

BONNEVILLE COUNTY

RESOLUTION NO. 16-11

A RESOLUTION, BY AUTHORIZATION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, IN ACCORDANCE WITH BONNEVILLE COUNTY ORDINANCE NO. 176-96 SNOWMOBILE TRAILS AND ROAD CLOSURE

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of Bonneville County, Idaho, a political subdivision of the state of Idaho, passed an ordinance on February 23, 1996, for the purpose of providing for the appropriate maintenance of roadways within Bonneville County as permitted under the general powers of the Board of County Commissioners as provided by Idaho law, IC 31: 7, 8, and 43 and IC 67:7109, for the purpose of providing for certain areas for designated snowmobile trails and to provide for the closure of certain roadways at certain times of the year to promote the health, safety, welfare, safe recreational areas for the public, and to permit the maintenance of the public roadway systems within Bonneville County and to control the cost of maintaining the public roadway systems within Bonneville County; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners hereby designates certain roadways as snowmobile trails and multi-use roads and/or road closure areas within Bonneville County; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners does designate the nature and the extent of the "closure" during which vehicles may not operate upon designated roadways and upon which no one shall be permitted to plow said road closure designation;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that we, as the Board of Bonneville County Commissioners, do herewith designate the snowmobile trails and road closure designation as attached hereto as Commissioners' Exhibit "A" (Bonneville and Bingham Counties Snowmobile Trail System Map).

Dated this 11th day of October, 2016

BONNEVILLE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



Roger S. Christensen, Chairman




Lee Staker, Member



Dave Radford, Member

ATTEST:



Penny Manning
Bonneville County Clerk to the Board of Commissioners



IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

UPPER SNAKE REGION

4279 Commerce Circle

Idaho Falls, Idaho 83401

C.L. "Butch" Otter / Governor
Virgil Moore / Director

October 4, 2016

Revised RSC

Bonneville County Commissioners
605 North Capital
Idaho Falls, Idaho 83401

Dear Commissioners:

Idaho Department of Fish and Game would like to obtain your continued support to manage the Tex Creek big game winter range with annual winter road closures on selected county roads.

Idaho Department of Fish and Game manages over 35,000 acres in eastern Bonneville County as winter range for over 3,000 elk and 3,500 mule deer. The area is managed to provide these animals with quality winter forage to encourage them to remain on public lands, keep them from foraging on private lands, and from migrating to Idaho Falls. The summer range of elk and deer herds extends throughout much of eastern Bonneville County and south nearly to Soda Springs. These animals are a renewable resource that generates millions of recreation-based dollars each year in Bonneville County.

Elk and deer use the Tex Creek Wildlife Management Area (WMA) for three reasons:

- 1) Forage availability,
- 2) Favorable winter conditions, and
- 3) A secure area away from human disturbance.

Since the initiation of the WMA in the late 1970's, roads passing through the core winter range have been closed to all but administrative use for the period of December 1 to April 15.

While the area and roads managed by Idaho Department of Fish and Game are closed to winter motorized travel, the county maintained roads are not. Roads open in the winter expose the core of the winter range to a large amount of snowmobile traffic. In most instances elk and deer respond to snowmobiles by moving away from them as quickly as possible. This stresses the animals, burns precious fat reserves, and often causes them to vacate a disturbed area. Elk and deer that move off of the Tex Creek WMA may cause damage to private property as they move toward Ririe and Idaho Falls. They may also pose a human safety risk from wildlife-vehicle collisions along Highway 26. If the Tex Creek WMA no longer provides a secure winter range and the animals routinely cause depredations on private land, the Department may need to consider significant herd reductions, which reduces sportsman opportunity.

Keeping Idaho's Wildlife Heritage

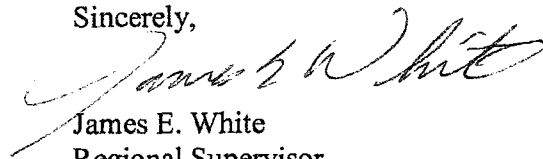
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The Department requests Bonneville County Commissioners to reinstate, for the period of December 1, 2016 to April 15, 2017, the road closures initiated in 1996. We request that roads closed last winter (winter of 2015–16) be closed again this year (bold blue lines on attached map).

Due to the need for additional protections for wintering big game following the Henry's Creek Fire, we also request additional closures of the Meadow Creek Road, Pipe Creek Road, Bull's Fork Dugway, and the roads around Deep Creek (bold red lines on attached map) for the same time period this winter due to the need for additional protections for wintering big game following the Henry's Creek Fire. The Department will commence winter feeding operations for big game on Tex Creek WMA in early December 2016. Once the feeding operations begin it is desirable to keep the area as undisturbed as possible to keep the animals on the feeding grounds and reduce big game damage on private lands. To best protect big game from human disturbances on the Tex Creek winter range, we request the closure of county roads include all public motorized travel, excluding administrative access needed by public land managers, county employees, and private land owners. This additional request is only for the current winter season (2016–2017) while the Department is actively feeding big game and may be rescinded if the feeding operations cease or animals move off Tex Creek WMA.

Thank you for considering our request. Please contact Ryan Walker, Regional Wildlife Biologist and manager of Tex Creek WMA, at 208-535-8024, so he can work with the county road crew to place signage to inform the public in a timely manner.

Sincerely,

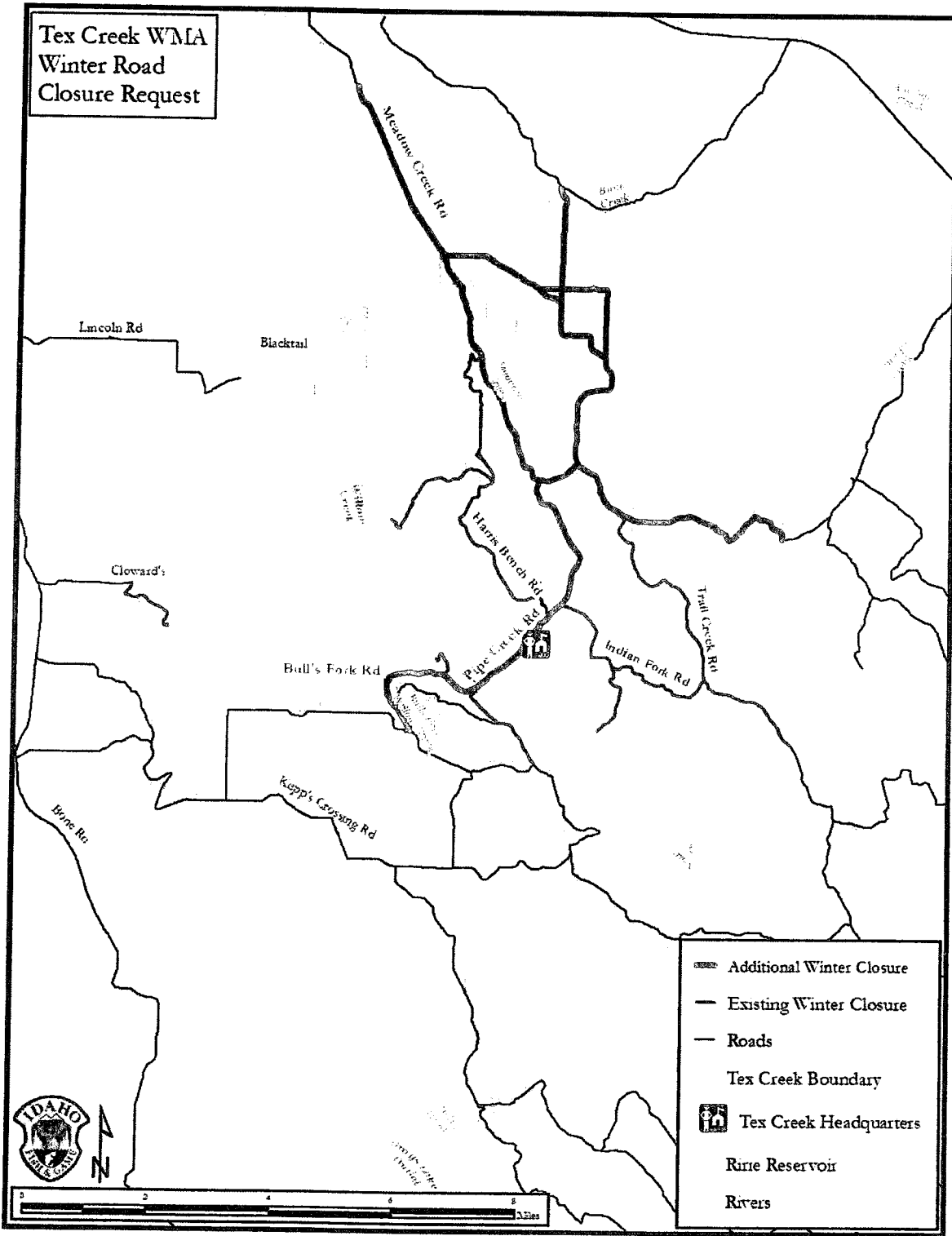


James E. White
Regional Supervisor

JEW:RNW:jms

cc: Craig Daniels, Bonneville County Recreation Department
Ryan Walker, Idaho Falls, IDFG
Jeremy Casterson, Upper Snake Field Office, BLM

Keeping Idaho's Wildlife Heritage



Keeping Idaho's Wildlife Heritage

Bonneville County Commissioner's

Sign In Log

PLEASE PRINT

Resolution
16-11

Name: <u>Ryan Walker</u>	Name: <u>Steve Rounds</u>
Title: <u>Tex Creek Biologist</u>	Title: _____
Agency Represented: <u>IDFG</u>	Agency Represented: _____
Address: _____	Address: _____
City/State/Zip: _____	City/State/Zip: _____
Work Phone: <u>360-6360</u>	Work Phone: _____
Fax #: _____	Fax #: _____
Email: _____	Email: _____
Name: <u>3-Common</u>	Name: _____
Title: _____	Title: _____
Agency Represented: _____	Agency Represented: _____
Address: _____	Address: _____
City/State/Zip: _____	City/State/Zip: _____
Work Phone: _____	Work Phone: _____
Fax #: _____	Fax #: _____
Email: _____	Email: _____
Name: _____	Name: _____
Title: _____	Title: _____
Agency Represented: _____	Agency Represented: _____
Address: _____	Address: _____
City/State/Zip: _____	City/State/Zip: _____
Work Phone: _____	Work Phone: _____
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