



Sharon Fox <sfox@tetoncountyidaho.gov>

Re: BowenArrow Subdivision - Public Comment for the 10/28/24 Final Plat Meeting

Michael Bredal <mbredal64@gmail.com>
To: pz@tetoncountyidaho.gov

Fri, Oct 18, 2024 at 4:36 PM

Teton County Commissioners,

We appeal to the Commissioners to carefully consider "A Summary of Fish and Wildlife Resources in Teton County, Idaho" as you finalize the BowenArrow plat. The document is attached as a reference and was initially prepared for the Teton County commissioners in 2022 by the Upper Snake Region Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG).

The document states in the introduction: "Teton County supports fish and wildlife resources of great importance to the cultural and economic well-being of local residents, and provides habitat of regional and continental significance for several high priority species". We agree with this statement and believe that connecting to nature is a common reason why people move here and cherish this valley. We also believe that the remaining intact habitats at the base of the Big Hole range are more important than ever as accelerating residential development in this area continues to undermine habitats and pressure wildlife.

According to IDFG's report, "conserving ecologically valuable open space is a key strategy Teton County leaders and planners should consider to conserve wildlife habitat. Conserving habitat is essential to maintain fish and wildlife populations". Given this direction, we suggest that the County consider designating the Bouquet Creek and its associated riparian corridor as part of an open space set-aside that will maximize benefits to wildlife and nature. Bouquet Creek runs through BowenArrow's proposed Subdivision. This creek has year-round running water that supports lush native vegetation providing valuable forage and cover. It also serves as a natural travel corridor for wildlife moving to and from forested areas and National Forest Lands.

Since 1998 we have seen moose, deer, raptors, songbirds and other wildlife utilize habitat along this creek every year.

At this juncture it is critical that the proposed BowenArrow Subdivision consider the value of Bouquet Creek to local wildlife. This can be done by developing building envelopes that do not include the Southwest corner of the property where Bouquet Creek flows through thick riparian vegetation before it reaches a pond. To serve wildlife as habitat and a travel corridor, the creek and its vegetation need to remain intact. We remain concerned about the intended use of this area because Bowen Arrow have already excavated and constructed three yurt platforms including two without permits in this area. We propose these structures be removed to bring the area back to its natural state before the final plat is approved. Any activity on these three platforms will scare wild life away.

It makes sense that the building envelopes are clustered towards the middle of the plat to accommodate for efficient farming of the perimeter and/or growing native cover. Sandhill Cranes love open, fields and we see their mating dance out our window every year. We do not believe they will come back unless we consciously decide to accommodate their need for open spaces.

We look forward to a subdivision built with wildlife conservation in mind in the name of wildlife, culture and economic well-being.

Kind Regards,

Michael and Nola Bredal
6315 Syringa Driver, Victor

CC: A summary of Fish and Wildlife Resources in Teton County, Idaho

<https://cms3.revize.com/revize/tetoncounty/documents/Government/Teton%20County%20Plans/summaryoffishandwildliferesourcestetoncountyidahoapril2022.pdf>



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