Dorothy KNAUSS
Mayor

CHEWELAH
WASHINGTON

CITY OF CHEWELAH
P.O. Box 258 – 301 E. Clay Avenue, Chewelah, WA 99109
(509) 935-8311

I / We acknowledge receipt of a building permit issued by the city of Chewelah for property located at Chewelah Golf & country Estates. I / We have been advised of the existence of a ***Habitat Management Plan*** impacting property upon which we intend to build and acknowledge that any structure built must comply with the Habitat Management Plan, the laws of the United States of America, the State of Washington, the rules and ordinances of the City of Chewelah and any other covenants which may run with the land.

Physical Street Address of Property

_____

Signature _____ Date _____

Printed Name _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Printed Name _____

Contact Information:

Phone _____ E-Mail _____

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this Management Plan is to identify any short or long term negative impacts that may occur to priority habitats or species as a result of past and future development of the 765 acres that comprises Chewelah Golf and Country Club. The described property contains one Priority Species (white-tailed deer) as well as one Priority Habitat (white tailed deer winter range). Several mitigation measures are suggested in this plan that, when implemented, could reduce any such impacts. Implementation and enforcement of this plan will be the responsibility of the architectural review committee and the committee of the Board of Directors of the Chewelah Golf and Country Club.

OBJECTIVES

This Habitat Management Plan focuses on two major objectives, both of which will benefit white tailed deer. Objective #1 is to provide mitigation measures that will allow for long term enhancement and protection of hiding corridors that allow the deer access to hiding/thermal cover and feeding areas. Objective #2 will be to identify measures that will make the site continue to be desirable to wildlife. The following mitigation projects are suggestions that, if adopted, will provide protection from the impacts associated with the development of this property.

List of proposed mitigation projects:

1) Provide a wildlife corridor/corridors.
2) Provide protection of existing native vegetation.
3) Control of noxious weeds.
4) Identification and retention of existing snags.
5) Restrict motor vehicle access on service roads and other non-paved roads to service personnel only.
6) Limit future silviculture activities.
7) Control of free roaming dogs.

PROJECT #1 - PROVIDE A WILDLIFE CORRIDOR

A wildlife corridor will be provided to allow white tailed deer and other wildlife secure access to hiding cover within and around the project area. Signs to identify the corridor will be posted while future as well as current members and residents will be made aware of these sensitive areas. The main corridor will be located in the southern portion of the development allowing access from the eastern part of the property, near the airport, to the western part of the property. This corridor also allows excellent access for the deer between hiding/thermal cover stands which should also be posted, to surrounding agricultural fields for feeding and fawning. The corridor will have an average width of 200 to 300 feet and will be approximately 3,300 feet long. The corridor may be thinner in areas where building lots occur, but will not be less than 100 feet in width. The proposed corridor is shown on the map and may be shifted north or south slightly to accommodate building lots in the area.

No construction will be allowed within the designated corridor. Existing vegetation in these areas will be retained unless removal is necessary to maintain existing roads or to allow access to building sites in the area. Any temporary roads will be blocked off and reseeded with appropriate species of shrubs and trees. Vegetation may also be thinned or cleaned up in the event that it becomes a fire hazard or threatens human safety or surrounding property.

Many non-designated corridors are found throughout the property. These much smaller corridors are found between the golf fairways and housing tracts. The sparse trees and brush in these corridors allow acceptable cover for the deer to move anywhere within the property.

PROJECT #2 - PROVIDE PROTECTION FOR EXISTING NATIVE VEGETATION

Existing native understory vegetation located on this property consists of, but is not limited to, mallow ninebark, snowberry, evergreen *ceonothus*, oceanspray and Oregon grape. This vegetation provides excellent forage for wintering deer. Protection and seeding of these species as well as others such as rose, clover, birch, dogwood and serviceberry should be encouraged in areas where vegetation is lacking or where non-native species have become dominant. New and current residents or members should be informed that white-tail deer in the area will eat almost any plants, native or ornamental, that may be found in their yard.

PROJECT #3 - CONTROL OF NOXIOUS WEEDS

A visual inspection of the property showed some problem with noxious weeds. The main infestations occurred along service roads and other unpaved roads.

The noxious weeds that were observed the most were dalmatian toadflax and knapweed, but other species were present. Most noxious weeds are highly competitive and will out compete native, more palatable vegetation. For this reason, noxious weeds in the project area should be controlled. Herbicide treatments in the spring are the most effective, although hand pulling has shown some effectiveness. Seeding disturbed areas where bare soil is exposed with a grass/clover mixture is also very effective in keeping down noxious weeds. Control of noxious weeds should be a continuing effort including homeowners and maintenance personnel.

PROJECT #4 - IDENTIFICATION AND RETENTION OF EXISTING SNAGS

Snags, standing dead or partially dead trees at least 4" DBH, are critical to many forest dwelling wildlife species. Snag uses include cavity nesting sites, external nesting sites, perching and roosting sites, denning and food caching sites and providing food for a wide variety of bird and small mammal species. Hard snags, composed of sound wood and still commercially harvestable, are the most desired snags to retain in order to provide long term habitat throughout the entire decaying process.

Soft snags in advanced stages of decay and snags deemed as hazardous may be felled to reduce hazards to owners or users of the property. Existing snags throughout the property, especially in the wildlife corridor and thermal/hiding cover areas, should be left to insure food and nesting sites for birds and small mammals. The limit on any future silvicultural activities in designated areas will ensure an acceptable number of snags for future use.

PROJECT #5 - RESTRICT MOTOR VEHICLE ACCESS ON SERVICE ROADS AND OTHER NON-PAVED ROADS TO SERVICE PERSONNEL ONLY.

Public motor vehicle use including motorcycles, snowmobiles, ATV's, mopeds and golf carts, should be restricted on all roads or trails not necessary for access to the golf course or housing areas. The purpose of this is to limit the amount of stress on wintering deer caused from excess disturbance. Golf cart paths are obviously excluded from this restriction.

PROJECT #6 - LIMIT FUTURE SILVICULTURAL ACTIVITIES

It is encouraged that future harvest of timber not directly related to building or road construction be kept to a minimum. Lot owners will reserve the right to remove trees for fire protection or building site development, while occasional sanitation cuts may be considered for severe disease or insect damage. All timber located within the designated wildlife corridor will be exempt from any future silvicultural activity, while timber in the thermal/hiding cover areas will also be exempt minus areas where diseased trees may threaten buildings.

PROJECT #7 - CONTROL OF FREE ROAMING DOGS

The practice of allowing dogs to roam freely will be strongly discouraged. Wintering deer (especially during harsh winters) cannot afford to expend valuable energy escaping from neighborhood pets. During harsh winters, an otherwise harmless dog can easily kill a deer by chasing/harassing. Wintering deer do not have the excess energy reserves needed to cope with this type of disturbance. Dogs shall be confined to kennels or fenced yards.

THAT IN ACCORDANCE with all accepted standards, practices, and procedures of professional forestry, I certify the foregoing to be true and accurate.

DATED THIS 22 day of February, 1999.

Mark A. McKinney

MARK MCKINNEY
WILDLIFE BIOLOGIST