Canada (Harrison et al 1972, p. 1-2). The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) defines faults as "a fracture along which the blocks of crust on either side have moved relative to one another parallel to the fracture" (USGS, 2021a). When slippage occurs along a fault, the energy released may result in an earthquake (USGS 2021b). For a more comprehensive list of faults in Bonner County, please visit the Idaho Geological Survey.

Section 1.2 - Slope Hazards

Steep slopes are potentially hazardous for several reasons: faster runoff on steep slopes results in greater erosivity, they are a "prerequisite for landslides to occur" and rockfall is more likely to occur on steeper slopes, etc. (Highland and Bobrowsky 2008, p. 29 & EPA 1992, p. 3-8).

See Figure 1 below.

WHAT CAUSES LANDSLIDES?

According to the United States Geological Survey (USGS), steep slopes saturated by water are often the catalyst for landslides (Highland and Bobrowsky 2008, p. 30). Other causal factors for landslides include rapid snowmelt, earthquakes, vegetation removal by logging, fire, etc., and adding excessive weight to slopes with mining waste or rock piles (Lifton, 2021). For a comprehensive list of slope failure and landslides in Idaho, please visit the Idaho Geological Survey.

LANDSLIDES IN BONNER COUNTY

In 1991, a severe flooding event occurred near the City of Sandpoint. Carrying heavy loads of debris, the torrent's velocity damaged the roadway leading up to Schweitzer Mountain Resort, leaving several dozen people stranded (IOEM 2018). The flooding also contaminated the city's water treatment facility, costing taxpayers several hundred thousand dollars in damages (IOEM 2018). More recently, in 2017, a small landslide on Talache Beach on Lake Pend Oreille resulted in a home being displaced and significantly damaged (Viydo, 2017).

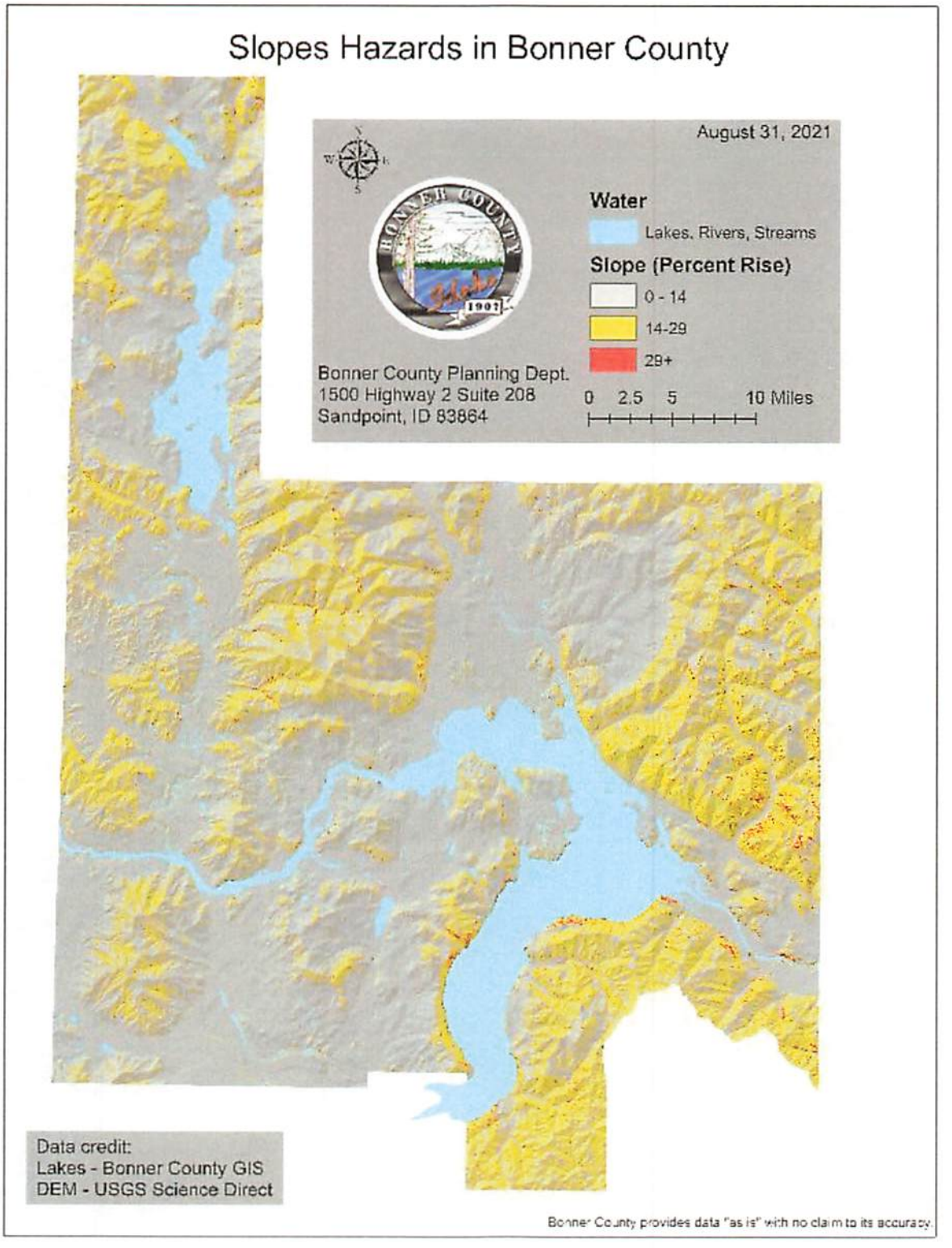

Figure 1. The above map was created using a 10m² digital elevation model (DEM) from the USGS Science Base Catalog.

Section 1.3 - Avalanche Hazards

According to the U.S. Forest Service National Avalanche Center, avalanches generally occur on slopes between 30-45° degrees. Avalanches are more likely to occur on convex slopes but may also occur on concave slopes (U.S. Forest Service, 2021). In general, slopes with thicker tree cover and low hanging branches may help anchor snow cover; on the other hand, sparse canopy cover with fewer low-lying branches provide little to no anchor support. Other factors that may increase the likelihood of an avalanche occurring include south facing slopes and mountainous areas with higher elevations as snow will accumulate more and wind gusts may be stronger (American Avalanche Association, 2021; Utah Avalanche Center, 2021).

AVALANCHE RISK ASSESSMENT

Drawing on Leuthold et al (1996), an avalanche risk assessment model was computed for Bonner County. Using a weighted overlay analysis in Environmental Systems Research Institute's (ESRI) ArcMap v10.7, slope, aspect, and elevation were extracted from a $10m^2$ digital elevation model; these components were combined to calculate potential avalanche risk for Bonner County. Areas in the County with higher elevation, and steeper slopes facing south were assigned greater weight value, whereas areas with a lower elevation and gentle slopes facing north were assigned a lower weight value. For a more comprehensive list of the data analysis for avalanche hazards in Bonner County, please see Appendix X.

See Figure 2 below.

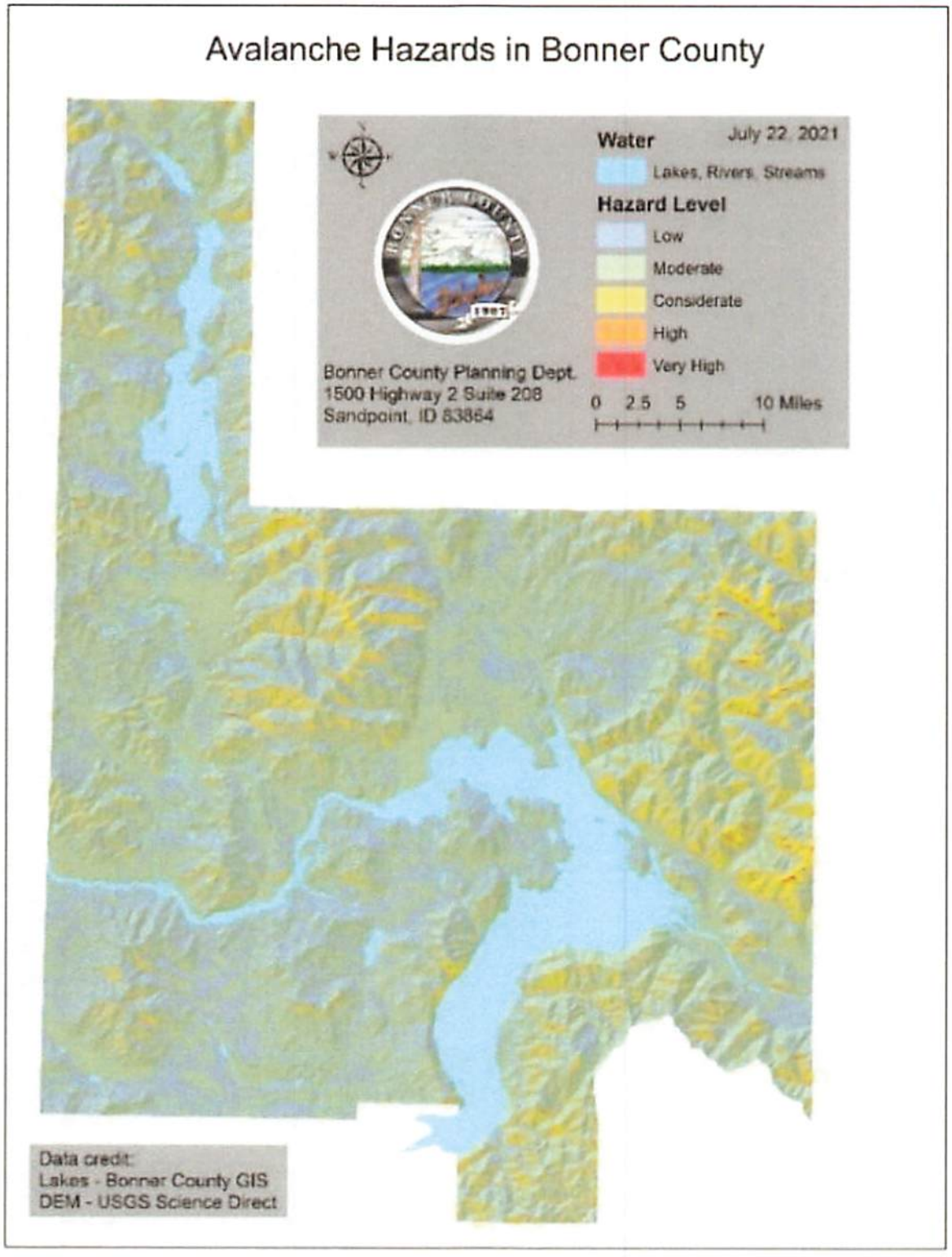

Figure 2. The above map was created using a 10m² digital elevation model (DEM) from the USGS Science Base Catalog.

Section 1.4 - Liquefaction

Liquefaction occurs in saturated soils, that is, soils in which the space between individual particles is completely filled with water. This water exerts a pressure on the soil particles that influences how tightly the particles themselves are pressed together. Prior to an earthquake, the water pressure is relatively low. However, earthquake shaking can cause the water pressure to increase to the point where the soil particles can readily move with respect to each other. Because liquefaction only occurs in saturated soil, its effects are most commonly observed in low-lying areas near bodies of water such as rivers, lakes, bays, and oceans. The effects of liquefaction may include major sliding and slumping of soil toward the body of water.

Studies or reports regarding liquefaction information specific to Bonner County is unavailable.

SIGNIFICANCE

When designing and constructing new buildings and structures, including bridges, tunnels, and roads, three options exist to reduce liquefaction hazards: avoiding liquefaction-susceptible soils, building liquefaction- resistant structures, and improving the soil.

AVOID LIQUEFACTION-SUSCEPTIBLE SOILS

The first option is to avoid construction on liquefaction-susceptible soils. There are various criteria to determine the liquefaction susceptibility of a soil. By characterizing the soil at a particular building site according to these criteria, one can decide if the site is susceptible to liquefaction and, therefore, unsuitable for the desired structure.

LIQUEFACTION RESISTANT STRUCTURES

The second option is to make the structures you build liquefaction resistant. If it is necessary to construct on liquefaction-susceptible soil because of space restrictions, favorable location, or other reasons, it may be possible to make the structure liquefaction resistant by designing the foundation elements to resist the effects of liquefaction.

IMPROVE THE SOIL

The third option involves mitigation of the liquefaction hazards by improving the strength, density, and drainage characteristics of the soil. This can be done using a variety of soil improvement techniques (University of Washington).

Chapter 2 - Wildfires in Bonner County

Bonner County's history is one that is riddled with stories of wildfires ravaging the landscape. On August 23, 1967, the Sundance Fire near Priest Lake sparked one of the largest fires in Bonner County. In just one week, the fire burned through nearly 2,000 acres of land. Twelve hours later, high winds carried the fire over 55 thousand acres on September 1st, destroying some "10 million board feet of lumber" (Gunter, 2021). To date, fires continue to plague Bonner County. In late July 2021, the Bonner County Sheriff's Office ordered evacuations for residents in "Saddler Creek, Skunk Cabbage, Mundy, and portions of Bodie Canyon and Slippery Slope roads" as the Pioneer Fire engulfed over 200 acres of land (Portuondo, 2021).

Section 2.1 - Wildfire Catalysts

Wildfires threaten wildlife, ecosystems, residents, and property in Bonner County. According to the Northern Central Idaho Prevention Cooperative, topography (i.e. – slope gradient and aspect), weather, vegetation type (i.e. – tree, shrubs, and grass) and density, and the built environment (i.e. – road design and access, home construction, landscaping, and emergency water availability) all contribute to a greater or lower fire risk matrix. In general, steeper slopes facing south increase the fire risk. Other factors that may contribute to or enhance a fire include dead vegetation, warmer weather, and strong winds (North Central Idaho Fire Prevent Cooperative, 2012).

Section 2.2 - Fire Protection

Bonner County is currently served by 10 fire districts However, many properties in Bonner County fall outside a fire district protection zone, which means that fire services are not readily available for everyone. That said, per Idaho Title 31, Chapter 14 (31-1431) does allow for individual landowners to sign a contract with a fire district in Idaho or a neighboring state for 1 year, so long as the fire district agrees to serve their property at their expense.

Since most fire districts serve a large area, residents are encouraged to create a defensible space around their dwelling and other covered structures. A defensible space, broadly conceived, is defined by a 100-to-200-foot buffer area around a dwelling and its immediate surroundings (Bonner County Emergency Management, 2020). In a defensible space, zones should be established to create an adequate, protective buffer around a dwelling unit. Bonner County Emergency Management – defensible space zones broadly defined:

No Zone: 0-to-3-foot space where no combustibles should be stored (including firewood, etc.) near the dwelling. Vegetation should be thinned (i.e. – trimmed) and tree limbs kept at least 10 feet from the home, and 10-to-20 feet apart from each other.

Figure 3. Image credit: https://www.bonnercountyid.gov/media/Emergency%20Management/Bonfire%20Brochure.pdf

Zone 1: 3-to-30-foot space where the grass is regularly maintained (cut and watered regularly), and bushes, shrubs, etc. thinned. Trees should be spread apart at a reasonable distance from each other.

Zone 2: 30-to-100-foot space where vegetation is thinned, maintained, and watered regularly. Overgrowth should be removed on an annual basis, and trees should be spread apart. Any firewood, propane, or other flammable material should be placed on either a gravel or concrete pad at least 30 feet from the dwelling unit.

Zone 3: beyond 100 feet, all vegetation should be thinned, and mature trees should be 10-to-20 feet apart. Tree species that are highly flammable should be replaced with trees that are less-fire-prone.

For more information about how to establish a defensible space, please visit the Bonner County Rural Development Fire Prevention and Resource (BonFire) Guide. A hyperlink to the guide is located on the Bonner County Emergency Management webpage.

Chapter 3 – Floodplains

Anywhere it can rain, it can flood. Flooding is the #1 natural disaster in the United States in terms of cost. Everywhere in the nation is either high, moderate, or low risk for flooding; there is no such thing as no risk for flooding disasters.

In the 1980's, Bonner County Commissioners elected to join the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). Established by Congress in 1968, the NFIP was designed to create partnerships between the federal and local governments to implement ordinances which meet or exceed the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA's) floodplain development requirements found in CFR Title 44. The NFIP was designed to be a win-win; when communities agree to adopt and enforce floodplain management ordinances that meet or exceed FEMA minimum requirements and join the program, they become NFIP participating communities. Enforcing sound floodplain management ordinances results in reducing the likelihood or severity of flood loss and protecting valuable floodplains. In exchange, FEMA makes flood insurance available to homeowners, renters, and business owners within these communities. Most standard insurance policies exclude flooding damage, making it essential that this coverage be offered through the NFIP. It is mandatory that any community in the NFIP must enforce a flood damage prevention ordinance that meets or exceeds the minimum standards of CFR Title 44.

Any development proposed in the FEMA-designated Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) of Bonner County necessitates a Floodplain Development Permit (FDP). These permits usually consist of an application form, stamped building plans, a surveyor-prepared elevation certificate, and a stamped site plan. Finished structures require final elevation certificates and inspections by ICC-certified building inspectors to ensure that structures have been built in compliance with the Bonner County Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance. Development in the SFHA generally requires that structures be elevated above the level of anticipated flooding, as well as other design standards like the use of flood-resistant building materials. The Bonner County Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance specifies these requirements in detail.

Implementation of construction and development standards are the most effective way to reduce future flood losses in high risk areas. Zoning, subdivision standards and other special codes can be used to establish special conditions for development in special flood hazard areas. These conditions can include setbacks, additional freeboard or other elevation requirements for building lots, roads, bridges, utilities and other structural features.

Section 3.1 - FEMA Maps

FEMA determines the flood risk for the entire United States and publishes these results on Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs). FIRMs indicate whether a property is within or outside of the Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA). In general, FEMA categorizes the risk of flooding by classifying a firm panel into various categories. Not all of these categories are present in Bonner County. Within Bonner County there are generally four (4) risk categories:

Zone A: This zone type is considered to be within the SFHA. Flood insurance is mandatory for federally backed mortgages in this flood zone, though the base flood elevations (BFEs) are unknown

in this zone. Areas in this zone are at a 1-percent risk of flooding annually; this probability is why these areas are also described as being in the "100-year floodplain."

Zone AE: This zone type is considered to be within the SFHA. Flood insurance is mandatory for federally backed mortgages in this flood zone and the BFEs in this zone are known and published by FEMA Areas in this zone are at a 1-percent risk of flooding annually..

Zone D: This zone type is not considered to be within the SFHA. This zone does not require mandatory flood insurance for federally backed mortgages, but the risk of flooding is unknown and these areas are entirely unstudied for flood risk. For this reason, flood insurance can be prohibitively costly in Zone D.

Zone X: This zone type is not considered to be within the SFHA. The flooding risk is low in this zone (less than 1% annual risk) Flood Insurance buyers in this zone generally qualify for Preferred Risk Rate flood insurance. Most of the nation, as well as most of Bonner County, is within this zone.

For more information about floodplains, and floodplain development permits, please visit FEMA.gov and the Bonner County Floodplain Information Resources webpage.

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Bonner County Planning Department

"Protecting property rights and enhancing property value"
1500 Highway 2, Suite 208, Sandpoint, Idaho 83864
Phone (208) 265-1458
Email: planning@bonnercountyid.gov - Web site: www.bonnercountyid.gov

BONNER COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

COMPONENT: SPECIAL AREAS OR SITES

ADOPTED UPDATE – FEBRUARY 22, 2023

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Introduction

Idaho Code §67-6508(k) requires the Special Areas or Sites Component, as designated within this component, contain an analysis of areas, sites, or structures of historical, archaeological, architectural, ecological, wildlife, or scenic significance. The analysis, overviews, recognitions and descriptions can be found in the Special Areas or Sites section of the appendices. The Goals, Objectives and Policies for the Special Areas or Sites are to be considered in land use decisions.

- The archaeological analysis includes an overview of the prehistoric and historic occupation of this area by man, a general discussion of significant archaeological sites and areas, and a summary of the current major studies and issues relating to impacts on cultural resources.

- The historical and architectural analysis includes recognition of structures which are outstanding for their architectural or historic significance.

- The ecological, wildlife, and scenic analysis includes sanctuaries, scenic byways, and wildlife areas.

Chapter 1 - Archaeological Significance

Section 1.1 - Overview

Bonner County has a remarkable variety of site types from Native American and prehistoric to early-day settlements, and there are many areas within Bonner County that contain significant cultural resources. Some noteworthy examples include Seneacquoteen, Lake Pend Oreille, Pend Oreille River, Pack River, Denton Slough, and Hope. These areas are discussed in more detail in the following sections.

The first people to venture into northern Idaho were big-game hunters seeking wooly mammoth and giant bison. They left spear-points and bones behind, but little else. Humans were always on the move. People shifted their territories in response to changing climate, food availability, and pressures from other people (Wuerthner, 1995).

Section 1.2 - Areas

There are many areas within Bonner County that contain archaeologically significant resources. Bonner County's lakes and rivers, especially the immediate shoreline areas, are culturally "highly sensitive." The shorelines have yielded valuable information about the past inhabitants. Bonner County has "an amazing variety of site types" from Native American and prehistoric to early-day fur trading and development of transportation. However, not much archaeological work has occurred away from the edge of the water (Neitzel, 1997).

Bonner County's bountiful waterways offered gathering sites for the Native Americans. Priest Lake, Lake Pend Oreille, Clark Fork, and the Pend Oreille River were used for year-round villages: fall fishing stations, winter hunting, and summer fishing (Hudson, 1981).

PEND OREILLE (KALISPEL) TRIBE

The Pend Oreille (also called the Kalispel) Tribe were immigrants from the west, who moved upstream along the Columbia River and its tributaries. The Kalispel occupied a territory that extended 20 miles north of Sandpoint and included all of the Pend Oreille and Priest River drainages, north to present-day British Columbia, and east along the Clark Fork River to the Plains, Montana area. Their tribal land extended into Washington State as well. (Wuerthner, 1995; Hudson, 1981).

Cultural artifacts include coiled baskets, rawhide containers, horn spoons, and stone pestles. Kalispel clothing closely resembled that of the Great Plains groups. Long lodges of double lean-to construction were commonly used as winter shelters in small villages. Mat-covered, conical summer lodges were gradually replaced by tipis after horses were acquired. The tribe relied upon fishing, hunting, and gathering roots, like camas lily, for food. They fished Lake Pend Oreille, and they used the Clark Fork route to Montana for buffalo hunts.

KOOTENAI TRIBES

The Kootenai were originally plains dwellers from the east who were pushed into northern Idaho by the powerful Blackfoot tribe. The Kootenai Indians are linguistically unrelated to any other Idaho

tribes, and these people remain among the few cultures in North America that have been classified as a separate entity (Wuerthner, 1995; Conley, 1982).

The territory of the Lower Kootenai included the expanses from the Montana-Idaho border and the Selkirk Range summit and between the Canadian border and the divide between the Kootenai and Pend Oreille drainages. Upper Kutenai were located in British Columbia (Hudson, 1981).

The Kootenai lived in tipis and used bark canoes, elk-horn framed buckskin saddles, cedar bows and storage boxes, carved wooden bowls, and some sun-dried pottery. Their clothing resembled that of the Plains Indians (Conley, 1982).

Section 1.3 - Archaeological Sites

LAKE PEND OREILLE

In the vicinity of the eastern shores of Lake Pend Oreille is a large Native American petroglyph. This petroglyph occupies an area 18-feet in length and ranges from 2 to 7-feet in height. It contains 28 figures, most of which appear to be stylized bear tracks. Other representations in the petroglyph include two sets of circles (Conley, 1982) and a zoomorphic figures of possibly a deer. Similar rock sites are present elsewhere around the lake and its islands.

The banks of the Pend Oreille River and Lake are home to the largest known sites of late Pleistocene or early Holocene archaeological sites in the Pacific Northwest. The resource is highly significant as it includes the sites most capable of contributing information on very early prehistoric adaptations in the Northwest.

The federally owned Albeni Falls Dam and Lake Pend Oreille Project (the project) was authorized and completed in the 1950s. In spite of the project's adverse effects, many of the sites still appear to have sufficient physical integrity to support scientific research. The erosion-resistance of the compact lake sediments may be largely responsible. It is likely that early sites are encased in lake sediments rather than the easily eroded sandy mantle, therefore there might be differential preservation of early sites.

PRIEST LAKE

At Priest Lake there are pictographs that J.E. Ryan, a former Forest Supervisor of the Kaniksu National Forest, describes in a letter as: On a granite cliff located on the west shore of Priest Lake, Idaho, about six feet above high water mark, is a strip of painting approximately four feet long by six to eight inches tall, that is quite legible.

CABINET VICINITY

Evidence indicates that humans have used the Cabinet Vicinity site, adjacent to the Clark Fork River, for the last 7,000 years.

In late 1984, an archaeological investigation of the landing site took place as part of an effort to examine potential impacts of the proposed Cabinet Gorge Dam Fish Hatchery. The archaeological

project examined both the historic and prehistoric importance of the landing. The historic importance focused on the 1882 Northern Pacific Railroad construction camp. (Landreth, 1985).

SANDPOINT TOWN SITE

The original Sandpoint (1882-1898) town site is considered a historic archaeological site, 10-BR-859. No structures remain standing, except for several railroad-associated houses east of the tracks and the Burlington Northern Railroad depot. Cursory subsurface testing has revealed buried archeological deposits associated with the town site in the banks of Sand Creek. These deposits have been determined significant by the SHPO for the information they contain. (Idaho Transportation Department, 1994).

Section 1.4 - Archaeological Preservation of Cultural Resources

VANDALISM

Problems of vandalism to burial sites and petroglyphs are associated with such sites. There has been vandalism at the petroglyphs in Denton Slough. The Kalispells are very concerned about the destruction of these sites (Betts, 1999).

LAND DEVELOPMENT

All flat ground near river and lake banks are potential archaeological sites. These areas are also prime for land development. Many of the sites of Native American winter camps have been developed into subdivisions. (Sandberg, 1999).

Chapter 2 - Historical Significance

Section 2.1 - Overview

The natural riches of Bonner County's forestlands, waterways, and minerals, and its transportation corridors eventually drew other people to the area. Euro-Americans are thought to have made contact with the Native Americans of this general area in the early 1800s (Hudson, 1981).

Section 2.2 - Historic Sites

DAVID THOMPSON HISTORICAL MONUMENT

David Thompson is reputedly the first white person to have entered northern Idaho. A geographer, surveyor and trader, Thompson passed through the Kootenai River Valley to the north of Bonner County in 1809 and returned in 1810. He traveled south to Lake Pend Oreille over what later became known as the Wild Horse Trail. (Conley, 1982).

Thompson first encountered the Kalispel Indians when he established the Kullyspell House in 1809 on Lake Pend Oreille across from Memaloose Island. The Kullyspell House is considered the first business establishment in what is now known as the State of Idaho. The Kullyspell House was abandoned as a fur trading post in 1811. (Hudson, 1981; Mitchell, 1996).

FERRY LANDINGS

Seneacquoteen (Laclede): The era of the ferryboat in what is now Bonner County began and ended at Seneacquoteen, or as the crossing was to be later known as Laclede. (Rechnitzer, 1990).

Seneacquoteen is located on the banks of the Pend Oreille River at the mouth of Hoodoo Creek, opposite the town of Laclede and 12 miles downstream from Sandpoint. Seneacquoteen was used as a crossing by the Native Americans long before explorers came to this region. (Rechnitzer, 1990).

The first settlement in Bonner County was at Seneacquoteen. In the 1860s, Seneacquoteen served as a supply point, as well as a ferry crossing, along the Wild Horse Trail. Seneacquoteen was also the site for the construction of a steamer, Mary Moody, in 1864, which was commissioned by the U.S. government as a mail carrier. During that same year, Seneacquoteen was named the seat of the newly designated Kootenai County (Hudson, 1981).

As the early 1900s were dawning, changes in north Idaho came quickly. A momentous change occurred on the north side of the river with the arrival of the Great Northern Railroad. A sawmill was built soon after. These developments led to the founding of the Laclede community, whose growth quickly eclipsed Seneacquoteen. The ferry was later appropriated by Bonner County and renamed the Laclede Ferry. With the first wagon bridge at Sandpoint in 1910, the old crossing faded into the sunset. In 1957, the Laclede Ferry was discontinued. (Conley, 1982; Rechnitzer, 1990).

Cabinet: Just west of the rock formations that forced the flow of the Clark Fork River into a narrow funnel is a spot in the river known historically as "Cabinet." The site, located about a mile west of what is now the Montana state line, became a steamboat landing that eventually had its own school,

post office, and railroad station. The landing was important because of the connections it provided with the railroad and with smaller boats that traveled above the Cabinet Gorge. (Rechnitzer, 1990).

Albeni: In 1891, Albeni Poirier ran a ferry below the falls on the Pend Oreille River. The ferry was only a small part of the overall activity at this landing. Albeni Cove was an ideal landing for riverboats carrying passengers and freight on the Pend Oreille River. (Rechnitzer, 1990).

Priest River: At the point where the Priest River enters the Pend Oreille River, there is a small city known as Priest River. A ferry operated from the bottom of what is now known as the "Joe Young Hill" to a point directly across the river. The crossing was about a one-tenth of a mile downstream from the present highway bridge. In 1916, a bridge was built to replace the ferry (Rechnitzer, 1990).

EARLY DAY TRAILS

A network of trails that served as trade, hunting, and gathering routes for the Native Americans crisscrossed what is now Bonner County. The Pend d' Oreille Trail was a major east-west trade route through the Kalispel territory and north along the Clark Fork and Pend Oreille rivers (Hudson, 1981).

With the settling of Euro-Americans in the Northwest, efforts were begun to improve overland transportation through the region. Trails used by the fur traders became routes for miners, missionaries, and settlers. (Conley, 1982).

CEMETERIES

According to Bonner County Historical Society records, there are more than 51 cemeteries and burial sites in the county. The oldest cemetery in Bonner County is located at Senacquoteen (Bonner County Cemeteries).

The oldest cemetery in the City of Sandpoint is the Lakeview Cemetery. It was platted in October 1903. (Bonner County Cemeteries).

Another cemetery of interest is the Old Hope Cemetery. (Renk, 1991, 2002).

EARLY DAY LOGGING CAMPS

In about 1910, the Humbird Lumber Company's Camp #1 was located along the Pack River. The large camp included log bunk houses, a dining hall, and barns.

The Diamond Match Company established several logging camps in the Priest Lake vicinity. One such camp was located at present-day Indian Creek State Park. A log flume left from those early years is preserved at the State Park (Renk, 1991).

CCC TRAILS

The Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) brought hundreds of young men to northern Idaho during the 1930s. There were 13 CCC camps in the area between Priest River and Priest Lake (Renk, 1991).

EARLY DAY MINING

The three best recognized mining districts in Bonner County are Talache, Lakeview, and the Hope area. These towns were developed primarily to serve the miners in the area. In some cases, the original platted town sites remain undeveloped today (Mitchell, 1996; Renk, 1991).

Section 2.3 - Structures

SCHOOL HOUSES

Ponderay School House: The Ponderay School House is located off State Highway 200, in the City of Ponderay. (Renk, 1991).

Newman Schools: Just off the Garfield Bay Cutoff Road are two school buildings called the Newman schools. School opened for a four-month term in the summer of 1904, with James D. Neville as the first teacher. Following completion of the new frame school about 1911, the log building became the home for the teacher. Both buildings are privately owned (Renk, 1991).

Hope School: In 1984, the school board determined that the building was unsafe, and the school closed its doors (Renk, 1991).

Stewart School: Approximately 3-1/4 miles north of Highway 2 on Eastside Road is a small frame building that once served as a school house. School District 28 constructed the new schoolhouse in the 1920s to house local students in the first through the eighth grade. Settlement Grange used the old school for meetings until 1989.

Coolin School: The area's isolation led residents to petition for a school in Coolin, and it opened for the first term in the spring of 1909. Since 1950, the building has served as a community center and library (Renk, 1991).

Lamb Creek School: The small log building currently used for the Priest Lake library was built about 1934 as a school. It then housed teachers until becoming a library in 1974 (Renk, 1991).

MUSEUMS

Bonner County Historical Society: The Bonner County Historical Society was established in 1972 to preserve the heritage of Bonner County. Valuable artifacts exhibited throughout the museum depict the history of the county, its people, and the events that shaped its development. The research center contains a collection of early photographs and an extensive newspaper file.

LOOKOUTS

To aid in the protection of Bonner County's forested lands from fires, numerous lookouts were constructed during the late 1920s through the 1950s, using various designs. The distinctive structures have significance as geographic and historic landmarks. Some are listed below:

- Gisborne Mountain Lookout
- Delyle Ridge Lookout

- Sundance Mountain Lookout: This lookout is located four miles east-northeast of Coolin on Idaho Department of Lands property.
- Lunch Peak Lookout: This lookout is located 10 miles north-northeast of Hope in the Kaniksu National Forest (Weber, 1999). A 45 foot pole tower was built here in 1937. (Weber, 1999) The present 10-foot concrete base, with a 15-foot frame lookout house, was constructed in 1971 and was last staffed full-time in 1985. It is currently available for emergency use. (Dahl, 1969)
- Association Caribou: This structure is located north of Schweitzer on Caribou summit.

Figure 1. Gisborne Mountain Lookout

Figure 2. Delyle Ridge Lookout

Figure 3. Sundance Mtn. Lookout

RAILROADS

The arrival of the railroads transformed Idaho from a primitive frontier to a land of economic opportunity. The decade of the 1890s, when the major transcontinental railroads were built across Idaho, was marked by sudden growth. The rapid extension of branch lines into undeveloped areas of Idaho established the extensive transportation network necessary to bring settlers and industry to every part of the state. By 1890, the Idaho Territory had gained enough population to become eligible for statehood (Herbst, 1983).

BRIDGES

Sandpoint Long Bridge: Four different "Long Bridges" have spanned the Pend Oreille River, linking Sandpoint to Sagle via what is now U.S. Highway 95. The fourth and present "Long Bridge" was dedicated in September of 1981, and parallels "Long Bridge" number 3. The 1956 bridge now provides a footpath and bike trail between Sagle and Sandpoint (Sandpoint Magazine, 2001, Sandpoint.com).

Oldtown Bridge: The Oldtown Bridge, spanning the Pend Oreille River east of the Idaho-Washington border, is an important interstate link.

As a transportation link, the Oldtown Bridge had tremendous significance at the local, state, and national level. Spanning a crossing made previously only by ferry, this bridge connected Idaho and Washington highways and provided an important economic link, especially to the timber industry (Herbst, 1983).

Upper West Branch Priest River Bridge: This historic bridge, located at the crossing of the Upper

West branch of the Priest River, was built in 1937 by the U. S. Government. The 296-foot bridge is significant as one of only two long-span, single structures in the Idaho State Bridge Inventory (Herbst, 1983).

Section 2.5 - Historic Preservation of Cultural Resources

FINANCIAL RESOURCES

According to the State Historical Preservation office, there are no local governments in Bonner County participating in the Certified Local Government Program that offers grant money for historical preservation programs (Nietzel, 1999).

BUILDING CODES

Bonner County has not adopted the UCBC and UBC for the unincorporated areas of the county.

Chapter 3 – Architectural Significance

Section 3.1 - Historical Structures

As of 2022, there are no Historical Structures listed nor perhaps eligible as National Register Properties within Bonner County jurisdiction. However, regarding all land use planning issues, Bonner County planning shall affirm that no historical structures exist within those land use areas of decision.

Chapter 4 – Ecological Significance

Section 4.1 - Areas

PACK RIVER FLATS

The Pack River Flats is located 9 miles east-northeast of Sandpoint and 4 miles northwest of Hope. The Pack River Flats is home to a wide variety of wildlife. Canada geese nest on the platforms in the marsh. Geese, swans, and ducks congregate here in spring and fall during their migration. This area is also a Wildlife Management Area (WMA) managed by the Idaho Fish and Game Department and provides public access to wildlife viewing, hunting, and fishing. The Pack River Flats is important ecologically to moose, deer, elk, and waterfowl. Although there is no eagle nesting, eagles come to the area in the winter to feed on carrion and waterfowl. This riparian area is also critical to the survival of wildlife (Dahl, 1969; Cole, 1997).

Therefore any new land use planning within or adjacent to the Pack River Flats area, shall protect this significant ecological area.

PRIEST LAKE BASIN

Hanna Flats Cedar Grove: The Hanna Flats Cedar Grove provides a good example of the kind of giant trees that were once found throughout northern Idaho. Most of the trees are more than 200 years old, and some may be approaching 800 years of age. The grove is near the Priest Lake Ranger Station off Highway 57. (Conley, 1982; Wuerthner, 1995)

Therefore any new land use planning within or adjacent to the Hanna Flats area, shall protect this significant ecological area.

Priest River Experimental Forest: In 1911, Priest River Experimental Forest was among the first experimental forests set aside as a forestry research center. In 1930 the forest was incorporated into the Northern Rocky Mountain Forest and Range Experiment Station. The forest is currently administered by the Rocky Mountain Research Station from the Moscow, Idaho, Forest Sciences Laboratory.

Since the establishment of the Priest River Experimental Forest, numerous educators, Forest Service researchers, and state and private forestry personnel have used the forest. (USDA, 1998)

Therefore any new land use planning within or adjacent to the Priest River Experimental Forest areas, shall protect this significant ecological area.

Roosevelt Grove of Ancient Cedars: While the trail head is located in Bonner County, the grove is located in Pend Oreille County, Washington.

Roosevelt Grove of Ancient Cedars: Nordman is the starting point to a 12-mile hike on a U.S. Forest Service trail to the Roosevelt Grove of Ancient Cedars located in Washington State. Set aside in 1943, this grove contains many trees that are several centuries old (Conley, 1982). While the trail head is located in Bonner County, the grove is located in Pend Oreille County, Washington.

LAKE AND RIVER SHORES

Priest Lake: The 550 square-mile Priest Lake basin is located primarily within the Idaho Panhandle in Bonner and Boundary Counties. The watershed contains Upper and Lower Priest Lakes and numerous tributaries. Comprising 23,680 surface acres, Lower Priest lake is the third largest lake in northern Idaho.

The Upper and Lower lakes and tributaries are of very high water quality with a watershed dominated by federal, state, and private forest land offering exceptional natural aesthetics. In recent years, there has been a growing concern about maintaining the high water quality of Priest Lake, given the expanding shoreline development of homes and businesses, the capacity of existing sewer treatment facilities, and increasing recreational use of the lake. There is also major timber harvesting activity in the watershed on state and federal lands.

The concern of increasing impingement of human activity on the watershed, and a desire for water quality protection, led to legislation that created the Priest Lake Project. The legislation was House Bill No. 319 (1991) enacted as Idaho Code 39-105(3)(p). The legislation mandated the following: 1) that the Idaho Division of Environmental Quality (DEQ) conduct a comprehensive baseline monitoring program of existing water quality conditions, 2) the formation of a planning team representing diverse public and private interests in the watershed, and 3) the formulation of a lake water quality management plan.

According to Idaho Code Section 39-105(3)(p): "...the stated goal of the Priest Lake (Management) Plan shall be to maintain the existing water quality of Priest Lake while continuing existing nonpoint source activities in the watershed." The Priest Lake Planning Team, composed of twelve members, used this language as a guideline in formulating the lake management plan. The lake management plan will be used to implement management strategies in the watershed to minimize human impact on water quality (DEQ, et al., pgs. 9-10).

Therefore any new land use planning within or adjacent to the Priest Lake and its River shore areas, shall protect this significant ecological area.

Lake Pend Oreille: The shores of Lake Pend Oreille are very important ecologically to the kokanee spawn. There has been much controversy over the effect the Albeni Falls Dam has had upon the spawn. (Cole, 1997)

Therefore any new land use planning within or adjacent to Lake Pend Oreille areas, shall protect this significant ecological area.

Chapter 5 – Wildlife Significance

Section 5.1 - Sites

HATCHERIES

Sandpoint: The Sandpoint Hatchery is located in Bonner County on the south shoreline of the Pend Oreille River, about two miles south of the town of Sandpoint. Although the hatchery was closed in 1985, it was reopened in 1990 in response to public demand in the Panhandle Region. Public relations with local sportsmen's groups is a major benefit of the station. The Hatchery manages a small-scale specialty station for rearing rainbow trout, Westslope cutthroat trout, chinook salmon, kokanee salmon, and Kootenai white sturgeon. In addition, it manages a net pen rearing program and operates or helps in northern Idaho egg-taking programs (Idaho Department of Fish & Game, 1994).

Cabinet Gorge: Cabinet Gorge Hatchery is located in Bonner County near the town of Clark Fork. The Cabinet Gorge Hatchery is primarily a kokanee fry production station with the capacity to rear 15 million two-inch long fry. These fish are raised to help mitigate the impact of the Albeni Falls Dam. The kokanee fry release is timed to coincide with the altered cycles of zooplankton blooms in the lake caused by Mysis species shrimp. Cabinet Gorge Hatchery is recognized by the surrounding communities as the major contributor of kokanee to the Lake Pend Oreille fishery. The importance of this lake fishery to the local economy is presently estimated at more than $5 million. (Idaho Department of Fish & Game, 1994)

Clark Fork: The Clark Fork Hatchery is a resident species hatchery located on Spring Creek, 1.5 miles northwest of Clark Fork, Idaho. Approximately 10,000 Westslope cutthroat trout broodstock are held on station, providing the state's only captive source of Westslope cutthroat eggs. In addition, brook trout, brown trout, golden trout, Kamloops rainbow trout, Arctic grayling, and kokanee are reared for distribution in the waters of the Panhandle Region. The Clark Fork Hatchery is now funded by Idaho Fish and Game license fees. (Idaho Department of Fish & Game, 1994)

OSPREY NEST VIEWING:

Lake Pend Oreille and the lake region of North Idaho has been identified as having the most dense nesting populations of osprey in North America. Osprey may be viewed all over Bonner County. The Osprey arrive at Lake Pend Oreille each year during the first week of April and leave by the first of October. They spend the winter on the coast of the Gulf of Mexico and in the Baja California area. Nesting surveys conducted in 1988 found 135 nests in the Lake Pend Oreille area (USDA, 1989).

Section 5.2 - Areas

While Bonner County abounds in wildlife and waterfowl, several areas are especially known for wildlife viewing.

DAVID THOMPSON GAME PRESERVE

This preserve is located on Samowen Point. Deer hunting is prohibited within the reserve. However, waterfowl hunting is permissible.

MORTON SLOUGH WILDLIFE AREA

Fed by the backwaters of the Pend Oreille River, the Morton Slough Wildlife Area is rich in aquatic life and the wildlife and waterfowl that feed on it. The wildlife area located 13 miles southwest of Sandpoint is owned by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and managed by Idaho Fish and Game Department under a 30-year license. The slough area plays host to a wide array of waterfowl during spring and fall migration, with more than 2,000 birds present at a given time. (Cole, 1997).

The Morton Slough Wildlife Area is also an important nesting area for bald eagles and a foraging area for the Cocolalla Slough rookery of great blue herons. The Morton Slough has the second largest concentration of osprey, next to the Clark Fork Delta. Morton Slough Wildlife Area has a public boat ramp, restroom, and undeveloped camping area. The slough attracts many bass fishermen (Cole, 1997).

PACK RIVER FLATS MOOSE AREA

In addition to attracting Canada geese and other wildfowl, the Pack River Flats is a popular gathering place for the local moose population. This marshy area is a favorite feeding area for moose (Cole, 1997).

DENTON SLOUGH

This area is a nesting site for a western grebe colony. The grebes can be viewed from May through July in the slough area. Denton Slough also harbors a large population of migrating waterfowl, especially during the fall. Coots, an important prey base for bald eagles, have numbered into the thousands in this slough. Canada geese also nest in this slough area (Cole, 1997).

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS

Idaho Fish and Game owns land and has long-term leases from the Army Corps of Engineers. These Wildlife Management Areas include Priest River, North Shore, Carey Creek, Riley Creek, Hoodoo, Morton Slough, Oden Bay, Fisherman Island, Pack River and Clark Fork. The Corps lands are leased to the state to mitigate the impact of the Albeni Falls Dam project and managed to provide public access to wildlife viewing, hunting, and fishing. Moreover, these areas are all significant ecologically, especially those areas located in deltas. The delta areas provide nutrients that stimulate the food chain, supporting animal life ranging from fish to eagles (Cole, 1997).

Chapter 6 – Scenic Significance

Section 6.1 - Areas

SCENIC BYWAYS

Panhandle Historic Rivers Passage Scenic Byway: Beginning at the Washington State line and following U.S. 2 to Sandpoint, the Panhandle Historic Rivers Passage Scenic Byway follows the northern shore of the Pend Oreille River through Oldtown, Priest River and ends in Sandpoint. Eagles in the winter, osprey in the summer, and waterfowl in the spring and fall can be observed along this 28.5 mile drive. Points of special interest include: Pend Oreille and Priest River, Kaniksu National Forest, Priest River Wildlife Area, Albeni Falls Dam Visitor Center, three Historical Museums, and Priest River's historic downtown. (Idaho Transportation Department, 1999)

Pend Oreille Scenic Byway: The Pend Oreille Scenic Byway begins near the town of Sandpoint at the north end of Lake Pend Oreille on Idaho State Highway 200 and ends at the Montana state line. The 33.4-mile route winds along the shoreline of Lake Pend Oreille. Special attractions include Lake Pend Oreille, Pack River Flats Refuge, Denton Slough waterfowl area, Cabinet Gorge and its geological connection to Glacial Lake Missoula, Cabinet Gorge Dam, and Kanisku National Forest. (Idaho Transportation Department, 1999)

This portion of State Highway 200 was designated by the State of Idaho as a scenic byway in 1991, because of its panoramic views of Lake Pend Oreille, its mountainous backdrops and its historic, geological, archaeological, natural resource and recreational qualities. A part of the corridor management plan for the byway includes protecting and enhancing the qualities that make the stretch of road a designated scenic byway. The byway presents a largely uncluttered scenic view because of little commercial development and few signs along its route. Water and wetlands are a key attraction along the byway, and the game and waterfowl attracted to these features are frequently sighted by the traveling public (Pend Oreille Scenic Byway Corridor Management Plan).

Section 6.2 - Sites

CABINET GORGE DAM

In November of 1951, the Washington Water Power Company (Avista Utilities) received a license to construct the dam at Cabinet Gorge. On September 30, 1952, the power station's first generating unit went into service. The dam created a reservoir 24 miles upstream extending into Montana. This reservoir provides recreation for anglers, boaters, swimmers and nature observers (Cork, 1991).

ALBENI FALLS DAM

The Albeni Falls Dam is located on the Pend Oreille River between the communities of Old Town and Priest River in Bonner County. The primary purpose of the project was to provide hydro power for not only production at Albeni Falls itself but more importantly to provide storage for 15 downstream federal and non-federal hydroelectric projects on the Pend Oreille River and Columbia River. Other purposes include flood control, recreation and navigation. The dam promotes summer boating use

on Lake Pend Oreille by maintaining a consistent lake level during the boating season. (Cork, 1991)

CHAR FALLS

The Char Falls are located on Lightning Creek. It is an undeveloped scenic hiking destination. The USFS is not interested in developing the area because of potential dangers associated with the waterfall. The falls are 300 feet tall and attract hikers and photographers (Sandberg, 1999).

GROUSE CREEK FALLS

This "fall" is not a true waterfall; it is a cascade. The area is on USFS land and is a developed recreational area. (Sandberg, 1999)

SCENIC PULL-OUTS

Hope Point: Hope Point is on Lake Pend Oreille, one and three-quarter miles south of Hope and three and one-quarter miles east of Glengary. The scenic turnout offers a view of Lake Pend Oreille (Dahl, 1969).

LUNCH PEAK LOOKOUT TOWER

A 45-foot pole tower was built here in 1937. The present 10-foot concrete base, with a 15- by 15-foot frame lookout house, was constructed in 1971 and was last staffed full-time in 1985. It is currently available for emergency use. The lookout is located on Lunch Peak three miles south-southwest of Mount Pend Oreille and ten miles north-northwest of Hope. The peak was so named because members of a road building crew ate their lunch at that location (SW ½ Section 15 of T58N, R2E) (Dahl, 1969).

SUNDANCE BURN AREA

On the west shore of Priest Lake is 6,300-foot Sundance Mountain. The scarred slopes are the result of the Sundance Fire in 1967, which was the subject of a National Geographic article.

Today, visitors can see the aftermath of the fires. In the Pack River drainage, young trees now cloak the slopes. Numerous snags are still visible. Snags are a long-term legacy of fires that provide homes to many bird species. Once the snags topple, they are used by small mammals for shelter. Although fires are much maligned, from a biological point of view, fires are essential for maintaining functioning forest ecosystems (Wuerthner, 1995).

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