



Kinnikinnick Native Plant Society

P.O. Box 1092, Sandpoint, ID 83864 www.nativeplantsociety.org

Officers

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Don Childress
(208) 255-7928

October 8, 2010

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Bonner County Commissioners
Bonner County Administration Building
1500 Highway 2, Suite 308
Sandpoint, ID 83864

Secretary

Dennis Rieger
(208) 263-5947

Re: Clagstone Meadows

Dear Bonner County Commissioners,

The Kinnikinnick Native Plant Society is an active and large group (150+ members) based in Bonner County, where it educates about the benefits of native plants, works to identify and protect sensitive plant populations and engages the public and institutions in the support of native flora, from small to forest sized.

On the land proposed for Clagstone Meadows' development is the tenth most important wetland complex in Idaho, as rated by Idaho State Fish and Game. Bonner County's comprehensive plan calls for protecting important natural resources, and the Hoodoo Lake/Lambertson Lake/Kelso Lake Wetlands is clearly one. Impoundment of these waters, allowing development too close, and altering the nature of riparian areas are changes that may seriously undermine these important areas. Very significantly, the sensitive native plant populations in Bonner County are generally clustered in wetland areas, and should be studied prior to any changes.

The environmental report does not indicate that any survey for sensitive plants was carried out. It does not appear that any study has been made of what protections are required to maintain water quantity and quality and excellent wetland functioning in this important ecosystem. The Kinnikinnick Native Plant Society suggests that you require a survey of wetland plants and one of wetland function prior to granting project approval.

Additionally, the scope of construction and disturbance proposed will introduce invasive, noxious weeds. Please require an ongoing, best practices weed control plan that is sensitive to wet areas prior to approval.

Sincerely,

Founder

Lois Wythe
(208) 263-8038

Molly O'Reilly
Conservation Chair