

## HARRIS RANCH

4940 E. MILL STATION WAY BOISE ID 83716

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### **RE: Noxious Weeds – Yew Species**

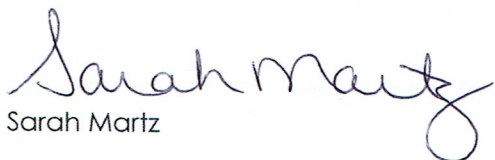
Although, Harris Ranch is a privately held corporation, within our residential developments we strive to work at preserving the natural habitat in the surrounding landscape. During the month of January 2017, we were notified that Japanese Yews, a highly toxic plant was responsible for a series of wildlife poisoning across the Boise Front.

Upon notification, we voluntarily acted in the following manner: 1.) removed Japanese Yews from the internal approved landscaping list; 2.) surveyed and removed all established plantings from the common areas of the residential development site; 3.) notified and advised our 500 plus private homeowners to identify any such planting, 4.) provided instructions to homeowners to either wrap or remove accordingly for the security of the community.

We worked to rectify the situation promptly, acting on behalf of the Harris Ranch community: we sought to protect the safety and well-being of residence and attempted to ensure that no further harm be experienced by resident wildlife or those migrating herds on nearby habitat. Most certainly, if we had been advised that Japanese yews were poisonous, we would have made provision for alternate non-toxic plantings. Moving forward, we will no longer approve any species of yews to be used in our developments. Armed with new awareness, we are poised to exercise greater scrutiny on upcoming landscape plans and circumvent any use of toxic plants within our community.

It has also been brought to our attention that discussions have begun regarding the state classifying the Japanese Yew as noxious, under the control category. We would support this rule for the sake of protecting our population of wildlife, cattle, horses, and other domestic animals.

Respectfully,

  
Sarah Martz