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**MEMORANDUM**

**TO: Planning Commissioners**

**FROM: Tyler Sinclair**

**DATE: October 30, 2009**

**SUBJECT: Theme 1 Rewrite**

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Please see attached Theme 1 as rewritten by staff. As determined by the Commissions, recommendations supported by both the Town and County have been incorporated into the revised document. All other recommendations have been included in the footer on the page that the recommendation was considered. At the November 19, 2009 meeting, the Commissions will complete a review of the revised document. Please note that the deadline for public comment regarding the revised document will be 5:00 pm on Thursday, November 12, 2009. If you have any questions or would like to discuss this document with staff please let us know.



**Practice Stewardship of Wildlife, Natural Resources, and Scenic Vistas (Theme 1)**

**Statement of Ideal**

Maintain healthy<sup>3</sup> populations of all native species; and preserve the natural, scenic, and agricultural resources that define Teton County's character.

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**What does this theme address?**

- 1.1 – Wildlife
- 1.2 – Human Impacts to Natural Resources
- 1.3 – Scenic Resources
- 1.4 – Agricultural Resources
- 1.5 – Access to Nature

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1.4 – Protecting Humans from Natural Hazards¶  
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## Why is this theme addressed?

Teton County's abundant wildlife and natural and scenic resources are an international treasure. These resources largely define the community's natural, social, and economic character. Most members of the community live in the area because of the unparalleled access to wildlife, natural resources, and recreation. The community recognizes that its policies regarding development, transportation,

<sup>1</sup> Rec 103: (County 4-0, Town 2-3) Include all appropriate Game and Fish language into document

<sup>2</sup> Rec 48: (County 4-0, Town 6-1) Amend the title of Theme 1 to "Practice stewardship of wildlife, natural resources, and scenic vistas"

<sup>3</sup> Rec 49: (County 4-0, Town 7-0) Replace "viable populations" with "healthy populations" in Statement of Ideal and throughout theme, and add an indicator of 'health' and associated strategies

recreation, and energy consumption ultimately have impacts on these resources. Most members of the community wish to be responsible stewards of these important resources by supporting and maintaining the stewardship, conservation, and agricultural ethic that has been present throughout the county's history. Conservation of private lands has resulted in about 20,000 acres of permanently conserved open space. Another 15,000 acres are still in agricultural use.<sup>4</sup>

Teton County is part of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem—the largest generally intact ecosystem in the lower 48 states. Our location in this ecosystem sets the Town of Jackson and Teton County apart from other resort and rural communities, particularly in terms of the abundance of wildlife. Although 97% of Teton County is federally protected from development, the dynamic natural systems so unique to Teton County do not conform to jurisdictional boundaries. This makes wildlife throughout the ecosystem susceptible to the impacts of development. Privately owned lands in the county continue to provide critical winter habitat for many species. Therefore, effective stewardship of these species requires protection of crucial resources and minimizing development impacts to surrounding public lands.

The human causes of natural and scenic resource degradation are not always immediately apparent. While direct local impacts can usually be identified and mitigated, it is the sum of direct and indirect impacts that, over time, threaten the health of the ecosystem at a regional scale. The human populations in Jackson Hole, Teton Valley, Idaho, and Star Valley, which have grown because of our community's natural beauty, have all had both direct and indirect impacts on the ecosystem at a local and regional level.

The cumulative impact of energy consumption is a recent example of the way in which the sum of human impact creates a much larger threat to our ecosystem. Consumption of non-renewable energy is increasingly costly and contributes to

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<sup>4</sup> Rec 70:(County 5-0, Town 1-6) Replace Paragraph with:

Teton County's abundant wildlife, natural, and scenic resources are an international treasure, and the protection of these resources is our community's highest priority. We recognize that our policies regarding development, transportation, recreation, and energy consumption all have impacts on these resources, so it is our responsibility to create policies and enact regulations which protect them.

Permanent Conservation

Permanent conservation of private lands has resulted in about 20,000 acres of conserved open space. Another 15,000 acres are still in agricultural use. Agricultural use of large contiguous private land is most consistent with the goals of this Comprehensive Plan. Efforts aimed at the permanent conservation of such lands have the greatest potential to positively impact Teton County's wildlife, scenic, and natural resources, and should be our highest land use priority.

climate change in ways that may threaten the health<sup>5</sup> of native species, attract non-native species, and diminish air and water quality. The cumulative effect of these impacts may only be apparent and measurable on a regional scale, which complicates our ability to appropriately plan and mitigate the impacts of development.

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The importance of wildlife and natural and scenic resources is not just ecological and ideological. The conservation of these resources has a direct and profound effect on the economic well being of the community. Abundant wildlife, daily interactions with nature, and panoramic scenic vistas are central to the quality of life of Teton County residents, the quality of the visitor experience, and the foundation of our local economy.<sup>6</sup> The international desire to live and/or visit Jackson Hole depends upon the continued stewardship of wildlife and natural and scenic resources.

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<sup>5</sup> Rec 49: (County 4-0, Town 7-0) Replace “viable populations” with “healthy populations” in Statement of Ideal and throughout theme, and add an indicator of ‘health’ and associated strategies

<sup>6</sup> Rec 83: (County 5-0, Town 5-0) Staff will insert County recommendation 8 (Recognize that abundant wildlife, daily interaction with nature, and panoramic scenic vistas are central to the quality of life of Teton County residents, the quality of the visitor experience, and the foundation of our local economy.) into Theme 1 where appropriate

## What the community has said about this theme

Protection of wildlife and open space has consistently been identified as the highest priority of the citizens of this community. Throughout the planning process, the public continually reiterated that the abundance of wildlife and natural resources is not only unique to Jackson Hole, but that it sets us apart from our peers. The community recognizes wildlife and natural resources as the basis of the community's natural, social, and economic livelihood; and some members of the community believe that wildlife and natural resource protection should be the organizing theme of the entire Comprehensive Plan.

The community takes pride in the stewardship efforts of past conservationists and agriculturalists and wishes to continue in that tradition. Towards that end, the community is supportive of recent governmental and community efforts to increase energy efficiency.

### *2008 polling indicated that:*

- A large majority of the community agrees with the implementation of stronger standards to protect natural resource areas as part of new developments.
- A majority of the community believes that preserving more wildlife habitat and migration corridors is a higher priority than building more deed restricted workforce housing while some believe the goals are equally important.
- A large majority of the community agrees with establishing a funding source to acquire open space or conservation easements for critical habitat.
- Most of the community agrees that more development and population growth should occur in county nodes to limit development in the rural areas of Teton County.
- Many in the community agree that development should be increased at the "Y" and in the Jackson downtown area as a tradeoff for conserving natural resources in other areas.

## Principles and Policies<sup>7</sup>

### Principle 1.1—Maintain healthy<sup>8</sup> populations of all native species

*The community’s wildlife stewardship ethic must be understood in the context of our location within the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. The prevalence of elk, deer, moose, bald eagles, and other wildlife depends upon the health of the entire ecosystem. Without striving to support all native species, the intact ecosystem begins to break down<sup>9</sup>. Direct and indirect human impacts in Jackson Hole and surrounding valleys will have an impact on the health<sup>10</sup> of all native species.*

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#### Policy 1.1.a: Protect focal species and habitats

Elk, moose, deer, bald eagles, cutthroat trout, and trumpeter swans have been protected since 1994 and are symbolic of Teton County’s abundant wildlife. However, their prevalence does not necessarily indicate ecosystem health. New regulations, incentives and programs to protect wildlife will be based on a focal group of species whose protection will indicate protection of all native species. Specifically, protecting the habitat of these focal species will, in turn, protect a number of other native species. Wildlife and wildlife habitat will be protected on all property in Teton County. In addition, habitat of focal species will become the basis for the Natural Resources Overlay, representing the areas of most crucial habitat.<sup>11</sup> Until such protections are in place, crucial habitat for elk, moose, deer, bald eagles, cutthroat trout, and trumpeter swans will continue to be protected and mapped using the most recently available data.<sup>12</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> Rec 110: (County 2-2, Town 2-3) Make Conservation of Open Space its own principle

<sup>8</sup> Rec 49: (County 4-0, Town 7-0) Replace “viable populations” with “healthy populations” in Statement of Ideal and throughout theme, and add an indicator of ‘health’ and associated strategies

<sup>9</sup> Rec 55: (County 4-0, Town 5-0) Amend Principle 1.1 Sentence 3 to read: “Without supporting all native species within the ecosystem the web of support fall native species begins to weaken an the intact ecosystem begins to break down.” – or similar, tighter language

<sup>10</sup> Rec 49: (County 4-0, Town 7-0) Replace “viable populations” with “healthy populations” in Statement of Ideal and throughout theme, and add an indicator of ‘health’ and associated strategies

<sup>11</sup> Rec 54: (County 4-0, Town 7-0) Throughout Theme 1 do not limit wildlife protection policies to implementation only in the Natural Resources Overlay

<sup>12</sup> Rec 56: (County 4-0, Town 4-1) Make no further changes to Policy 1.1.a and Principle 1.1 beyond recommendations 49, 54, and 55

**Policy 1.1.b: Monitor cumulative human impacts**

The direct impacts of humans on wildlife can typically be estimated and mitigated. However, indirect and cumulative impacts are more difficult to measure and predict. In complex situations, science cannot always provide precise answers in the timeframe of a decision-making process. Scientific study of cumulative impacts is an ongoing and complex process from which the community may draw conclusions and make policy decisions, but it can not provide all of the answers. Local, state, and federal governments must work with local biologists to create, and keep current, a baseline inventory of habitat, wildlife and climate. ~~Policy decisions~~<sup>13</sup> related to cumulative effects will be based on this data.

**Deleted:** Regulatory and behavioral best practices

**Policy 1.1.c: Conserve large, contiguous, and connected open spaces**<sup>14</sup>

Large and contiguous open spaces of habitat are the most valuable to wildlife because they protect connectivity between crucial areas, enable migration and reduce human conflict. Private efforts have been successful in permanently preserving such strategic lands. Continued public, private, and cooperative efforts are critical to conserving open space, particularly within the Natural Resources Overlay.<sup>15</sup>

**Policy 1.1.d: Limit development in crucial habitat**

~~Any and all growth impacts both wildlife and natural resources.~~<sup>16</sup> ~~While habitat protections will be implemented throughout Teton County, further~~ limiting the amount of direct impact on crucial habitat will ultimately reduce cumulative human impacts. The Natural Resources Overlay identifies ~~the most crucial habitat and is~~ where ~~the most restrictive development regulations should apply.~~<sup>17</sup> Strategies to restrict development in the NRO include tools such as lowering maximum densities, building smaller structures, compacting development footprints, and reducing alteration to the natural landscape.<sup>18</sup>

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<sup>13</sup> Rec 58: (County 4-0, Town 5-0) Policy 1.1.b: Replace “behavioral best practices” with “policy decisions”

<sup>14</sup> Rec 105: (County 3-1, Town 2-3) Add a policy/strategy creating a public funding source for the acquisition of conservation easements and/or open space

<sup>15</sup> Rec 71: (County 2-1, Town 7-0) Leave Policy 1.1.c as is

<sup>16</sup> Rec 115: (County 5-0, Town 3-2) Incorporate statement, “Recognize that any and all growth in the valley impacts both wildlife and natural resources.” Into Theme 1 where appropriate

<sup>17</sup> Rec 54: (County 4-0, Town 7-0) Throughout Theme 1 do not limit wildlife protection policies to implementation only in the Natural Resources Overlay

<sup>18</sup> Rec 72: (County 4-1, Town 5-2) Leave Policy 1.1.d as is

**Policy 1.1.e: Require mitigation of impacts to crucial habitat**

Direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts to the ecosystem are inevitable as humans live, work, and play in the community. In acting as stewards of all native species, the town and county will require mitigation of unavoidable direct and indirect impacts to the ecosystem attributable to development. Direct impacts are more easily quantified and therefore mitigated; however, programmatic steps should also be taken toward identifying and mitigating indirect and cumulative impacts.<sup>19</sup>

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**Policy 1.1.f: Encourage restoration of degraded areas**

The Town of Jackson and Teton County will support<sup>20</sup> public, private, and cooperative efforts on public and private lands to restore areas with ecological potential.

**Policy 1.1.g: Design for wildlife permeability**<sup>21, 22</sup>

<sup>23</sup>Development and transportation corridors will be designed to accommodate wildlife movement. Residential subdivisions, individual building sites, transportation corridors, and other types of development will use best management and design practices<sup>24, 25</sup> (wildlife friendly fencing, appropriate building placement, landscape clearing/modification, open spaces protected from recreation and pets, and others) to support wildlife migration.

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**Policy 1.1.h: Limit human noise**<sup>26</sup>

Excessive noise emitting from human development has negative impacts on wildlife and humans alike. The town and county will continue to regulate the amount of

<sup>19</sup> Rec 73: (County 4-1, Town 7-0) Policy 1.1.e: Staff to rewrite to clarify intent of mitigating primarily development impacts and relationship with 1.1.d

<sup>20</sup> Rec 74: (County 4-1, Town 1-6) Replace “support” with “require”

<sup>21</sup> Rec 75: (County 3-2, Town 6-1) Begin each policy with an action verb

<sup>22</sup> Rec 52: (County 4-0, Town 7-0) Staff will insert the County’s 2<sup>nd</sup> (Designate areas appropriate for under- and over-passes and speed reductions in heavy volume wildlife-crossing areas.) and 3<sup>rd</sup> (Remove all exemptions to the wildlife friendly fencing ordinances and develop penalties for failure to remove existing unfriendly fencing throughout the county.)

Rec 101: (County 4-0, Town 3-2) Stronger language in 1.1.g

Rec 102: (County 4-0, Town 4-1) Strengthen 1.1.g language regarding transportation

<sup>23</sup> Rec 76: (County 5-0, Town 3-2) Policy 1.1.g: Do not except any areas from policy

<sup>24</sup> Rec 87: (County 2-2, Town 4-2) Define and clarify “best practices”

<sup>25</sup> Rec 77: (County 4-1, Town 2-2) Change “use best management and design practices” to “implement policy directives”

<sup>26</sup> Rec 90: (County 3-0, Town 6-0) Staff will research the legality of a policy regarding noise pollution and insert the appropriate policy in the appropriate location in the Plan

sound that can be heard across property lines and minimize the cumulative ambient noise that can be heard on surrounding federal lands. Where possible the town and county will also restrict individual instances of noise creation that can be avoided without sacrificing community health, safety, and welfare.

**Principle 1.2—~~Preserve and enhance water and air quality~~<sup>27</sup>**

The natural resources in Teton County are internationally recognized for their quality and beauty. Stewardship of these resources is important for the sustainability of healthy<sup>28</sup> populations of native species and for the health of the human community. Clean air and water are the most basic requirements of a healthy community.

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**Policy 1.2.a: Buffer water bodies, wetlands, and riparian areas from development**

Water bodies, wetlands, and riparian areas provide crucial habitat and are necessary for the health<sup>29</sup> of native species. Wetlands and riparian areas are more important to wildlife and ecological health than any other habitat type. Wetlands also provide sediment and nutrient filtration and natural flood protection. Clean surface water provides cleaner potable water supplies and better functioning wetlands and riparian areas. Consequently, development will be designed to protect<sup>30</sup> water bodies, wetlands, and riparian to protect their functionality.

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**Policy 1.2.b: Require filtration of runoff<sup>31</sup>**

In those cases where natural filtration systems such as wetlands, floodplains, and riparian areas are not enough to effectively protect the quality of surface water. The town and county will require best management practices<sup>32</sup> and enhancement

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<sup>27</sup> Rec 78: (County 5-0, Town 5-0) Principle 1.2: Change header to “Preserve and enhance water and air quality”

<sup>28</sup> Rec 49: (County 4-0, Town 7-0) Replace “viable populations” with “healthy populations” in Statement of Ideal and throughout theme, and add an indicator of ‘health’ and associated strategies

<sup>29</sup> Rec 49: (County 4-0, Town 7-0) Replace “viable populations” with “healthy populations” in Statement of Ideal and throughout theme, and add an indicator of ‘health’ and associated strategies

<sup>30</sup> Rec 79: (County 5-0, Town 4-1) Policy 1.2.a last sentence: Change to: “Consequently, development will be designed to protect water bodies...”

<sup>31</sup> Rec 80: (County 5-0, Town 4-1) Policy 1.2.b: Strike the word “urban”

<sup>32</sup> Rec 87: (County 2-2, Town 4-2) Define and clarify “best practices”

of natural systems. This is especially applicable in developed areas along waterways such as Flat Creek, Cache Creek, and Fish Creek.

**Policy 1.2.c: Monitor and Maintain water quality**

The extent of human impact on water quality in Teton County is not quantitatively known. It will be important to monitor the cumulative impacts of human actions and the effectiveness of mitigation efforts. The town and county will support baseline study and periodic reevaluation of Teton County water quality beyond the monitoring required by state and federal agencies.<sup>33</sup>

**Policy 1.2.d: Improve air quality**

Air quality in Teton County is well within the levels mandated by the Environmental Protection Agency; however, our location in a high mountain valley exacerbates the effects of wood smoke, dust, vehicle exhaust<sup>34</sup> and other emissions on air quality. Strategies to improve air quality will include: reducing vehicle miles traveled, reducing wood burning emissions, reducing dust from unpaved roads and large construction sites, and offering incentives for the use of new technologies that reduce carbon emissions.<sup>35</sup>

**Principle 1.3—Maintain the scenic resources of the area**

*Scenic resources, rural character, and dark skies play an important role in the community’s relationship with nature. The views of mountains, moraines, meadows, and other natural vistas provide the community and guests with a constant reminder of their location within the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem and give Teton County its scenic character. Interruption of those natural forms by built forms detracts from that character and will be prevented as much as <sup>36</sup>possible.<sup>37</sup>*

**Deleted:** Principle 1.3—Promote sustainable use of resources and reduce greenhouse gas emissions<sup>¶</sup> Consumption of non-renewable energy produces waste that contributes to air pollution, rapid depletion of resources, and climate change. Stewardship of natural resources requires that we focus on how the community and region consume resources such as energy and water. Increased investment in energy efficiency, renewable energy, and energy conservation can lower energy bills, reduce demand for fossil fuels, and help stabilize energy prices and energy system reliability. It can also help reduce air pollutants and heat trapping gas emissions that contribute to climate change.

**Deleted:** Principle 1.4—Limit development in naturally hazardous areas<sup>¶</sup> **Development in hazardous areas threatens the health, safety and welfare of the people inhabiting the development. Steep slopes, poor soils, avalanche chutes, floodplains, dense forests and areas along fault lines offer unique opportunities for interaction with the environment, but when natural events do occur in these areas they can be disastrous. Development in floodplains and other hazardous areas should be minimized or avoided.**

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<sup>33</sup> Rec 81: (County 5-0, Town 4-1) Policy 1.2.c: Staff to redraft language to clarify intent of surface water protection beyond requirements of other jurisdictions  
<sup>34</sup> Rec 82: (County 5-0, Town 5-0) Policy 1.2.d: add “vehicle exhaust” to list of exacerbating effects  
<sup>35</sup> Rec 50: (County 4-0, Town 7-0) Add a Theme – Energy Conservation – and have Staff compile principles and policies that belong in the new theme and relocate principle 1.3 into the new theme  
Rec 47: (County 4-0, Town 7-0) Relocate Principle 1.4 and associated strategies and indicators [Staff recommends Theme 2]  
<sup>36</sup> Rec 88: (County 1-3, Town 4-2) Insert ... as much as “reasonably” possible  
<sup>37</sup> Rec 89: (County 3-1, Town 2-4) Change “and will be prevented as much as possible” to “and will be regulated”

**Policy 1.3.a: Maintain natural skylines**

The most prominent aspects of our landscape are the buttes, ridgelines, and mountains. Skyline protection in the town and county will be one of the bases for the Scenic Resources Overlay.<sup>38</sup> Development along butte tops and ridgelines will be restricted and mitigated so that only natural skylines are seen from all roads<sup>39</sup>.

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**Policy 1.3.b: Maintain expansive hillside and foreground vistas**

Views of expansive forested hillsides and foreground meadows are essential to the rural and scenic character of the community. Protection of scenic foregrounds and forested hillsides in the town and county will be the other bases for the Scenic Resources Overlay.<sup>40</sup> Views of these vistas from all roads<sup>41</sup> will be protected. Development in such areas will retain these vistas by being located at the periphery of the expanse and naturally screened. Alteration of the landscape that screens the natural vista as well as the development will be avoided.

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**Policy 1.3.c: Maintain natural landforms**

Maintenance of natural landforms is important to avoiding the perception that the landscape is manmade. All land disturbing activities will be required to fit natural contours by conforming to construction standards for land moving<sup>42</sup>.

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**Policy 1.3.d: Maintain dark night skies**

The prevalence of nature over the built form extends beyond the views that can be seen during the day. Lighting of individual developments cumulatively impacts the ability to see dark and starry night skies. Lighting is required for public safety, especially along pedestrian corridors<sup>43</sup>; however, non-essential lighting will be

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<sup>38</sup> Rec 91: (County 4-0, Town 6-0) 1.5: Add a policy of continuing support of a Scenic Resource Overlay for the County  
 Rec 92: (County 4-0, Town 6-0) 1.5: Staff will research the addition of Scenic Resource Overlay policies for Town

<sup>39</sup> Rec 84: (County 4-0, Town 6-0) 1.5.a and 1.5.b: expand skyline/foreground protection beyond public roads/parks to all roads

<sup>40</sup> Rec 91: (County 4-0, Town 6-0) 1.5: Add a policy of continuing support of a Scenic Resource Overlay for the County  
 Rec 92: (County 4-0, Town 6-0) 1.5: Staff will research the addition of Scenic Resource Overlay policies for Town

<sup>41</sup> Rec 84: (County 4-0, Town 6-0) 1.5.a and 1.5.b: expand skyline/foreground protection beyond public roads/parks to all roads

<sup>42</sup> Rec 85: (County 4-0, Town 6-0) 1.5.c add “all land disturbing activities will be required to fit natural contours by conforming to construction standards for land moving”

<sup>43</sup> Rec 86: (County 3-1, Town 6-0) 1.5.d: add language addressing pedestrian and/or public safety

limited and all lighting will be designed to meet dark skies best practices.<sup>44</sup> The town and county will incentivize existing development compliance with this policy.

**Principle 1.4—Conserve remaining agricultural resources<sup>45</sup>**

*Historically, agriculture has been the largest land use in Teton County, and at one time played a major role in the economy and social ethic of the community. Throughout the years it has been the agricultural community that has provided much of the stewardship of natural and scenic resources that our community values. Most of the remaining agricultural land has been owned for multiple generations by the same families that own it today; and many of those landowners would like to continue agricultural operations on their land—if it is economically possible.*

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**Policy 1.4.a: Conserve agricultural lands and agriculture throughout Teton County**

Conservation of agriculture and agricultural lands is important to the historic western character of the community as well as for preserving scenic and natural resource values. Land use and other decisions will prioritize the conservation of agricultural lands and agricultural uses.<sup>46</sup> The county will explore incentives and<sup>47</sup> support efforts of landowners and land trusts to permanently conserve agricultural<sup>48</sup> land for agriculture use<sup>49, 50</sup>.

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<sup>44</sup> Rec 87: (County 2-2, Town 4-2) Define and clarify “best practices”

<sup>45</sup> Rec 95: (County 3-1, Town 1-4) Staff will draft language that recognizes permanent conservation of large contiguous properties as one of our highest land use priorities

<sup>46</sup> Rec 96: (County 4-0, Town 5-0) 1.6.b: prioritize conservation of agricultural use throughout Teton County

<sup>47</sup> Rec 97: (County 4-0, Town 5-0) 1.6.c: language should provide incentives for permanent open space

<sup>48</sup> Rec 106: (County 4-0, Town 5-0) 1.6.a: expand to apply to all parcel sizes

<sup>49</sup> Rec 93: (County 4-0, Town 6-0) 1.6.a: delete the list of places in last sentence

<sup>50</sup> Rec 94: (County 1-3, Town 1-5) 1.6.add: “The conservation and agricultural use of large contiguous private land is also the most consistent land use with the goals of the Comprehensive Plan. Efforts aimed at the permanent conservation of such lands have the greatest potential to positively impact Teton County’s wildlife, scenic and natural resources, and should be our highest land use priority.”

**Policy 1.4.b: Remove regulatory barriers to continued agriculture<sup>51</sup>**

Some regulations applicable to general development are economically prohibitive when applied to agricultural development. Regulatory exemptions and allowances will be provided that enable continued agricultural use of property,

**Principle 1.5—Use public lands responsibly<sup>52</sup>**

Stewardship of natural and scenic resources is of the highest priority because of the community’s strong connection to nature. Much of this connection results from recreational use and access to natural resources. Continued access to public lands, while limiting human impacts on wildlife on those public lands<sup>53</sup>, is important to the community.

**Policy 1.5.a: Limit human recreation impacts to public land**

As the population of the community grows, so does the recreational use of public lands and associated pressures on wildlife. In order to limit impacts on nearby public lands from recreation, dog parks, trails, parks, pathways, and other recreational opportunities<sup>54</sup> will be provided in developed and developing areas. Additionally, public and private efforts will be made to promote ecologically responsible recreational use of public lands.

**Policy 1.5.b: Provide continued access to waterways and public lands**

Recreational access to public lands should be planned and provided for in a manner that is consistent with stewardship and conservation of natural resources. Local government and private interests will coordinate with state and federal agencies regarding the <sup>55</sup>maintenance of access points to state and federal lands and rivers and creeks. In particular, Teton County will promote the strategies of the Bureau of Land Management’s Snake River Resource Management Plan. New developments will not obstruct existing public access points. Unauthorized access points will be eliminated.

- Deleted: Policy 1.6.b: Prioritize conservation of agriculture in Alta ¶**  
More than any other place in the county, Alta remains an agricultural community. Viable farms still operate and the community has retained its agricultural ethic. Especially in Alta, the focus of land use and other decisions will prioritize the conservation of agricultural lands and agricultural uses. The county will explore incentives for landowners to conserve agricultural lands. ¶
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- Deleted: Recognize agriculturalists for their stewardship**
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<sup>51</sup> Rec 98: (County 3-1, Town 5-0) 1.6.c: staff will rewrite to focus on goal of policy which is the last sentence

<sup>52</sup> Rec 108: (County 4-0, Town 5-0) Rework 1.7 to clarify Staff’s intent

<sup>53</sup> Rec 108: (County 4-0, Town 5-0) Rework 1.7 to clarify Staff’s intent

<sup>54</sup> Rec 108: (County 4-0, Town 5-0) Rework 1.7 to clarify Staff’s intent

<sup>55</sup> Rec 114: (County 4-0, Town 4-0) Take “creation” out of 1.7.b

## Strategies

The Town of Jackson and Teton County will undertake the following strategies in initial implementation of the policies of this theme. The town and county should periodically update strategies as tasks are completed or when additional action is necessary, based on monitoring of the Theme’s indicators.

### Strategy 1.1: Establish an Environment Commission<sup>56</sup>

- The Environment Commission will be an appointed volunteer committee of scientists charged with making recommendations to elected officials regarding stewardship of wildlife and natural resources.
- The Commission will be responsible for reviewing population data to determine the health of native species.<sup>57</sup>
- The Commission will create and maintain an action plan for research and studies related to wildlife and natural resource stewardship, and will help to coordinate data and efforts from multiple agencies.
- Part of their charge will be to address the challenges of evaluating cumulative impacts of human actions as described in Policy 1.1b.
- Based on completed studies, and conclusions drawn from the indicators of this theme, the Commission will make recommendations to elected officials regarding appropriate land use and transportation<sup>58</sup> policy and/or regulatory changes.<sup>59</sup>

### Strategy 1.2: Update Natural Resources Overlay (NRO) mapping and natural resource protection standards

- Initially, the town and county will work with Wyoming Game and Fish and other<sup>60</sup> partnering agencies and entities to update the

<sup>56</sup> Rec 104: (County 4-0, Town 3-2) Recommend to electeds that the Environmental Commission is established now

<sup>57</sup> Rec 49: (County 4-0, Town 7-0) Replace “viable populations” with “healthy populations” in Statement of Ideal and throughout theme, and add an indicator of ‘health’ and associated strategies

<sup>58</sup> Rec 116: (County 5-0, Town 5-0) Strategy 1.1: Define the Environmental Commission’s role to make land use and transportation recommendations

<sup>59</sup> Rec 113: (County 2-2, Town 1-4) Add a strategy: creation of an additional Wildlife Stewardship Plan under the direction of the Environmental Commission to detail implementation of Principle 1.1

<sup>60</sup> Rec 120: (County 5-0, Town 5-0) Strategy 1.2, first bullet: strike “Wyoming Game and Fish” leave it as “most recent data” and include Wyoming Game and Fish as the primary partnering agency

Natural Resource Overlay (NRO) map to reflect the most recent data.

- Reevaluate and amend standards for development density, intensity, and design within the NRO to reduce development footprint and minimize impacts to wildlife.
- Evaluate and amend natural resource protection standards with a focus on water bodies, wetlands, riparian areas, and floodplains<sup>61</sup>.
- Create a vegetation cover map for the county.
- Change the basis of the NRO, as the necessary research and evaluation is completed—from the current “species of special concern” to identified focal species that are indicative of entire ecosystem health.
- Map areas appropriate for public and private ecological restoration efforts.
- Designate areas appropriate for under- and over-passes and speed reductions in heavy volume wildlife-crossing areas.<sup>62</sup>
- Remove all exemptions to the wildlife friendly fencing standards and develop penalties for failure to remove existing unfriendly fencing throughout the county.

Deleted: Wyoming Game and Fish

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<sup>63, 64</sup> **Strategy 1.3: Amend Land Development Regulations and the zoning map**

- Evaluate and amend lighting standards based on a dark skies policy.
- Evaluate and remap the Scenic Resources Overlay based on accumulated knowledge of potential visual impacts and changes to scenic policy.<sup>65</sup>

Deleted: **Strategy 1.3: Map natural hazard areas**<sup>¶</sup>  
 <#>Study and map avalanche and landslide areas.<sup>¶</sup>  
 <#>Update and refine the Urban Wildland Interface maps.<sup>¶</sup>  
 <#>Update steep slopes maps.<sup>¶</sup>

Deleted: 4

Deleted: <#>Eliminate barriers, provide incentives, and establish requirements for the implementation of energy efficient development.<sup>¶</sup>  
 <#>Adopt an Energy Mitigation Program for residential and nonresidential construction. .  
 ¶

<sup>61</sup> Rec 117: (County 5-0, Town 5-0) Strategy 1.2 third bullet: add “floodplains” to focus

<sup>62</sup> Rec 52: (County 4-0, Town 7-0) Staff will insert the County’s 2<sup>nd</sup> (Designate areas appropriate for under- and over-passes and speed reductions in heavy volume wildlife-crossing areas.) and 3<sup>rd</sup> (Remove all exemptions to the wildlife friendly fencing ordinances and develop penalties for failure to remove existing unfriendly fencing throughout the county.)

<sup>63</sup> Rec 47: (County 4-0, Town 7-0) Relocate Principle 1.4 and associated strategies and indicators

<sup>64</sup> Rec 105: (County 3-1, Town 2-3) Add a policy/strategy creating a public funding source for the acquisition of conservation easements and/or open space

<sup>65</sup> Rec 143: (County 4-0, Town 5-0) Move to Theme 8, Energy Conservation : Strategy 1.4, bullets 3 and 4; and Indicator 6

## Indicators

The community will use<sup>66</sup> the following indicators to monitor achievement of this theme’s values.

Stewardship of Wildlife and Natural Resources Indicators <sup>67, 68</sup>	Goal	Review Period
1. Acres of land in conservation easement by primary conservation value	<b>increase, especially in NRO</b>	<b>1 yr</b>
2. Ratio of conserved land to developed land in NRO	<b>increase</b>	<b>1 yr</b>
3. Amount of material removed from storm water treatment units	<b>decrease</b>	<b>1 yr</b>
4. <del>Sediment loading in all waterways<sup>69</sup></del>	<b>decrease</b>	<b>5 yr</b>
5. Ratio of successful habitat mitigation to habitat disturbance	<b>&gt;1:1</b>	<b>5 yr</b>
6. <del><sup>70</sup>Indicator species populations and population trends<sup>71</sup></del>	<b>healthy populations<sup>72</sup></b>	<b>1 yr</b>
7. Agricultural acres	<b>monitor</b>	<b>1 yr</b>
8. Access points to waterways and public lands	<b>no net loss</b>	<b>1 yr</b>
9. <u>Wyoming Game and Fish monitored populations<sup>73</sup></u>	<b><u>WGF targets</u></b>	<b><u>1 yr</u></b>

Deleted: Flat Creek s

Deleted: Building-related carbon emissions

Deleted: Carbon neutral by 2030

Deleted: 5 yr

<sup>66</sup> Rec 139: (Town 4-1, County 2-3) Replace “will use” with “should consider using”

<sup>67</sup> Rec 136: (County 4-1, Town 1-4) Add indicator: acres rehabilitated

<sup>68</sup> Rec 142: (County 4-1, Town 1-4) Add indicator: meters of wildlife unfriendly fencing removed

<sup>69</sup> Rec 119: (County 5-0, Town 4-1) Indicator 4 should look at sediment loading in all waterways

<sup>70</sup> Rec 143: (County 4-0, Town 5-0) Move to Theme 8, Energy Conservation : Strategy 1.4, bullets 3 and 4; and Indicator 6

<sup>71</sup> Rec 109: (County 4-0, Town 5-0) Look at indicators suggested by public and include in list for elected official review

Rec 137: (County 5-0, Town 5-0) Add indicator: Indicator species populations and population trends

<sup>72</sup> Rec 49: (County 4-0, Town 7-0) Replace “viable populations” with “healthy populations” in Statement of Ideal and throughout theme, and add an indicator of ‘health’ and associated strategies

PRACTICE STEWARDSHIP OF WILDLIFE, NATURAL RESOURCES, AND SCENIC VISTAS (THEME 1) ■ INDICATORS

10. <u>Air quality</u> <sup>74</sup>	<b><u>Federal and State Standards</u></b>	<b><u>1yr</u></b>
11. Ambient night light <sup>75</sup>	<b><u>No increase</u></b>	<b><u>1 yr</u></b>
12. Ambient sound <sup>76</sup>	<b><u>No increase</u></b>	<b><u>1 yr</u></b>

<sup>73</sup> Rec 135: (County 5-0, Town 5-0) Add indicator: Game and Fish monitored populations, with a goal of the WGF targets

<sup>74</sup> Rec 138: (County 5-0, Town 5-0) Add indicator: air quality

<sup>75</sup> Rec 140: (County 4-1, Town 3-2) Add indicator: ambient night light

<sup>76</sup> Rec 141: (County 4-1, Town 4-1) Add indicator: ambient sound