

## Dear Friend,

Eagle, deer, and antelope are icons of the west. But without access to low level range in the winter, deer and antelope survival rates will suffer. And, if subdivisions consume the places where eagles nest and hunt, they will be driven from the sky.

### **Pronghorn, deer, and eagle cannot survive careless residential development.**

With more than 39,000 housing units approved for development in the western Foothills, combined with the flight of major corporations, the sub-prime mortgage fiasco, and other economic events, there is currently a 40 -80 year supply of new homes ready for construction in the Treasure Valley.

Ada County is prepared to approve an additional 30 - 50 year supply of new homes in planned communities. There is no need for such vast, dense development in the foothills on land that is predominately zoned for only one house per 40 acres.

We must change the old pattern of growth and development. We must prevent the destruction of our precious foothills (and their wildlife) that, along with the people and the Boise River, make the Treasure Valley a special place to live.

*Paraphrasing a Cree Proverb: When we have polluted the river, fouled the air, driven the eagles from the sky, chased the deer from the land, and bulldozed and paved the hills, perhaps then we will realize that there is more to life than money.*

### **That's Where SaveThePlateau.org Comes In.**

For over three years, our objective has been to preserve the Boise foothills, with particular emphasis on Hammer Flat in the east Boise foothills, above the black cliffs north of State Highway 21.

*SaveThePlateau.org's mission is to promote and coordinate activities designed to maintain and preserve Hammer Flat as a viable habitat for deer, elk, eagles, and the variety of other species that inhabit The Plateau.*

*Of equal importance, Save the Plateau is dedicated to achieving this objective so that no stakeholder is harmed. This involves finding a mechanism to provide existing landowners with funds and/or substitute lands, sufficient to fully compensate them, including a reasonable rate of return, in exchange for maintaining the area in a state suitable for continued wildlife habitation.*

Time after time, Boise City and Ada County residents have said they want to protect the foothills from unbalanced development. In the late 1990s and early 2000s, Boise City, Ada County, and other government agencies declared Hammer Flat the most critical portion of the Boise foothills to be maintained for wildlife habitat. In 2001, 60 percent voted to pass the foothills levy for the purchase of lands like Hammer Flat.



## **SaveThePlateau.org Takes Action**

When the Ada County Commissioners preliminarily approved a large scale, high density, 1350 unit development on Hammer Flat, they ignored their constituent's desires. SaveThePlateau.org believes they also violated several sections of state law and their own comprehensive plan as well.

The bad news is that the STP lost its court challenge. That is not surprising, cases like this often have to go to the appellate level. Unfortunately STP could not afford that option.

However, we are not finished. Many administrative hurdles remain before the development gets a final approval. STP intends to continue the fight to make sure our government follows its own rules and makes a decision that is consistent with the wishes of its constituents.

## **STP Accomplishments**

In the last 30 months, a SaveThePlateau.org complaint led to Commissioners Peavey-Derr, Tilman, and Yzaguirre being found guilty for violating the Open Meeting Law to discuss developing Hammer Flat. SaveThePlateau.org pressure also helped convince voters to remove Ms. Peavey-Derr from office. SaveThePlateau.org scrutiny contributed to the five main Development Services' planned community promoters, including Director - Gerry Armstrong, exiting their county jobs. Finally, in the recent primary election, SaveThePlateau.org involvement helped expose and defeat anti-foothills candidate Jay Larsen.



## **There is more to be done. Your help is still needed!**

There is another way you and your friends can help save our foothills in the manner you expect them to be protected. By donating to SaveThePlateau.org you can help bring Ada County into compliance with its own laws and the wishes of people like yourself. Your donation will help forge and maintain the growing citizen force that is making such an important difference in Ada County.

By helping SaveThePlateau.org protect the Boise Foothills you can take pride in knowing that you are working to preserve one of the great places in southwest Idaho. Saving Hammer Flat and the Boise Foothills, is a legacy worth fighting for. It is a goal that will benefit you, your children, and your children's children for years to come.

So, that's it, that's my plea for your support. Give generously. Help make sure the Mule Deer above have a place to live in future winters. Enjoy a great sense of pride and satisfaction for helping this most worthy cause. I'll be watching the mail for your reply.

Sincerely,

Tony Jones  
Founder - SaveThePlateau.org

# SaveThePlateau.org - Support Form



Yes, I am concerned about the continued destruction of the Boise Foothills. I support SaveThePlateau.org's effort to find a reasonable solution for protecting Hammer Flat. My tax-deductible contribution is enclosed for:

- \$1,000     \$500     \$250     \$100  
 \$50     \$25     \$10     Other \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you - your support is very important to us. Please make your check payable to NWRIC - SaveThePlateau Project, and return with this form in the enclosed return envelope to: SaveThePlateau.org, P.O. Box, 1914, Boise, ID. 83701. All donations are strictly confidential. For information on use of funds contact us at the address above, or visit the website, [www.SaveThePlateau.org](http://www.SaveThePlateau.org).

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