

# Payette Land Trust

Conserving the rural landscape of West Central Idaho

a non profit 501 (c)3 Conservation Organization

April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Valley County Commissioners  
Elt Hasbrouck  
Sherry Maupin  
Dave Bingaman

Dear Valley County Commissioners,

The Payette Land Trust (PLT) applauds and supports the strong defining positive environmental language used by the Commissioners in the Resolution portion of the Draft Valley County Waterways Ordinance. This language describes the importance of protecting and conserving our high-quality waterways and the adjoining natural habitat. This language aligns with the PLT's Payette River Basin (PRB) Initiative.

The Goal of the PRB Initiative is to permanently conserve a connected corridor from the Payette Lake inlet to Cabarton Bridge along the main stem of the North Fork Payette River. This effort will allow for access, recreation and movement of both people and wildlife within the corridor, while conserving the existing natural beauty and water quality.

As the Ordinance moves through the hearing and the eventual final drafting stages, the Payette Land Trust strongly supports retaining the specific Resolution language in the final draft of the ordinance as currently written.

*WHEREAS, Residents of Valley County desire to protect the area's natural environment including the special and high-quality fresh waters of the County's waterways, recognizing that such outstanding natural attributes contribute to tourism, to the overall economic well-being, and to the quality of life enjoyed and appreciated by both residents and visitors alike: and,*

*WHEREAS, Residents of Valley County value the peace and quiet associated with waterway experiences; and,*

*WHEREAS, improper operation of vessels can impose a danger to the citizens who use the waters or live adjacent to Valley County lakes and waterways, and can diminish the quality of natural environment including the general peace and quiet of the waterways and their watersheds, diminish water quality, jeopardize shoreline stability and affect diverse wildlife habitat suitability in ways that will be mitigated by the terms of this ordinance;*



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The Payette Land Trust supports the designation of No Motor Driven Vessel Area's to specific portions of the North Fork of the Payette River. This designation provides for crucial boater safety and ensures the users an opportunity to engage with the surrounding natural environment. It also provides consideration for the wildlife which depend on these natural waterway corridors for crucial habitat. The Payette Land Trust strongly supports retaining the specific language in section 4-5-6 (B) and (C) of the final Rules and Regulations Chapter draft of the ordinance as currently written.

*4-5-6: Additional Operational rules, regulations and behavioral standards for certain public waterways in Valley County:*

*B. North Fork Payette River, North of Lake Cascade – No Motor Driven Vessel Area: It shall be unlawful for any person to operate, or allow to be operated, a motorized vessel at any time on the North Fork of the Payette River from its confluence with Lake Cascade at Fisherman's Bridge, upstream to the dam at the South end of Payette Lake.*

*C. North Fork Payette River, North of Payette Lake – No Motor Driven Vessel Area: It shall be unlawful for any person to operate, or allow to be operated, a motorized vessel at any time on the North Fork of the Payette River from its confluence with Payette Lake at North Beach, upstream to Upper Payette Lake.*

The Land Trust envisions dedicated areas of open access and connectivity while encouraging people to take part in their environment. We believe in maintaining the region's pristine rivers, streams, meadows, and lakes for present and future generations. The PLT believes these aforementioned sections of the draft Ordinance align with the goals of the land trust.

Please feel free to reach out to the Trust if there are any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



Craig utter, Executive Director



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