



November 17, 2020

To: Ada County Commissioners via Email: bocc1@adacounty.id.gov

Madam Chair and Commissioners:

While the Barber Valley Neighborhood Association (BVNA) supports Resolution 2573 establishing the Barber Pool property owned by the county as a conservation area, we do have one reservation about the semantics of the resolution.

The BVNA and the residents of the Barber Valley support the goals of the Idaho Foundation for Parks and Land for protecting both habitat and wildlife in the Barber Pool. Barber Valley residents are proud of our location where the foothills meet the river and have consistently provided vocal and financial support in the past to provide open space and safe corridors for wildlife to live and travel between the Wildlife Management Area in the foothills and the Barber Pool Conservation Area/Boise River. While our preference would be for this property to be off limits to humans and domestic animals, we understand that is not possible due to the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act. The next best thing is the proposed limits on passive uses. However we would like to better define the passage at the bottom of page 2:

“WHEREAS, such passive recreation shall include but not be limited to pedestrian only activities such as hiking, wildlife observation, birdwatching, painting, drawing and photography.”

Specifically, our concern is with the phrase “but not be limited to”. We’re worried that this could open the door to more invasive uses of this property in the future. We believe this phrase should be removed from the resolution, and would also strongly suggest adding education and research to the passive uses. Alternatively, emphasizing in this section that no other allowed uses be any more invasive than those listed would be acceptable as well.

The BVNA would also like to thank Scott Koberg for reaching out to give BVNA and other stakeholders advance notice of the resolution. From our previous experiences with Mr. Koberg, we know he is a strong supporter of the vision of conservation and habitat preservation in the Barber Pool. We have faith in Mr. Koberg’s commitment to manage this property in a manner consistent with IFPL’s and other stakeholders’ goals for the Barber Pool and hope that he will be given the freedom to make the decisions and set the policies to best meet these goals.

Thank you for your consideration,
Barber Valley Neighborhood Association Board

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