

NATURAL RESOURCES

Community Vision 2028

“Because we live in an area of exceptional natural beauty, we effectively balance our needs with the environment. As responsible stewards, we consistently make choices that respect the land and water that define us as community ... Mountains, trees, open spaces, scenic vistas. We live in a very beautiful place!” —Kezziah Watkins Report

In response to the question related to community values, survey respondents and Meetings-in-a-Box participants were clear in their priorities. Natural areas, including the forests, lakes, rivers, watersheds, aquifers, the environment, and wildlife, were the most frequently mentioned topics. Residents spoke about the intrinsic value of natural areas, as well as their ability to view, access, and live among the land and water amenities. They also frequently mentioned the environment in response to the question related to values, citing clean air and clean water and the importance of protecting and maintaining all environmental resources.

Overview

The Natural Resources section of this Plan provides information on topography, geology, soils, climate, water, vegetation, and wildlife, and land use in Kootenai County. For the purposes of this Plan, this section has been split into Air Characteristics; Land Characteristics; Water; and Vegetation, Fish, and Wildlife and Minerals.

There are several unique landscapes within Kootenai County. Vegetation within these landscapes and the potential for timber, grazing, cropland, or wildlife habitat can vary widely. An examination of these diverse areas and the functional role that natural resources plays is necessary to assist public administrators and the private sector in the development of Kootenai County.

Large portions of the County encompass vegetation that is suitable for timber production, limited grazing, and wildlife. Kootenai County

also has some of the most beautiful lakes and rivers in Idaho and the West. These water resources are used both for recreation and as an important element of our economic base.



Timber Resources of Northern Idaho

Air Characteristics

The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) (www.deq.state.id.us) is responsible for monitoring and protecting air quality in Kootenai County, based on the Clean Air Act enacted by Congress in 1970. (42 U.S.C. 7401). DEQ’s air quality protection efforts are designed to assure compliance with federal and state health-based air quality standards. Currently, DEQ is performing an evaluation of meteorological and geographic features surrounding the County area to determine airshed boundaries in order to better facilitate future development of strategies and responses to local air quality issues.

Sources of particulate matter are widespread in the County. Common sources include, but are not limited to, windblown dust, re-entrained road dust, smoke (residential, agricultural, and forest fires), industrial emissions, development, and motor vehicle emissions.

Monitoring results indicate that the County complies with state and federal air quality standards. Residents routinely enjoy good air quality days through most of the year. During fall and winter months, when inversion conditions occur and woodstove use and open burning of “slash” and yard debris is prevalent, air quality can degrade significantly.

In creating DEQ, the Idaho legislature declared protecting the environmental value of clean air a vital interest of the state of Idaho. As a result, Idaho passed, IDAPA 58.01.01 to assist

DEQ's air quality protection efforts and assure compliance with federal and state health-based air quality standards. Responsibility for protecting the County's outdoor air quality is shared by DEQ's Air Quality Program Office, based in Boise, and DEQ's regional office, located in Coeur d'Alene. Air quality programs and policies have been customarily developed, in the state office and implemented throughout the state by DEQ's regional offices.

Land Characteristics

With the exception of the Rathdrum Prairie in the northern part of the County, the land surface consists mostly of forested, mountainous, or hilly terrain that has comparatively narrow valleys opening out to the west. The mountainous areas are mostly metamorphic and metasedimentary rocks. The Rathdrum Prairie is a glacial-outwash plain where soils were deposited by the waters from melting glaciers. It has level or gently sloping terraces with moderately steep or steep slopes on the terrace breaks, and is at an elevation of 2,200 feet. Part of the rolling and hilly loess-covered prairie region called the Palouse area is in the southwestern part of the county, and has an average elevation of about 2,700 feet. The Coeur d'Alene River flows through a broad flood plain from east to west across the southeastern part of the area and into Lake Coeur d'Alene. The lake's outlet is the Spokane River, which flows west from the central part of the county into Spokane County, Washington. The lowest point in the area is the level of the Spokane River at the Washington-Idaho state line at about 2,040 feet. The highest elevations are in the southeastern part of the county, where some mountain peaks are over 6,000 feet.

Federal Lands

The U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service manages public lands in national forests and grasslands. National forests are America's great outdoors, providing opportunities for recreation in open spaces and natural environments. With more and more people living in urban areas, national forests are becoming more important and valuable. They offer a wide variety of activities: backpacking in remote

wilderness areas, mastering an all-terrain vehicle over a challenging trail, enjoying the views along a scenic byway, or fishing in a great trout stream, to mention just a few.

The U.S. Forest Service is the federal agency responsible for management of national forests and is always in the process of developing management plans for its 177 national forests and grasslands. Each forest or grassland's management plan must be revisited every 10–15 years. The development of these management plans is an opportunity for the agency to assess each national forest or grassland, evaluate past practices and uses, and propose areas for appropriate protections. Proposed management plans must strike a delicate balance between the conservation goals of groups that favor access and motorized recreation, preservation goals articulated by environmental groups, and the needs of the nation's timber industry and the rural economies that depend on it.

Kootenai County has approximately 245,000 acres of federal timberland on the Coeur d'Alene National Forest, which is part of the Idaho Panhandle National Forests (IPNF). The Idaho Panhandle National Forests boundary encompasses over 2.9 million acres that lie within northern Idaho and extended into eastern Washington and western Montana. Within the boundary, 2.5 million acres are National Forest lands administered by the USDA Forest Service. The remaining 400 thousand acres within the Forest boundary consist of other mixed ownerships.

The Idaho Panhandle National Forests are an aggregation of the Coeur d'Alene and portions of the Kaniksu and St. Joe National Forests. There are eight local points of contact (including the Supervisor's Office), six district offices, and the Coeur d'Alene Tree Nursery. The IPNF lies within nine counties in three states: Boundary, Bonner, Benewah, Kootenai, Shoshone, Latah, and Clearwater counties in Idaho; Lincoln County in Montana; and Pend Oreille County in Washington.

State Department of Lands

The Idaho Department of Lands (IDL) is tasked with the management of almost 2.5 million acres of state-owned timberland. In Kootenai County IDL manages 33,511 acres of timberland. These lands were endowed to Idaho upon the designation of statehood in 1890, and are specifically managed for economic value to support public schools and institutions. The State Constitution mandates that these lands be managed in “such manner as will secure the maximum long term financial return” to the state. In the last decade, timber sales from state lands have generated more than half a billion dollars for public schools, universities, and institutions.

IDL assists landowners to establish healthy, sustainable forests and compliance with the Idaho Forest Practices Act (FPA). The FPA (Title 38, Chapter 13, Idaho Code) was enacted in 1974 to encourage timber harvest, forest fertilization, tree thinning, road building, and other forest practices that maintain and enhance the benefits provided by forest resources such as trees, soil, air, water, and wildlife and aquatic habitat. Landowner and logger consultations and frequent site inspections ensure continuous growth and harvest of forest tree species and the protection of forest resources. The Forest Practices Act identifies standards for logging, road building, reforestation, streamside protection, and other forest practices.

The FPA assigned responsibility for the development and enforcement of forest practice minimum standards, called Best Management Practices (BMPs), to the IDL. IDL identified BMPs and promulgated them as Rules Pertaining to the Idaho Forest Practices Act (IDAPA 20.02.01). Idaho’s Water Quality Standards list the FPA Rules as approved BMPs for silviculture. These BMPs apply to any single instance of timber harvesting, reforestation and residual stocking, road construction and maintenance, application of chemical and pesticide products, or slashing management. Since their adoption, BMPs have been effective for helping forest managers minimize impacts from individual forest practices.

Vegetation, Fish, and Wildlife

Wildlife in Kootenai County is a valuable resource to residents and visitors. The County’s abundance of fish and wildlife provides many recreational opportunities and has important economic value. In recent years, wildlife recreation such as hunting, fishing, and watching and photographing wildlife has increased.

Management of the County’s fish and wildlife with some exceptions for federal ESA listed species, and wildlife inside the Coeur d’Alene Reservation is under the jurisdiction of the Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG). IDFG, acting under supervision of the Idaho Fish and Game Commission, is charged with the statutory responsibility to preserve, protect, perpetuate, and manage all fish and wildlife in Idaho (Idaho Code, Title 36). Therefore, we advocate that fish and wildlife receive equal consideration with other resources in decisions affecting land and water management. Resident species of fish and wildlife are the property of all citizens within the state, and decisions affecting fish and wildlife therefore are the concern of all Idahoans.

Hunting is an economically valuable activity that contributes in excess of \$15 million to the County’s economy annually. It is also an important management tool for reducing human/wildlife conflicts. Allowing development in a manner that sustains hunting opportunities, including maintaining open space, will benefit the County’s residents both socially and economically.

In 2003, IDFG conducted a survey to evaluate angler economic activity throughout the state. Angler activity in Kootenai County ranked 12th out of the 44 counties in the state. Anglers fished 280,333 days on 209,275 trips to Kootenai County, spending an average of \$65 per trip. Angler spending on fishing in the County was \$13,639,955 in 2003. Anglers spent an additional \$1,060,376 on fishing licenses and permits purchased in Kootenai County. Lake Coeur d’Alene was the single most heavily fished body of water in Idaho in 2003.

Critical to the success of wildlife is habitat management. The variety and abundance of fish and wildlife depends on the availability of suitable habitat, including the amount and distribution of food, cover, and water. If any one of these elements is missing, inadequate, or inaccessible, wildlife is either scarce or does not inhabit the area. Habitat loss and degradation, habitat fragmentation, and greater human access into wildlife habitat are the primary reasons for the decline or loss of some species. The U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, and the State of Idaho manage public land in the County, which provides wildlife habitat.

Kootenai County is home to a variety of habitat types, including dry ponderosa pine forests, moist cedar forests, prairie, wetlands, and others. Where development occurs, maintaining as much of the structure, function, and composition of these habitat types as possible will help to conserve habitat for a diversity of wildlife in the County.

Non-native (invasive) species did not evolve as part of the local ecosystem; therefore, they do not have native controls or competition. Invasive species can be aquatic or terrestrial (e.g., Eurasian water milfoil, knapweed, hawkweed, and zebra and quagga mussels). They change ecosystems by outcompeting native species and reducing habitat for native wildlife, and thus have a significant negative impact on native species. The County's Noxious Weeds Department identifies and attempts to mitigate the impacts of noxious weeds on the indigenous vegetation. Invasive species generate costly maintenance problems for both public and private landowners.

Water

Each water resource in the County serves a different but interrelated function. These differing, publicly beneficial hydrologic functions necessitate consideration prior to development. Since land characteristics, not property boundaries, affect water resources, land characteristics should be evaluated when designating what types of developments and land uses are allowed where water resources are highly sensitive to development. In general, all water

resources are sensitive and should be recognized for how they function from the larger perspective of the hydrologic system.

By enacting the federal Clean Water Act of 1972 (33 U.S.C 1251) and subsequent revisions, the EPA was given authority to implement regulations for the control of pollutants and contaminants in water resources. The Department of Environmental Quality has jurisdiction over water quality through administration of the Idaho Water Quality Standards, adopted by the legislature and approved by EPA. The Coeur d'Alene Tribe has water quality jurisdiction utilizing Tribal Water Quality Standards over the southern third of Lake Coeur d'Alene and the lower five miles of the St. Joe River. DEQ and the Coeur d'Alene Tribe monitor surface waters within their jurisdictions, and assess water quality through data collection. From these assessments, DEQ and the Coeur d'Alene Tribe create implementation plans, such as a Lake Management Plan for Lake Coeur d'Alene, and Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) implementation plans for impaired waters. In conjunction with DEQ, U.S. Geological Survey has collaborated on studies of the Spokane River and the Coeur d'Alene Basin.

Wastewater management, treatment, and disposal are also under DEQ's jurisdiction. Centralized municipal wastewater treatment plants and, decentralized systems are tracked for pollutant levels. Permits are required for discharge of treated wastewater to the surface and subsurface, and land reuse. Locally, the Panhandle Health District assists in land development waste water systems.

DEQ and the Coeur d'Alene Tribe are also responsible for watershed protection. The U.S. Forest Service is responsible for watershed protection and management on National Forest lands. A watershed is an entire geographical area drained by a river and its tributaries. Watersheds can carry natural and/or human-made pollutants to the surrounding water systems such as lakes, streams, rivers. Pollutants can have diverse effects on the surrounding environment and potential damage to water quality and its

beneficial uses such as drinking water, aquatic life and recreation. DEQ and the Coeur d'Alene Tribe can assist in aiding land management agencies in applying best management practices to protect water quality.

Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer

The Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer is one of the most prolific aquifers in the U.S. The Aquifer spans approximately 180 square miles in Kootenai County. It is estimated that the entire Aquifer currently supplies domestic water to 500,000 citizens in three counties. Its composition is mainly very coarse sands and gravels, and all materials are very porous and permeable. Water in the Aquifer travels south and southwest to the Idaho-Washington border. The depth to the water table varies between 400 feet in the northern part of the County to 150 feet near the state line. Because of its porosity and permeability, the Aquifer is especially vulnerable to groundwater contamination. Water quality of the Aquifer is currently good, but increased urbanization over the Aquifer is a concern in both Idaho and Washington. Recent studies have been done to determine the long-term viability (draw-down) of the Aquifer. An Aquifer protection district has been formed to collect fees to fund programs to protect water quality of the Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer. Also, recent studies done by U.S. Geological Survey, Idaho Department of Water Resources and Washington Department of Ecology were done to help understand water quantity issues on the Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer and assist in water rights issues.

The Aquifer's recharge areas consist of the Coeur d'Alene drainage basin, Lake Pend Oreille, and 19 smaller watersheds. These watersheds are well defined and commonly referred to as Critical Aquifer Recharge Areas (CARAs).

Lakes, Rivers, and Streams

Lake Coeur d'Alene, one of the many lakes in the County, covers approximately 33,000 acres, is over 25 miles long, and has approximately 125 miles of shoreline. Hayden Lake, a major recharge area for the Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer consists of 4,000 surface acres and 40 miles of shoreline.

Kootenai County's water area is approximately 70 square miles of the County. The Idaho Department of Lands (IDL), Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR), EPA, DEQ, and the Coeur d'Alene Tribe provide management of the County's water resources. Additionally, the U.S. Forest Service affects management of significant river and stream resources within and near the Forest boundary. The Forest Service has made significant investments in watershed improvement projects, including road decommissioning, improvements to stream crossings and removal of fish passage barriers, mine site restoration, and reparation of damage to riparian areas. These actions directly benefit the affected streams, and many of these streams ultimately drain into Hayden Lake and Lake Coeur d'Alene.

In 2001, the United States Supreme Court transferred ownership of the southern section of Lake Coeur d'Alene and the lower portion of the St. Joe River west of the City Saint Maries, to the Coeur d'Alene Tribe.



Lake Coeur d'Alene

Lakes have become a focal point of Kootenai County, but they are not a permanent feature. Lakes naturally age through the process called eutrophication. Human activities near lakes have resulted in increased nutrient levels in the lakes. This, in turn, causes lakes to become more biologically productive and the aging process to accelerate. Various agencies and groups have developed plans to preserve and enhance the quality of the County's lakes, although very few actions have been implemented. Newly focused

efforts by many agencies will enhance the County's ability to provide guidance and enforcement to protect the County's water resources in the future. In addition, IDWR is currently administering a water adjudication process for North Idaho.

Numerous named, perennial streams flow into Lake Coeur d'Alene as well as a number of intermittent streams that flow into the lake. Several streams flow directly into the Aquifer.

An increase in impervious surfaces (e.g., roads and buildings) enhances the normal rate and volume of runoff from precipitation that would otherwise be absorbed by the soil. Increased runoff from development also increases the level of flooding. Flooding contributes to increased erosion and sedimentation and associated nutrient-loading impacts. Heat from these surfaces also makes snow and ice melt faster. Vegetation removal tends to result in "flashier" watersheds, where peak flows are higher but of shorter duration, followed by lower stream flows in hot, dry periods, increasing the potential for intermittency.

Scientific research has shown that vegetative buffers are effective at trapping sediment and other contaminants from runoff and at reducing channel erosion. Riparian buffers are strips of naturally (native) vegetated land along a stream, river, or lake that protects and maintains healthy aquatic ecosystems and provide a range of other environmental, economic, and social benefits including:

- Trapping and removing sediment, nutrients, and contaminants from runoff;
- Stabilizing stream banks and reducing channel erosion;
- Storing flood waters, thereby reducing property damage;
- Maintaining habitat for fish and other aquatic organisms and providing terrestrial habitat;
- Maintaining good water quality;
- Improving aesthetics, thereby increasing property values; and
- Offering recreational and educational opportunities.

Each hydrologic system component serves as a resource from which the public benefits. Since the prosperity of the County and the region as a whole is heavily reliant on surface- and groundwater resources, they should be protected. The County is in a unique position to protect water resources through preventative measures. In general, the County's water resource base is of high quality and quantity; but if management does not keep pace with growth, it is inevitable that water quality will decline.

Wetlands

Wetlands, which may or may not be wet year-round, are scattered throughout Kootenai County. Wetlands are the link between the land and the water. They are transition zones where the flow of water, the cycling of nutrients, and the energy of the sun meet to produce a unique ecosystem characterized by hydrology, soils and vegetation making these areas very important features of a watershed. They provide critical habitat for animals, insects, birds, and fish. Using a watershed-based approach to wetland protection ensues that the whole ecosystem, including land, air, and water resources, is protected.

Wetlands contribute to the local economy by producing resources, enabling recreational activities, and providing other benefits, such as pollution control and flood protection. While it can be difficult to calculate the economic value provided by a single wetland, it is possible to evaluate the range of services provided by all wetlands and assign a dollar value. These amounts can be impressive: according to one assessment of natural ecosystems, the dollar value of wetlands worldwide was estimated to be \$14.9 trillion (EPA website, December 15, 2007).

Water Quality

Wetlands improve water quality in nearby rivers and streams, and thus have considerable value as filters for future drinking water. A wetland's natural filtration process can remove excess nutrients before water leaves the wetland, making it healthier for drinking and swimming and supporting plants and animals.

Flood Control

Wetlands play a role in reducing the frequency and intensity of floods by soaking up and storing a significant amount of floodwater. Well-designed buffers protect wetland functions by removing sediments and associated pollutants from surface water runoff.

Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Species

The Idaho Governor's Office for Species Conservation (OSC) has developed a strategic plan for the years 2007–2010. OSC will coordinate and plan recovery for endangered species with assistance from the Idaho Department of Fish and Game, DEQ, Idaho Department of Lands, Idaho Transportation Department, Idaho Department of Agriculture, Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation, Idaho Association Soil Conservation Commission (ISCC) and Districts, and the Idaho Department of Water Resources. The U.S. Forest Service also manages for such species on National Forest lands and is responsible for complying with the Endangered Species Act to protect and contribute to the recovery of federally listed species. In addition, the U.S. Forest Service manages a list of agency recognized sensitive species with the intent to preclude them from being added to the endangered or threatened species list. These departments are identifying the species with the greatest need for conservation. There are several species in Kootenai County requiring special consideration because of their significant habitat loss, limited distribution, or low numbers and are noted in the Bitterroot Mountain section of the Wildlife Conservation Strategy.

Minerals

The IDL oversees the minerals program that manages the state endowment lands mineral estate, which covers approximately three million acres. The program also manages the Idaho public trust lands mineral estate (the public trust lands are contained in the beds of Idaho's navigable rivers and lakes) and administers several regulatory programs, including dredge and placer mining and abandoned mine lands. The U.S. Forest Service in cooperation with other Federal and State agencies facilitates the orderly

exploration, development, and production of mineral and energy resources within National Forest lands open to these activities. They assure that these activities are conducted in an environmentally sensitive manner and that these activities are integrated with the planning and management of other resources. In addition, the U.S. Forest Service is heavily involved in reclamation of lands distributed by mineral and energy activities, both past and present, applying the best scientific knowledge and principles to return them to other productive uses.

Surface mining is the extraction of minerals or mineral materials from the ground by utilizing surface mining or strip-mining methods. In Idaho, minerals mined by this method include decorative stone, sand and gravel, phosphate, molybdenum, gold, silver, and others. The Surface Mining Act, passed in 1971, was designed to require reclamation of affected lands and return them to a productive condition. A few changes have been made over the years, but the basic components of the 1971 Act are still the basis of regulation, with rules for exploration, surface mining, and closure of cyanidation operations further enhanced in IDAPA 20.03.02. The Act and subsequent laws require that surface mining programs include an approved reclamation plan; that each approved reclamation plan have a performance bond; that exploration using motorized earthmoving equipment requires a notice; that water quality must be maintained and affected lands and disturbed watercourses must be reclaimed.

The vast majority of the products of surface mining in Kootenai County are aggregate (sand and gravel). Aggregate mining is used in every public and private development project in the County and is an essential element of highway or road projects as well as structures that must be supported by a firm foundation or include concrete. It is important to note that transportation cost is by far the largest single cost component of aggregate based construction materials.

Aggregate deposits are located throughout the county and extracted from those locations but the processing of the materials post extraction can take place either on-site or at a remote location. Impacts of extraction and processing of aggregates on the environment and surrounding properties can be very different, and development regulations should seek to mitigate the impacts of these separate activities individually.



GOALS AND POLICIES

The goals and policies in this chapter are intended to articulate the community vision toward the region’s natural resources and not be regulatory, but provide specific guidance for the adoption and implementation of development regulations, which will ensure conformity with the Plan.

GOAL 1: Improve air quality in order to prevent environmental degradation and an overall decline in the quality of life.

Policies and Implementation Strategies

- NR-1 A. Promote public transportation.
- NR-1 B. Propose development regulations, that encourages the construction of all-weather roads.
- NR-1 C. Develop regulations, which require dust mitigation during construction when appropriate.

GOAL 2: Maintain the highest quality of groundwater in Kootenai County.

Policies and Implementation Strategies

- NR-2 A. Encourage the discharge of non-domestic wastewater into wastewater treatment plants.
- NR-2 B. Encourage open space through conservation easements and other fiscal mechanisms to protect groundwater.
- NR-2 C. Manage storm water generation and disposal over groundwater sources and their recharge area consistent with Best Management Practices to prevent degradation of water quality and natural resources.
- NR-2 D. Utilize the most recent USGS information provided for the Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer in the development of Critical Aquifer Recharge Area (CARA) management plans that will be used in making land use decisions.
- NR-2 E. Encourage low-impact agricultural practices.

GOAL 3: Explore alternative methods of sewage disposal that reduces the potential for contamination of ground water sources.

Policies and Implementation Strategies

- NR-3 A. Explore various sewage disposal options such as a regional wastewater system.
- NR-3 B. Coordinate with the adjacent cities to encourage development within the planning area of the Rathdrum Prairie to utilize public water and wastewater systems.
- NR-3 C. Encourage the Department of Environmental Quality and the Panhandle Health District to take an active role in exploring and identifying alternative sewer options.

GOAL 4: Protect groundwater and aquifer resources from demands exceeding sustainable yields.

Policies and Implementation Strategies

- NR-4 A. Promote the wise use and conservation of groundwater.
- NR-4 B. Propose development regulations which require development applicants to estimate all groundwater requirements for each project, these groundwater requirements shall include, but are not limited to, source and quantity.

NR-4 C. Develop regulations that require development applications of larger projects to provide an analysis of the impacts of the proposed groundwater usage and the effects on surrounding landowners or other components of the hydrologic system.

NR-4 D. Support the conservation of groundwater resources by supporting groundwater management planning efforts.

GOAL 5: Preserve, protect, and enhance Kootenai County’s water quality and quantity of lakes, streams, rivers, wetlands including streams and waterways adjacent and/or near the National Forest.

Policies and Implementation Strategies

NR-5 A. Develop and coordinate shoreline management plans for lakes, rivers, and streams with other regulatory agencies.

NR-5 B. Develop regulations that enforce erosion control, and on-site stormwater treatment, during and after construction.

NR-5 C. Update and revise as necessary erosion/stormwater control BMPs that will support the goals and objectives of this Plan.

NR-5 D. Coordinate the use of BMPs with conservation districts and the state for cattle grazing and livestock operations to minimize impacts on surface water bodies.

NR-5 E. Develop regulations that require the mitigation of negative impacts that increased stormwater runoff can have on groundwater, surface water, and public and private property.

NR-5 F. Minimize the impacts of collection and conveyance of untreated stormwater into groundwater sources or into surface bodies of water by requiring all land disturbances to comply with site disturbance and stormwater control regulations.

NR-5 G. Encourage development regulations, which require mitigation of the impacts of point and non-point sources of ground and surface water associated with site disturbance or land use development.

NR-5 H. Review penalties for repeated non-compliance violations of the County’s land use regulations.

NR-5 I. Develop regulations which designate lake, river, stream, waterway corridors, riparian areas, flood plains and other wetland features as “environmentally sensitive,” and require additional safeguards for these areas.

NR-5 J. Propose development regulations restricting development in areas that naturally enhance surface water quality.

NR-5 K. Propose development regulations, which protect and preserve native vegetation to provide buffer strips for the protection of surface waters and wetlands.

NR-5 L. Coordinate with applicable agencies to provide environmentally appropriate disposal facilities for marine waste.

NR-5 M. Develop regulations, which require projects to, approximate surface water needs as part of the application process. Surface water needs shall include identification of the source of the surface water.

NR-5 N. Develop regulations, which require all projects, adjacent to wetlands, minimize potential impacts to the function and value of the affected wetland as part of the application process.

NR-5 O. Develop regulations, that requires developments to provide detailed information on construction methods within the shoreline environment.

GOAL 6: Preserve, protect, and enhance native vegetation.

Policies and Implementation Strategies

NR-6 A. Propose development regulations, which preserve, protect and enhance native vegetation.

NR-6 B. Coordinate the identification of unique vegetation communities such as wetlands, riparian areas, native grasslands, and old-growth timber with appropriate agencies. Seek opportunities to preserve and protect these areas.

GOAL 7: Conserve, protect, and enhance fish and wildlife habitats.

Policies and Implementation Strategies

- NR-7 A. Promote the establishment of open space in a variety of habitats (such as grasslands, woodlands, and wetlands) to provide adequate blocks of habitat for diverse species through direct purchase, zoning, conservation easements, donation, acquisition, or transfer of development rights.
- NR-7 B. Coordinate with wildlife management agencies to complete a wildlife habitat analysis to identify the connectivity of habitat and travel corridors for wildlife moving between habitat blocks or to areas of vital resources, such as food and water, and to protect these corridors within Forest and non-Forest land ownerships.
- NR-7 C. Coordinate with wildlife management agencies to identify and provide additional protection to critical wildlife habitats, such as wintering areas for big game and non-game animals, and waterfowl; nesting and roosting sites; and critical habitats for other sensitive, threatened, or endangered species.
- NR-7 D. Develop regulations that provide protective setbacks for wetlands, shorelines and riparian areas, to protect fish and wildlife habitats and water quality.
- NR-7 E. Coordinate with the Idaho Department of Fish and Game and the Coeur d'Alene Tribe to enhance wildlife and fishery programs.
- NR-7 F. Propose mechanisms to, protect and prevent the loss of designated and mapped aquatic and wildlife observation areas and corridors and work to provide links between habitat areas.

GOAL 8: Preserve and protect viable agricultural, forestry, and mining land uses.

Policies and Implementation Strategies

- NR-8 A. Work cooperatively with relevant agencies to, identify and protect productive resource farm, timber, and mining lands.
- NR-8 B. Encourage the retention of farm and timberland using incentives, including, but not limited to, conservation easements through the transfer, donation, acquisition, or trade of development rights.

- NR-8 C. Develop regulations that require buffering of mining operations from existing developments within the vicinity of such sites.
- NR-8 D. Encourage development regulations, which require mitigation of conflicts between natural resource based land/uses and non-natural resource based lands/uses by developing creative options of buffering.
- NR-8 E. Explore and develop conservation options for agriculture, forestry, and mineral extraction.
- NR-8 F. Consider development regulations which require all new or amended aggregate extraction reclamation plans to utilize segmental reclamation to prepare the site for use after extraction in each segment is completed.
- NR-8 G. Encourage development regulations which require mitigation of impacts to both ground and surface waters from aggregate mining extraction and processing by requiring monitoring of water quality and quantity and compliance with mitigation plans.
- NR-8 H. Develop regulations, which require separate permits for extraction and processing of materials post extraction from aggregate mines; and identify which process will occur on and off site.

GOAL 9: Minimize sprawl by reducing the inappropriate conversion of undeveloped land into low-density development.

Policies and Implementation Strategies

- NR-9 A. Develop regulations, which direct urban densities to designated urban areas.
- NR-9 B. Develop regulations, which encourage subdivision development in rural areas to be designed preserving large tracts of open space, resource lands, and wildlife habitat.
- NR-9 C. Develop regulations, which require applicants to provide connectivity to adjacent lands for open space, pedestrian trails, and wildlife corridors.
- NR-9 D. Develop regulations, which require proposed development in the wildland urban interface to consult with the affected agencies prior to obtaining development or building permits.

GOAL 10: Encourage the development of an integrated approach to managing and pursuing resource-based recreational opportunities, particularly in the wildland urban interface that are compatible with both the recreation element and the conservation of County natural resources.

Policies and Implementation Strategies

NR-10 A. Coordinate with applicable departments and agencies to, identify sites that offer opportunities for active, resource-based recreation.

NR-10 B. Develop regulations that require development of recreation sites do not adversely affect sensitive wildlife habitat or plants, wetlands, or aquatic or riparian areas.

NR-10 C. Coordinate with departments and agencies to design recreational development areas containing designated agriculture, timber, or mining resources to use mitigation measures that reduce effects on those resources.