

July 11, 2011

To Dave Hensel, Ryan Colyer, Jennifer Dustin, Shawn Hill, Matthew Eagens, Bruce Arnold, and Darryl Johnson
Re: Canyon Creek Ranch PUD

Hello,

We're the Wayne and Joyce Nelson family, the neighbors who would be surrounded by the highest density of population on both the Madison and Teton County sides of the Canyon Creek Ranch PUD. Our land abuts the PUD in Madison County. Attached is a statement signed by seven of the eight trustees of the Wayne and Joyce Nelson Family Trust at our family reunion in Clementsville on Sunday, July 10, and faxed to the P & Z office. We neglected to collect signatures from other family members there, but if we had, you would have 26 more signatures of adults (their names are listed below.) There are also family members in many places who could not attend the reunion who are in support of the statement whose names are listed below.

This Concept Review needs to be examined closely—the staff report brings up many concerns, which we share. Although it is good that Idaho Ranch Subdivision LLC wants to reduce the density of the development, all of our original objections remain. Building homes in this remote location at this time seems counter-intuitive, given the fact that Teton County has a high vacancy rate in existing homes and lots. (see 2010 Census which places it at 60 percent) Home-sites aren't even selling in River Rim, which has plentiful water and excellent access to Highway 33. We urge you, the Teton County Planning and Zoning Commissioners, to vote against giving the developer five years to complete just the first phase of a project that was ill-advised to begin with.

If we assume a household size of three persons per home, (census data suggests 3.7 is average in Idaho) the 280 homes in this PUD would house 840 people. Tetonia has around 250 residents, so this proposal would put more than three Tetonias in an area with no improved roads, questionable water quantity and a 20-30 mile distance from any kind of services! And what impact would those homes and people have on wildlife?

Please consider:

ROADS:

Unless someone has changed the plans, Pony Creek Road, a gravel road on the west side of the subdivision in Madison County, will provide the ONLY exit and entrance access for all units. If a range fire engulfed Pony Creek Road, residents would have to evacuate on a Forest Service road through the mountains, a serious threat to public safety. Even if developers pave Pony Creek Road, we don't believe it would be adequate for that many residents.

Pony Creek Road feeds onto Canyon Creek Road, which presents drivers with problems due to its construction and frost heaves. Phil Neibaur, whose family has owned Green Canyon Hot Springs for 56 years, has written the story of how his family fought

for years to get that road paved. Historically, maintenance of Canyon Creek Road has not been high on Madison County's priority list. If this subdivision is approved, hundreds of Teton County residents will rely on a road that does not get adequate maintenance.

If some residents live in the subdivision year-round, who will plow Pony Creek Road for children to be bused to school? Perhaps Idaho Ranch Subdivision LLC. But does Teton County want to rely on Madison County for the safety of these Teton County children, as that county is responsible to plow Canyon Creek Road and Highway 33 to the Teton County line?

EMERGENCY SERVICES:

Our family had the misfortune of losing a child in the only drowning we are aware of at Green Canyon Hot Springs. It took at least half an hour for the ambulance to arrive from Rexburg. It would take the same amount of time to get emergency service to residents of this PUD, as Green Canyon Hot Springs is very near to it. We are also deeply concerned about crime and fire safety. For 69 years, this area has not been policed. Our family home has experienced much vandalism even though there are no neighbors near us at present. Will Teton County provide police, ambulance and fire protection to this remote area?

WILDLIFE:

The area where developers want to cluster homes—the small wooded canyon—is a prime elk calving area; it is also sharp-tail grouse habitat. Bruce Nelson saw a cow moose with twin calves there last week. If this subdivision is approved, these and other species will be affected. It doesn't take a biologist to see this—one only has to drive through the Echo Ranch Development near Milk Creek to see that development chases off wildlife. At the Teton County hearing when the original PUD was presented, Kim Ragotski, a biologist with Idaho Fish and Game, presented figures which strongly illustrated the biological sensitivity of this area.

WATER:

Our family dry farmed in this area—"dry" is the key word here. According to Department of Environmental Quality figures, which say an average home uses 400 gallons of water a day, the proposed 280 Teton County homes would use 112,000 gallons daily. We have grave concerns about the aquifer from which this water would be drawn. Can this traditionally dry area supply enough water for such a subdivision? What water rights will the developers acquire? What other water rights will be compromised if water is provided for this development? Does the developer provide specific and sufficient data to answer these questions? If new wells are to be dug to provide for the development, how will the owners of culinary wells with senior water rights be protected if their wells go dry or the flow is impacted? Are there provisions in the proposed plan? Farmers and homeowners, as well as wildlife, rely on spring flow in the area. How will spring flow be impacted by water usage of the proposed development?

UTILITIES

Teton County required Western Heritage LLC to put in a community sewer system in the original PUD agreement, which would require tearing up the land. Septic

issues are very important and must be addressed. Installation of electricity and phone lines, and all other utilities, will also become issues. Is there adequate electrical infrastructure to provide electricity to these units?

We do not believe it would be wise to give the developer five more years to start Phase One of a project that would bring 732 residents into this remote area, for the reasons stated above.

We understand that the job of a Planning and Zoning Commissioner is difficult and under-compensated. Thank you so much for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Bruce Nelson, Trustee Representing the Wayne and Joyce Nelson Family Trust
Rex Nelson, Trustee
Judy Nelson Scoble, Trustee
Ellen Nelson Frazier, Trustee
Jeanne Nelson Jeppesen, Trustee
Debra Nelson Holm, Trustee
Andrea Nelson Clark, Trustee (unable to sign statement, in Ohio)
Shanan Nelson Cameron, Trustee

Other adult family members in support of this letter (underlined were at the reunion in Clementsville on July 8-10, 2011):

Glenn Scoble, Michael Hidalgo, Tim and Rachelle Hidalgo, Dan and Kara Hidalgo, Anita and Warrior Appenay, Nic Nelson, Mariel Nelson, Kerry Frazier, Lance and Monique Frazier, Jennifer and Steve Morrell, Patricia Frazier, Derek and Janet Frazier, Shane and Elise Frazier, Aaron and Amy Frazier, Alan Jeppesen, Becky and Bruce Christensen, Amelia and Alex Casares, Kevin and Sara Jeppesen, Erik and Danni Jeppesen, Kristen and Basil Anderson, Sherrell and Pauline Anderson, Marie and Spencer Walker, Nathan and Shawn Anderson, Vonnie Anderson, Bryan and Melanie Anderson, Alison and Aaron Robinson, Meggan and Ontario Britton, Evan Anderson, Rachael Anderson, Robbie Anderson, SuLin Nelson, Nisha Nelson, Nicolette and Aaron Hardinger, Wayne and Claire Nelson, Bryce and Julise Nelson, Isaac Nelson, Norman Holm, Lara and Marco Roetto, Janson and Lynn Holm, Emily and James Murdock, Spencer Holm, Alissa Holm, Ross Clark, Joseph and April Clark, Matthew Clark, Elizabeth Clark, Kelly Cameron, Adam Cameron, Joshua Cameron

Please send mail for the Wayne and Joyce Nelson Family Trust to:

Wayne and Joyce Nelson Family Trust
c/o Bruce Nelson, trustee
822 E 900 N
Shelley ID 83274

Bruce's phone is 208-390-8091
Emails may be sent to: debraholm@gmail.com

We, the Trustees of the Wayne
and Joyce Nelson Family Trust, oppose
passage of a Concept Review granting
five more years to begin Phase
One of the Canyon Creek PUD.

There are not adequate roads, water,
safety provisions, and etc., for development
in the proposed area.

July 10, 2011

Delora Nelson Holm

Nickala E. (Nelson) Frazier

Jeanne N. Jeppesen.

Judith Scott

Nola Shannon Cameron

Reg Nelson

Bruce Nelson

Andrea Nelson Clark was not able to
sign as she is in Ohio but
verbally states she is in
support of this statement.