

The Magazine of the Jackson Hole Conservation Alliance

ALLIANCE NEWS

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*Sights & sounds of wildlife
make Jackson Hole unique*

...and so does our special community!

See Page 12.

INSIDE:

- 3 Citizens' Tool Kit
- 8 Comp Plan Q&A with the candidates for local office
- 12 Precious place – Photo essay on community character
- 14 Going the distance: Perseverance is key – we still have a ways to go to get to a better Comp Plan.
- 15 Give a Buck!
- 16 Which came first: Bigger roads or more cars?
- 17 Wildlife Matters and wildlife crossings campaign
- 18 Additional community planning updates
- 19 Fate of state-owned land in Teton Park still uncertain and more public lands briefs
- 20 Wolf protections restored and other wildlife updates
- 21 Wild & Scenic Film Festival and more coming events
- 22 Conservationists' Corner
- 23 Leaving a Legacy; Win a great rug!

On the cover:

A bull elk bugles in Grand Teton National Park on a brisk fall morning. Photo by Thomas Stanton, www.thomasstanton.com

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A Message

FROM THE DIRECTOR

If there's one thing that surveying such a diverse group as the Jackson Hole Conservation Alliance membership tells us, it's that the organization means a lot of things to a lot of people.



Cindy Harger

In the late spring, we surveyed a sampling of our membership to gauge what is most important to you. We found it both illuminating and heartening, but we didn't want to stop there. We want to hear from more of you.

We consider each of our members to be a stakeholder in our work. As a grassroots nonprofit, we rely upon a motivated team of members, volunteers, individuals and groups to stand up for our valley's wildlife, open spaces and sound land management.

Therefore, we want to check in with you, our loyal members, to hear your thoughts about the future of the Alliance, particularly as we work our way through the search for our next leader.

Here's a sampling of what we've heard so far: Some of you appreciate the organization's "ability to effect change, mobilize the community and educate the population,"

while some praise consistency in the Alliance's mission for 30 years "even when it gets tedious and unpopular," our "reasoned" pragmatic approach, and our role as a strong advocate.

Some of you believe we can do better at things such as not coming across as an organization that "always says no" or is "radical."

Some people want us to focus our energies on a few really important issues and ignore some of the smaller, less-popular ones; focus less on wildlife and more on community planning; focus more on wildlife and less on community planning; increase our involvement politically; and increase our membership base with younger generations.

Here are things some of you would like us to

continue doing: Monitor and oppose irresponsible development; maintain our advocacy/watchdog role, even when it's controversial; focus on the valley; collaborate with other valley participants; and continue to work toward strong protection of wildlife, including wolves.

We look forward to hearing more! ■

How're we doing? You tell us!

Please let us know what you think

If you'd like to give us your feedback, please answer the following questions, and mail them to the Jackson Hole Conservation Alliance office at P.O. Box 2728, Jackson, WY 83001, or email them to survey@jhalliance.org. Thanks!

1. How long have you been involved with the Jackson Hole Conservation Alliance? During that time, what have you most appreciated about the organization? (This may include strengths, qualities, achievements, etc.)
2. The Alliance celebrated its 30th anniversary last fall. Looking ahead to the next 5 to 10 years, what would you most like to see from the organization? (This may include general organizational direction or specific program goals.)
3. Are there any other thoughts you would like to share with the Alliance staff and board?

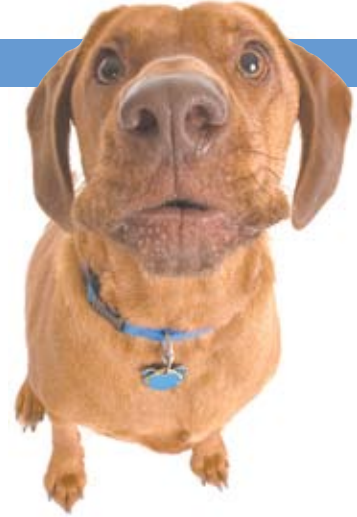
We welcome the opportunity for discussion. Would you like to meet personally with a board or staff member? If so, please give us a brief idea of what you would like to discuss so that we can have the most appropriate person contact you to schedule a time.

This fall and the coming year will see a lot of major decisions affecting the future of Jackson Hole, especially with elections and the draft Comprehensive Plan progressing to the elected officials for their review.

How can you make sure your voice is heard during this critical time? Read on.

CITIZENS' TOOL KIT

Got something to say?



Speak!

The people who decide things that affect our lives rely on us to tell them what we want.

There's no end to the issues, or to the opinions folks have about them. (How much will our taxes be and what will that money get spent on? What do we want our home town to look like in 20 years? How many other kids are going to be in my child's classroom? What can be done about all the traffic?)

The next few pages include some information about how such decisions are made, who the decision makers are, and tips on how you can make a difference.

Maybe you won't get what you want, even if you do speak up. But maybe you will.

One thing's for sure – there's little chance of getting what you want if you don't let the decision makers know what the heck that is. ■



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Thomas Dewell and Angus M. Thuermer Jr., editors

(400-word maximum for letters; 800 words for Guest Shots)
 Letters are due by 5 p.m. Monday for that Wednesday's paper.

Jackson Hole Weekly (formerly known as *Planet JH*)

Email to: editor@planetjh.com; **Matthew Irwin**, editor
 (300-word maximum)

(Include your full name, hometown and a means of contacting you for verification.)

MAKING A DIFFERENCE #1: VOTE!

2010 is an election year, and many local and state elected positions are up for grabs in the November 2 general election.

In Jackson Hole, many of the issues that affect our daily lives are decided by just 10 people – the Town of Jackson’s mayor and four councilors, and the five Teton County commissioners. And since most decisions are made by simple majority, just

three people on the Jackson Town Council can carry a lot of weight on town issues; likewise, only three commissioners need to agree to get decisions passed for the county.

That’s one example of why it’s so important to do your homework on the candidates running for office, and to get out and VOTE for the people you think will represent the best interests of our community.

Keep an eye on the local newspapers for their election coverage and try to talk with as many of the candidates as you can. (See Page 8 for our Comp Plan Q&A with candidates for town and county office.) Call (307) 733-7733 or stop by the elections office (downstairs at 200 S. Willow St. in Jackson) for voter registration, absentee voting and other information, and to pick up sample ballots. ■

#2: PAY ATTENTION

Local, state and federal governments are supposed to let the public know about important matters before they’re decided so that citizens have a chance to give their opinions. But it can still be difficult to find out what issues are coming up.

Stories in local media can be a good resource for information on public issues affecting Jackson Hole. Also, public “legal” notices are published each Wednesday in the back of the *Jackson Hole News&Guide* “B” section.

These include a variety of notices required by town, county and state statutes and regulations, such as meeting agendas, proposed city and county ordinances, and tax and budget info.

You can check the meeting agendas to see if any items you care about are scheduled to be discussed.

Agendas for upcoming Jackson Planning Commission and Jackson Town Council meetings are also supposed to be available a week before each meeting on the town’s website at www.ci.jackson.wy.us (click “Meeting Agendas” under the “Jackson Government” menu header).

Same thing for the Teton County Planning Commission and Teton Board of County Commissioners meeting agendas – visit the county website at www.tetonwyo.org and click on “Meetings” or on “Calendar” in the menu header, then click on the meeting wanted, then (if in the Calendar section) click “more information” in the popup.



Town meetings are held in the council chambers at Town Hall, 150 E. Pearl. Here’s the regular schedule:

Jackson Town Council: Meets the first and third Mondays of each month at 6 p.m.

Jackson Planning Commission: Meets the first and third Wednesdays of each month at 5:30 p.m.

County meetings are held in the commissioners’ chambers at 200 S. Willow, on the following regular schedule:

Teton Board of County Commissioners: Meets the first and third Tuesdays of each month at 9 a.m.

Teton County Planning Commission: Meets the second and fourth Mondays of each month at 6 p.m.

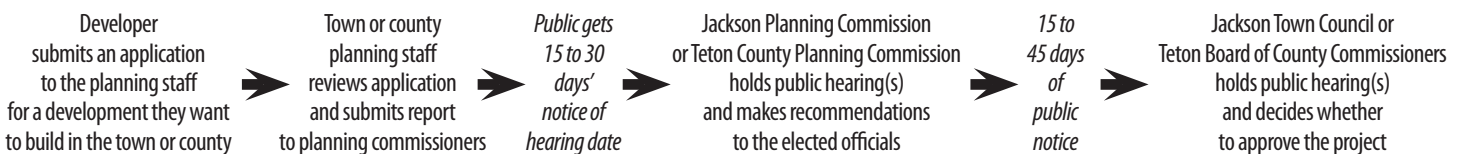
The elected officials also hold workshops on various issues at various times. Plus they meet jointly at 3 p.m. the first Monday of each month. The first six months of the year, these joint meetings are at 150 E. Pearl; from July to December, they’re at 200 S. Willow. (Note: All of these meetings are subject to change. For confirmation call the town at (307) 733-3932 or the county at (307) 733-8094.)

Local nonprofits also keep tabs on items related to their missions and are happy to share what they know and help people get involved. Find out which groups are interested in the same things you are and sign up for their mailing lists. (Visit the Community Foundation of Jackson Hole’s website at www.cfjacksonhole.org/ nonprofit-directory for contact information.) ■

#3: SPEAK UP EARLY AND OFTEN

There’s a reason “the squeaky wheel gets the grease” became a saying. As soon as you get wind of an issue that you care about, get informed about it, and then let the appropriate public officials (listed on Page 4) know what you think and what you’d like them to do.

For example, below is a typical timeline for a development application process:



Members of the public can comment – in writing or by speaking at the hearings – at any stage of this process, but comments made earlier have a better chance of influencing later stages. (See “Pay Attention” above for information on how you can find out when and where public hearings are being held.) Some tips for getting your points across start on Page 6. ■

Straight from the horse's mouth...

The following tips for communicating effectively with decision makers are based on advice from various local elected and appointed officials:

- Get involved early! It's never too early in the process to engage your decision makers. In fact, the earlier, the better for them – and you. Most elected officials do their homework before the public hearings and meetings in which they make decisions.
- Each decision maker has a way that he or she prefers to be contacted (for example, by email, phone, letter, personal meetings at the office or a discussion over coffee). Find out what works best for the public official you want to reach and use that method.
- Don't make personal attacks.
- Put yourself in the right frame of mind to work well with decision makers. Think cooperation, not criticism. Portray commitment, not complaining. Be logical – don't be emotional or misinformed.
- Discuss, don't argue. Don't get confrontational or defensive.
- Before launching into your arguments, ask how the official feels about the subject – then *listen*.
- Know your subject. Decision makers say they're surprised by how



many people contact them to give an opinion on a subject without fully understanding the issue at hand. Know enough to justify your stance. Follow the issue enough to know if recent developments have changed anything. And know what your public official's stance is before you make assumptions.

- Your opinion will be taken more seriously if it's obvious to the decision maker that you've made an effort to research and express it. (For example, a personal letter will be more effective than a mass-mailed postcard.) However, any contact in any form is better than nothing.
- When a point is agreed on, don't keep arguing it.
- Like-minded people who stick together are most effective, but they should speak as individuals. Voice your concerns yourself, as opposed to letting organizational leaders make your points for you.
- Take a broader point of view. Demonstrate that you're considering the entire community.
- Never harangue a decision maker in a public place. (For instance, a public official having dinner out with the family probably isn't going to be amenable to discussing your concerns.) ■

Tips for written comments:

Personal letters or emails are the way most people express their views to their appointed and elected representatives. They can be very effective, especially if you:

- **Keep the message short.**
- **Put it in your own words and include your own thoughts.**
- **Cover only one issue.** Save other issues for subsequent letters.
- **Clearly identify your issue.** If you're writing to state or federal officials, remember that hundreds of bills are introduced during each session, so try to reference the bill's title and number.
- **State your reason for writing.** Tell the official whether you support or oppose the measure. Express your own personal feelings, as they provide the best supporting evidence. Explain how the issue in question affects you, why it's important, and why your councilor, commissioner, representative or senator should be concerned.
- **Make your message timely.** Inform officials while there's still time for them to take action.
- **Concentrate on the decision makers from your own district.** Ultimately, representatives want to be re-elected, so they're most

sensitive to what their own constituents have to say. (Include your address with your contact info so electeds know where you're from.)

- **Ask your representative to state his or her position when he or she replies.** If they're equivocal in their response, write again and ask for clarification. Don't hesitate to ask questions, but don't demand or threaten.
- **Show understanding.** Demonstrate that you're aware of how the proposed decision or legislation would affect not just you, but your community and other people's health and jobs.
- **Be constructive.** If a measure or bill deals with a problem you admit exists, but you believe it takes the wrong approach, let officials know what the right approach is. If you have expert knowledge, share it with them.
- **Thank officials when you're pleased.** Everyone appreciates recognition. If a vote disappoints you, make that known also, but remember – overly emotional responses at any time are probably counterproductive.
- **Don't mention your membership in any organizations** (unless it's directly related to an experience you're describing). An individual citizen's letter will carry more weight than letters that appear to have been inspired as part of an organization's campaign. ■

Verbal comments:

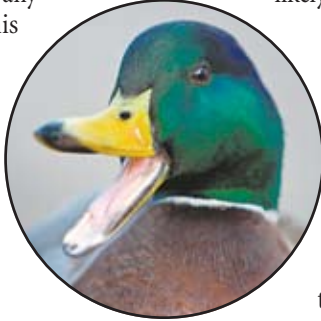
Speaking at public hearings can be nerve-racking. Here are some tips to ease the pain:

- **Relax.** You are speaking in front of a group that cares about your community as much as you do.
- **Practice what you're going to say beforehand;** it will give you confidence.
- **Speak sincerely, from the heart.** Decision makers want to hear why the issue is important to you personally.
- **Present your comments as a story.** Don't get bogged down in legalistic, numerical or theoretical arguments.
- **Be lively and unafraid to add humor,** if it's appropriate.
- **Make eye contact.** It makes you appear more confident and credible.
- **Speak just long enough** to make your point.
- **Gestures and movements can add emphasis to your speech.** But don't overdo it; that can be distracting.
- **Make the "ask."** Be sure the decision makers you are trying to persuade understand why you have been compelled to speak and what outcome you're seeking. ■

#4: REACH A WIDER AUDIENCE

Knowledgeable and straightforward written and verbal public comments can definitely have an impact on decision makers. **Letters to the editor also play a role** – they get even more citizens thinking and involved. Page 4 has information on how to submit letters and opinion pieces to the local newspapers; below are some suggestions for writing ones worth reading.

- The letters to the editor section is one of the most widely read sections of any newspaper. Take advantage of this as a way to voice your opinion to a larger audience.
- Be concise and to the point.
- Write for the undecided – for those who may not agree with you, but who might be convinced.
- Be nice. Avoid insults, name-calling, threats and rants. Over-the-top rhetoric, accusations or personal attacks can turn off potential supporters.
- Keep it timely. The more your letter relates



to something that's in the news, the more likely it will be published quickly.

- Be positive. Praise elected officials, decision makers and others when they do something good. Let them know they have support.
- Double-check your facts. Use credible sources and cite them whenever possible.
- Encourage friends to write letters on the same subject, but from different viewpoints to show a cross-section of support for your issue.

Follow this formula for effective letters to the editor:

Most newspapers limit letters to only a few hundred words, so you need to be concise.

1st paragraph (1 to 2 sentences): Explain why you're writing. Be specific about your key point and don't forget to reference a newspaper article and date if you're responding to prior media coverage.

2nd paragraph (2 to 3 sentences): Back up your assertions with facts and cite your sources.

3rd paragraph (1 to 2 sentences): Conclusion. Sum up your letter, touch on the core values you're representing and, if applicable, state what you would like to see happen next (make the "ask").

Name, address, phone: Include these so the paper can contact you to verify that you're the one who wrote the letter.

Getting others involved

Grassroots organizing can help win public support for your cause. Here are some ways you can get started:

- **Network.** Begin asking your co-workers, friends and family members what they think about the issue.
- **Reach out to key policy makers, local civic and business leaders, and elected officials.** Focus on decision makers who are still neutral or undecided.
- **Organize public testimony.** Remember, it's easier to nip a bad idea in the bud than to fight it in full bloom.
- **Recruit people to speak out at public hearings.**
- **Tap available talent and information.** Make use of organizations in your area and experts in the field.
- **Circulate petitions.**
- **Distribute information** – in person, in print and online. Talking with folks door-to-door, hanging posters and taking advantage of the internet introduces your issue to a wider range of potential supporters.
- **Write letters to decision makers.**
- **Don't get discouraged.** It's easy to get burned out while working on a contentious issue. Don't let dejection take over and don't let anyone tell you that you can't fight city hall. Some campaigns take a long time, but losing one battle doesn't mean the war is lost.
- **Believe you can make a difference.** It's amazing how much one person or a small group of volunteers can accomplish. Remember – many others may be silently fuming over the same thing. Speak up and unite them. ■

Participating on the state level

The next general session of the Wyoming Legislature is set to convene on January 11, 2011. During the following 40 or so days, state legislators will consider a slew of potential laws, and you can help inform their debates. Here's how:

- The schedule for the general session and all committee meetings will be posted and updated daily at <http://legisweb.state.wy.us>.
- This website is also where you can read and download the text of proposed legislation and track a bill's status as it moves through the legislative process.
- Bills are listed on the website by subject and by who introduced it; you can also find out what committee the bill has been assigned to.
- Check the link "Schedules/Calendars/Meetings" (updated each afternoon during the session) to track when a bill might be heard in committee or be headed to the house or senate floor.
- Timeliness is key. If you have something to say about a particular piece of legislation, contact your local state legislators and the chairperson of the committee involved right before they're scheduled to take action on it. (Contact information is available on Page 4 and via <http://legisweb.state.wy.us>.)
- You can also call the Voter Hotline, on the days the legislature is in session, toll-free at (866) 996-8683 from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. to recommend a vote for or against a bill. Or, to leave a more detailed message, call the receptionist for the Senate at (307) 777-7711 or House at (307) 777-7852; send a fax to the attention of whatever legislator you designate at (307) 777-5466; or use email.
- Questions? Contact the Legislative Service Office in Cheyenne at (307) 777-7881 for more information on how you can take part in Wyoming's legislative process.
- Two other good sources for information are the Wyoming Conservation Voters website at www.wyovoters.org and the Equality State Policy Center website at www.equalitystate.org. ■

In the belief that the best-informed citizens will make the best choices come the November 2 general election, we asked the candidates running for the Teton Board of County Commissioners, for the Jackson Town Council and for mayor

of Jackson to answer several questions related to the ongoing Jackson/Teton County Comprehensive Plan revision.

Local elected officials are the ones who will make the final decisions on our community's Comp Plan in coming months,

Five people are in the running for three seats on the five-member Teton Board of County Commissioners. Below are their responses to the three questions at right:

1. Surveys done in connection with the ongoing Jackson/Teton County Comprehensive Plan revision all showed that a strong majority of our community wants a plan that will protect Jackson Hole's wildlife and manage growth responsibly. How do you think the new draft Comp Plan will actually work to protect wildlife in Jackson Hole?

What specific changes would you make to the draft plan to ensure protection of wildlife and wildlife habitat? (We asked the candidates to limit their responses to each question to 100 words.) Candidates appear in alphabetical order.

SCOTT ANDERSON:

1. The key to implementation of the Comp Plan is the LDRs (land development regulations) that go with it and the policies of local government. I feel that future use of SPET (specific purpose excise tax) taxes should be to acquire critical wildlife habitat and open space.
2. Yes, that is the purpose of comprehensive planning in Teton County. We should identify future areas for growth and, more specifically, iden-

tify parcels that need to be protected. We should implement a strategy of trying to acquire those sensitive pieces of land.

3. Sure. The Comp Plan is a guiding document that exists, I believe, to protect our community character. I support keeping community character language in the new plan. ■



BEN ELLIS (Incumbent):

1. A driving impetus for updating our Comp Plan has been better protection of important wildlife considerations – habitat, migration corridors, calving areas, etc. This can be supported with lower potential housing densities in natural resource-rich and rural areas, along with additional conditions for development projects when there is a potential for harming wildlife viability. As a commissioner, I will continue to advocate for protections for wildlife including safe crossings of our major highways, reduced sprawl and habitat fragmentation in rural areas, and protection of wintering habitats.
2. The Comp Plan itself is the strategy the community has chosen to protect our county's wildlife and quality of life. It is the result of many decades of public input and concern, including the recent plan review. Conditions change over time, such as primary economic activity, making it advisable to update the plan periodically.

Mitigation of impacts from development should continue to be part of project approvals. I support use of clustering in already developed areas and decreased density bonuses in rural areas. With certain triggers, such as excessive rate of growth, I would also consider limiting annual building permits.

3. I would support clear community character language in the new plan. The fact that there is less agriculture and more pressure for development since the 1994 plan was adopted does not change the fact that small town rural character remains a public value. We must articulate those goals clearly if they are to remain a part of consideration when development projects are brought forth. It also serves developers to clearly understand by what criteria they will be measured. ■



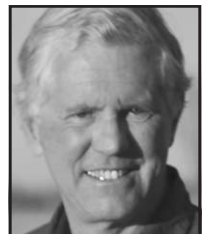
PETER MOYER:

1. I do not think the new proposed Comprehensive Plan provisions go very far at all – the elected officials have not even commenced their own public hearings after more than three years, and it is “themes and policies” rather than real rules. I would suggest the following rules:
 - Wildlife corridors, mapped.
 - An independent Conservation Council for detailed review of each proposed project including overall “big picture” impacts, none of whom are developer representatives directly or indirectly.
 - Preserve the existing density bonus/dedicated open space format, but tighten the rules so undevelopable land (streams, easements, wetlands, hillsides, etc.) do not count for “bonuses.”
 - Enact very strict standards and thorough review for any upzonings.
 - Simplify the plan so there is far more understanding and transparency. Right now, the advantage goes to developers with their teams of well paid and well placed advisors. By contrast, a member of the public has two minutes to deal with the complex issues.

- Schedule important hearings after business hours so working people are better able to attend. Add better balance and fairness, in the developer/public presentation.
- Less authority in appointed people and county employees to grant discretionary development authority to private parties.
- Stricter standards on mitigation requirements for commercial and resort developments, which have a big “ripple effect.”

2. Yes. See responses above. I believe that growth rate caps are ineffective and divisive – the suggestions above for strict standards are a much better avenue for protecting open space, wildlife and community character.

3. Yes, as above. Just general “feel good” themes and policies language really is not very effective. Strict rules are effective. ■



and on the land development regulations to follow that will implement the goals of the plan. That's why it's so important to vote for candidates who support a strong plan that will help keep Jackson Hole wild and beautiful.

As a 501(C)(3) nonprofit organization, the Jackson Hole Conservation Alliance cannot endorse any candidate for political office, but we hope their responses below will help you make informed choices.

2. Do you think that Teton County and the Town of Jackson should implement growth management strategies to protect Jackson Hole's wildlife and quality of life?

If not, why not? If so, which specific strategies (such as growth rate caps, requiring mitigation for the impacts of development and so on) would you support including in the new Jackson/Teton County Comprehensive Plan?

HANK PHIBBS (Incumbent):

1. It is important to clearly understand that the effort started in 2007 was for an update to the community's 1994 Comprehensive Plan, not the preparation of a new plan. It is also important to recognize that the Comprehensive Plan is a statement of community goals and policies, and that the development regulations are where specific programs and requirements are set forth to carry out the goals and policies. Our plan update should include a policy to identify and protect wildlife movement and migration areas on a larger landscape basis rather than an individual parcel basis. Our regulatory updates should identify such areas and help shape individual parcel development to protect these important areas while respecting a landowner's right to the reasonable use of property. I support the consideration of other plan update additions which improve our identification and mapping of wildlife habitat.
2. I support the consideration of additional growth management strategies for

PAUL VOGELHEIM (Incumbent):

1. • Theme 1 sets a clear goal and foundation for the entire Comp Plan – stewardship of wildlife, natural resources and scenic vistas. This Comp Plan builds on our community's past Comp Plans and introduces critical elements of predictability, accountability and measurability.
 - Conservation easements are my preferred tool for long term protection, especially for critical wildlife habitats like riparian areas and wildlife corridors.
 - I would encourage world class wildlife crossings in the transportation chapter.
 - I would like to eliminate the potential for sprawling development patterns (especially in South Park) and other inconsistencies with Theme 1.
2. • Yes, I think this plan should implement growth management strategies and not increase the development potential over that allowed by current zoning.

3. Protection of rural and community character is a central goal in our current Comp Plan, but the new draft plan relegates this goal to the sidelines. Should the new Comp Plan reinstate this focus?

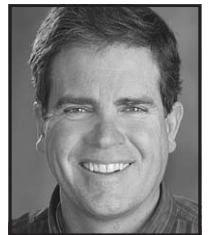
If not, why not? If so, how would you ensure that the new Comp Plan works to protect Jackson Hole's small mountain-town community character? (For instance, would you support reinstating and refining language from our current Comp Plan that protects community character into the new plan?)

a number of reasons including the protection of wildlife habitat, the protection of community character and the maintenance of a diverse community. Our current Comprehensive Plan and land development regulations set forth both policy and regulatory positions about what kind of growth we want and where we want it to occur, which are growth management strategies. Our current regulations already include impact fees for community infrastructure and workforce housing. As we update our plan we should revisit our current policies and regulations and consider new strategies to accomplish our community goals, including growth rate caps.



3. Protection of our rural and community character was properly set forth as an important vision and policy in our current Comprehensive Plan. As we update the plan, that vision and policy should remain as one of our fundamental community goals and policies. ■

• Growth rate caps will also be important. As previously stated, the introduction of predictability, accountability and measurability are critical improvements in order to know where we are relative to where we want to be. In addition, having indicators for every policy in each theme will measure the effectiveness of policies and provide accountability. Moreover I strongly support infrastructure improvements to be in place before development is allowed to occur – a concept known as “concurrency review.”



3. I believe wildlife, scenic vistas and rural agricultural are what defines our community character. With these as our core character values, individual communities within the county can develop more tailored definitions. For example, Wilson may define character based on more wildlife presence in the community and Alta may focus on wildlife and protection of agriculture. ■

Choose wisely: As mentioned on Page 5 in the Citizens' Tool Kit section, it's especially important to choose good representatives for local elected positions because many issues that affect our daily lives are decided by just 10 people – the Town of Jackson's mayor and four councilors, and the five Teton County commissioners. And since most decisions are made by simple majority, many votes

on town issues come down to just three people on the Town Council; likewise, only three commissioners need to agree to get decisions passed for Teton County. Please, get informed. Links to articles about the candidates are available on the *Jackson Hole News&Guide's* website via: www.jhnewsandguide.com/election.php.

Photos of candidates courtesy Jackson Hole News&Guide

- 1. Surveys done in connection with the ongoing Jackson/Teton County Comprehensive Plan revision all showed that a strong majority of our community wants a plan that will protect Jackson Hole's wildlife and manage growth responsibly. How do you think the new draft Comp Plan will actually work to protect wildlife in Jackson Hole?** What specific changes would you make to the draft plan to ensure protection of wildlife and wildlife habitat?
- 2. Do you think that Teton County and the Town of Jackson should implement growth management strategies to protect Jackson Hole's wildlife and quality of life?** If not, why not? If so, which specific strategies (such as growth rate caps, requiring mitigation for the impacts of development and so on) would you support including in the new Jackson/Teton County Comprehensive Plan?
- 3. Protection of rural and community character is a central goal in our current Comp Plan, but the new draft plan relegates this goal to the sidelines. Should the new Comp Plan reinstate this focus?** If not, why not? If so, how would you ensure that the new Comp Plan works to protect Jackson Hole's small mountain-town community character? (For instance, would you support reinstating and refining language from our current Comp Plan that protects community character into the new plan?)

Two people are running for mayor of the Town of Jackson. Here are their responses to the same questions above:

MARK BARRON (Incumbent):

- Wildlife habitat was prioritized in '94. The pronghorn migration continues to be the most substantial migration in the lower 48. The future of our wildlife depends on placing density in appropriately zoned areas in town, continuing to plan for residential above commercial, protect single family neighborhoods, and place higher density residential in specific zones. In the county, place density in existing nodes. Placing density in these areas and town creates wildlife corridor protection and the negotiations with private land owners for more permanent open space protection.
- The strategies include the zoning districts resulting from the Comp Plans and the resulting land development regulations. Few foresaw the severe economic downturn that stopped new residential and non-residential developments in their tracks and left vacant homes and unoccupied non-residential space. Economics slowed growth. I do not believe that it

FRANZ CAMENZIND:

- The draft Comp Plan does not go far enough to protect wildlife and wildlife habitat in the county or town. The identification of additional focal species and the updating of the Natural Resource Overlay must have a definitive timeline for completion and implementation. These should be completed and be part of the final Comp Plan at adoption. Although the significance of cumulative impacts is addressed, nowhere is there language directing how or by whom these impacts should be measured or mitigated. These details and responsibilities must be identified in the Comp Plan so that the land development regulations can provide clear direction.
- The rate of growth does not need to be capped. Rate of growth is not as important as the type, location and overall amount of growth possible with the new Comp Plan. Growth should be concentrated within existing developed centers but it should not surpass what is allowed within the 1994 Comp Plan, and it should not be of a type that would significantly

is realistic to think that people will stop coming here. I believe there is no finish line to this issue, and as such, caps are arbitrary at best. We need to have honest, respectful conversations to account for the fact that some growth will occur and be prepared.




- Jackson Hole continues to evolve from the rough-hewn ranching and hunting community it was not long ago. The '94 Comp Plans attempted to protect this western character, recognizing that working ranches provided quality open space and wildlife habitat. I will work with townfolk, staff, town council and county commissioners, to provide predictability and accountability to a quality of life that serves young and old, working families, and our returning children to plant roots, while enhancing Jackson's legacy of conservation, bountiful wildlife and open scenic vistas through listening, balancing issues and making tough decisions. ■

alter the character of the existing developed centers. The new Comp Plan should allow significantly less commercial development than what is possible in the existing Comp Plan. Where appropriate, commercial development potential can be transferred to a variety of housing types.



- Jackson Hole is a rural valley consisting of several communities separated by open space and surrounded by incomparable mountain ranges that harbor abundant and visible wildlife. This is the part of our community character that separates us from every other western mountain community. In addition, we still retain a western culture with traditions such as ranching, hunting and fishing, as well as an ever-growing array of outdoor recreation activities – all based upon a healthy and ecologically functioning landscape. This community character encompasses all aspects of our lives and should be the foundation upon which the new Comp Plan is built. ■



No vote = no voice: According to the Teton County clerk's office, only 45.6 percent of the county's eligible voters turned out for the August 17 primary, a number we sure hope improves in the November 2 general election. Meanwhile, we'd like to share these thoughts on citizenship:

"A citizen of America will cross the ocean to fight for democracy, but won't cross the street to vote in a national election."
– Bill Vaughan

"To make democracy work, we must be a nation of participants, not simply observers. One who does not vote has no right to complain."
– Louis L'Amour

"The first lesson is this: Take it from me, every vote counts."
– Al Gore

"Fifty percent of people won't vote, and fifty percent don't read newspapers. I hope it's the same fifty percent."
– Gore Vidal

"I will vote my hopes and not my fears."
– Herb Kohl

Four people are running for two of four seats on the Jackson Town Council. Here are their replies to the same questions:

RAY ELSER:

1. The goals and objectives of the revised Comp Plan are implemented by the land development regulations. Until the LDRs are revised it is hard to know or judge how or what the impacts on wildlife will be. A comprehensive analysis of the remaining open space, and the wildlife and their movements, habits and quality of habitat need to be completed before enacting any regulations.

2. No, the recession has done quite a good job of shutting down growth. Development at levels seen and experienced over the past 12 to 15 years will not be returning anytime soon. Twenty years ago the experts told us that by the year 2010 there would be 45,000 to 50,000 people living here full-time; that growth caps needed to be instituted immediately to halt the ruination of Jackson Hole. Last I checked our population was nowhere near that number. In fact, families are leaving the valley. I don't know that new strategies or regulations need to be written and implemented, as much as enforcing equitably the regulations

BOB LENZ (Incumbent):

1. Comment on the Comp Plan and how it will affect wildlife has to be deferred until all the changes and suggestions made by the joint planning commissions are put in an order someone can reasonably comprehend. At this point in time it is still a hodgepodge of ideas and desires.

2. All growth strategies should address the protection of wildlife and the quality of life issues as important tenets for any development project. Migration corridors, permeability and the protection of truly critical habitat must always be considered when development occurs. No one has come forth with growth-rate strategies which seem to be workable. Growth rates are primarily market driven which makes them particularly difficult to administer.

3. Rural character has been under siege for decades. As the ranching industry declines, the community's ability to hold on to rural character becomes more and more difficult. The old estate tax laws also put pressure on ranchers to

MICHAEL PRUETT:

1. The protection of wildlife and wildlife habitat is the top priority of this Comprehensive Plan. This is a large step forward from the '94 Plan that only made this a community goal. Our Comprehensive Plan balances this goal with all of the other goals of the community. Only about 3 percent of land in the county is privately owned (about 77,000 acres). About 1,800 acres is in the town (about 2.4 percent). The town has been very successful at actively conserving land and protecting wildlife within its boundaries. If elected, I will continue to support these conservation efforts. Please visit my web site at www.VotePruett.com for more information.

2. The rate of growth for large lot development in the county is too aggressive, consumptive and unsustainable. We cannot mitigate all of the growth in

MELISSA TURLEY (Incumbent):

1. The new Comp Plan will protect wildlife by providing predictability, accountability and measurable goals with specific indicators to monitor progress. For example, healthy populations of indicator species, habitat mitigation, water quality, the amount of land in conservation easements and more will be monitored annually, enabling the elected boards to pursue amendments to the plan if needed. Another important way this Comp Plan will protect wildlife is by recognizing the impacts on our ecosystem, such as wildlife-vehicle collision fatalities, of displacing housing to neighboring communities. Finally, the Comp Plan identified the need for an independent scientific advisory board, which has already been created as the Natural Resource Technical Advisory Board. At this time, I haven't identified any specific changes. I appreciate all of the recommendations from the joint planning commissions, and I anticipate suggesting some changes of my own once the Council and Commission begin our review this fall.

2. I am very interested in a conversation about a growth cap in the Town of

presently in force. I would support a request on future SPET ballots to raise money for the acquisition of land identified as critical wildlife habitat and open space.

3. Possibly, but again it is the function of the LDRs to implement the goals of the Comp Plan. The revisions to the LDRs will define our community character, not playing with the semantics of a goal statement. Hard to say what I would do at this time. Currently the new Comp Plan calls for no nodes of development in the county, which puts a lot of stress on the Town of Jackson. To assist our friends and neighbors that are struggling, I would emphasize smaller projects, whether remodels, additions, tenant improvements for new businesses or new development that conforms to existing LDRs without density bonuses. Prior to approval of any mega-project a condition should be added requiring that the project be broken down in small enough portions for local contractors, suppliers and service providers to get work. ■



change their degree of involvement in agricultural pursuits. Air service as intense as that at the Jackson Hole Airport and subdivisions sprinkled throughout the valley are indicators of how the rural character of the valley has eroded. Open space is usually associated with a rural character. Clustered development as provided in the 1994 Plan is one tool for retaining the open feeling usually associated with rural areas. The community character I envision is a community of buildings with a reasonable height, natural (or natural looking) building components, setbacks sufficient to give buildings dignity, seductive and functional pedestrian amenities, tree-lined streets, ample sidewalks and bicycle lanes where possible. If developers continue to use alleys as though they were streets, the regulations for such developments must be adjusted to accommodate this change of use. Interestingly, the downtown locals and visitors love a variety of styles. The common denominator is buildings two stories high made of natural materials. ■



the county within the town. I support a growth rate cap on large lot development in the county that will make this more sustainable while protecting private property rights.

3. Community character is an integral part of the new Comprehensive Plan. I helped put it there. The planning commissions' recommended Comprehensive Plan clearly defines the community's goals and objectives. The April draft plan addresses the predictability of community character and uses strategies and indicators as tools to help achieve our goals and objectives where the '94 plan left this undefined. The Future Land Use Plan gives clear guidance to the character of each neighborhood district in town. The updated land development regulations and a detailed Future Land Use Plan together will provide the predictability that our community needs. ■



Jackson, especially aimed at prioritizing the kind of new commercial development the community deems to be a benefit. I understand other communities have a growth cap on the number of building permits approved annually, and I think that would be appropriate in Jackson to make sure we grow slow and grow smart.

3. I believe the focus on sustaining the health of our community, environment and economy in the new draft plan will protect our rural and community character. I support goals in the new draft plan such as housing 65 percent of the valley's workers locally that will keep our community vibrant, and I think the character districts in town will help preserve the physical character. I would be interested in discussing the idea of reinstating and refining language from our current Comp Plan to understand how we can further protect community character. ■





Courtesy Community Foundation of Jackson Hole



Jeff Hogan

Precious place

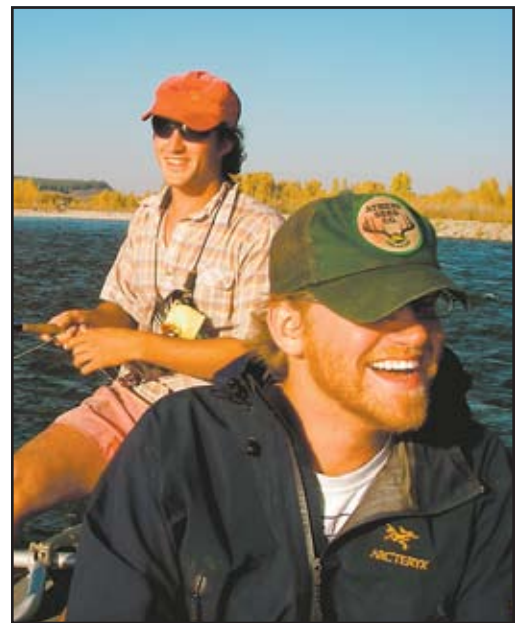
Community character is one of those things that's difficult to put your finger on, but you sure know it when you see it.

It's what sets this precious place apart from any other.

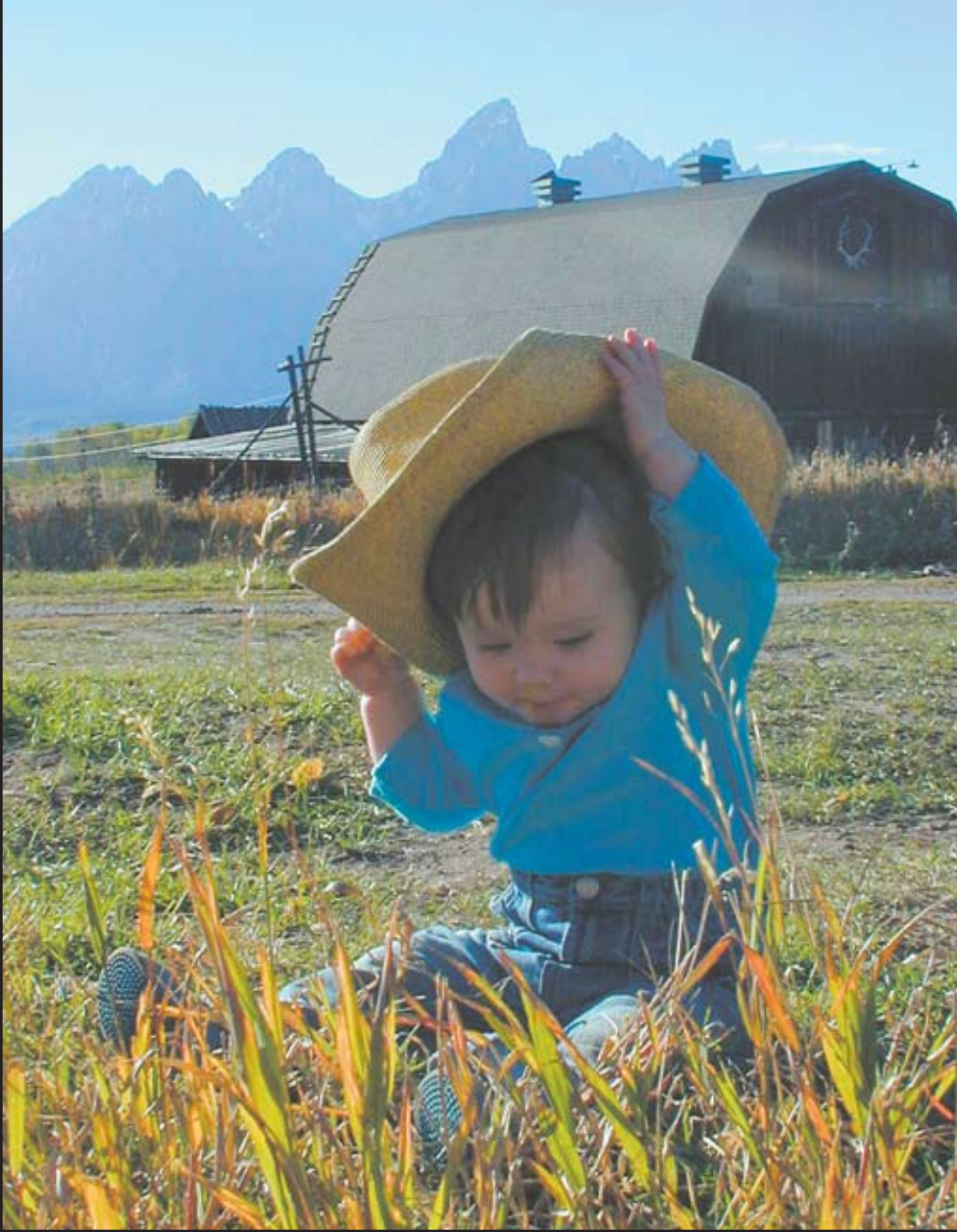
It's the feeling you get when you join your friends and neighbors in Old Bill's Fun Run and the countless other great community events that celebrate this valley and make it a better place to be.

It's boating the Snake, sighting the first osprey of the year, inhaling the fresh smell of new-mown hay and just letting Jackson Hole's breathtaking natural beauty sink deep into your soul.

It's realizing what an amazingly special place this is that lets us share and experience all this and more. And it's something the Alliance is committed to working for – making sure Jackson Hole will always have a meaning and character all its own. ■



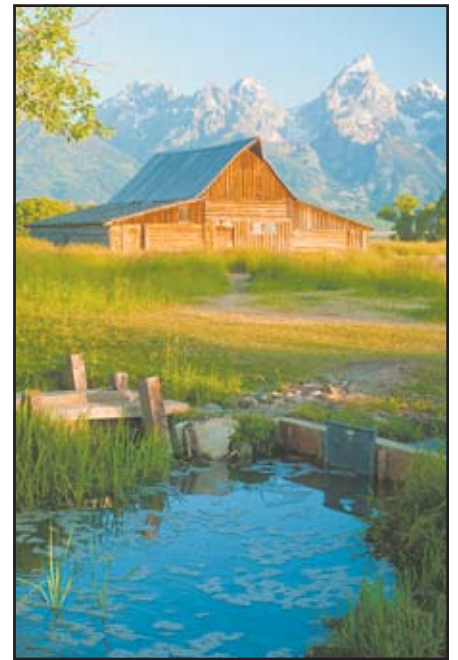
Courtesy Frank Carter



Courtesy Deanna Harger



Charles Knowles



Jeffrey Banke



Cindy Harger



Brent Paull

Going the distance

Perseverance is key – we still have a ways to go to get to a better Comp Plan.



Becky Tillson

By Kristy Bruner,
Alliance Community Planning Director

If you didn't already know, one glance at the Comp Plan timeline at right will tell you what a long haul the Comp Plan revision has been. And it looks like it's far from over.

Three rewrites and more than three years after the process began in 2007, our elected officials are finally on deck to take their swing at the themes and policies section of the latest draft plan in coming months.

What's the message they need to hear? This is it in a nutshell: **While the third draft of the Comp Plan is an improvement over the second draft, much more work needs to be done to make it better than our existing plan, and to ensure that it includes the policies needed to protect Jackson Hole's irreplaceable wildlife, scenery and community character.**

It's also essential to understand that the draft plan has still not been reviewed in its entirety. The planning commissioners decided to postpone dealing with the critical Future Land Use Plan (FLUP) section of the draft.

The 65-page FLUP was meant to make the draft plan more predictable and to provide concrete guidance for future land development regulations and land use decisions. To save wasted effort, the planning commissioners deferred their review of the FLUP in case the town and county electeds end up making major changes in the themes and

policies section. **Essentially, this postponement means that many of the really hard decisions are still ahead of us.**

Specifically, the FLUP details what types of development and conservation efforts are appropriate across 25 districts in the valley. It also provides wide ranges of expected development potential for newly proposed land-use types, and, perhaps most significantly, it includes tables that rank how seven priorities will take precedence in each of these districts. For example, community surveys showed that protecting Jackson Hole's wildlife and natural resources is our number one priority. The FLUP ranks this priority first in eight of the largest 25 districts that it divides the valley into. But it disturbingly ranks wildlife protection fourth through seventh in the remaining 17 districts – *last or next to last in 12 of those.*

Knowing that the electeds will likely make changes in the themes and policies section, it's even harder to say how the FLUP section of the draft (which is supposed to manifest the themes and policies) will play out.

Whatever the case, your input will continue to be critical throughout the next phases of the Comp Plan revision process. We'll keep you posted at www.jhalliance.org, and keep right on working for a strong plan that will protect what we all cherish about Jackson Hole – our wildlife and quality of life. Other concerns – and kudos – regarding the third draft are outlined on the next page. ■

Comp Plan timeline

July 2007: Jackson and Teton County officials kick off what they describe as “an update” of our community's Comp Plan from 1994.

Early 2008: Community surveys are conducted, which all show strong support for protecting wildlife and managing growth responsibly.

June 2008: First draft of a totally rewritten Comp Plan is released.

April 2009: Second draft comes out.

July 2009: The Jackson and Teton County planning commissions begin jointly reviewing the second draft.

May 2010: A third draft incorporating joint recommendations from the planning commissions is released.

July 2010: The planning commissioners decide to pass along the themes and policies section of the third draft (with some changes) to the Jackson Town Council and the Teton Board of County Commissioners. They also decide to hold off on reviewing the Future Land Use Plan section until after the elected officials have finished with the themes and policies.

November 2010: Earliest that the town and county electeds are expected to begin their review of the revised third draft.

The Alliance's full comments on the third draft of the Comp Plan that was released in May are all available on our website via www.jhalliance.org/library.htm#comments. (Although we don't expect major changes in the revised third draft, we'll post comments on it when it's released later this fall.)

Below are some key points that we hope the town and county elected officials keep in mind during their review. **Here's the main point: Jackson Hole deserves a Comp Plan that will preserve and protect the valley's irreplaceable wildlife and quality of life, period.**

THE GOOD

Thanks to an involved community and much work by the volunteer planning commissioners, the third (and current) Comp Plan draft:

- Identifies wildlife protection as the plan's overall top community priority.
- Upholds scenic vistas protection and rural character preservation (in the county) as top priorities.
- Recognizes that any and all growth has impacts on wildlife and natural resources.
- Includes policies and language that acknowledge that the overall amount of growth (in addition to development pattern) in the valley matters.
- Includes some language to limit growth to established development allowances, while encouraging preservation of open spaces and existing neighborhoods. (The goal allowing scattered, town-level-density nodes throughout the county has been removed for now).
- Includes language that generally suggests the need for caps on development potential.
- Includes language that our economy cannot be dependent on growth and expansion.
- Identifies wildlife and natural resources as the foundation of our economy.
- Includes language to confine development footprints to the Town of Jackson.
- Promotes alternative transportation and energy conservation measures.
- Includes some language about the importance of fiscal responsibility for impacts caused by new development. ■

Give a Buck about Jackson Hole!

The Alliance is excited to be launching a new fundraising campaign. Called "Give a Buck about Jackson Hole," our campaign strives to raise an average of just \$1 per resident of Teton County toward our Grow Slow, Grow Smart community planning work.

Our goal, therefore, is approximately \$20,000

– to be adjusted when final 2010 Census numbers are released.

As you know, in an ecosystem as unique as ours, wildlife cannot survive without strong community planning. If we as a community want to maintain our world-renowned character as a gateway to two of the nation's favorite national parks, then there's no more important time to make a difference than during the Comp Plan rewrite.

The next critical phase of comprehensive planning work is nearly upon us (a draft of core visions and policies is passing from the

THE BAD & UGLY

• While the draft plan does have some positive aspects, in many ways it's a big step backwards from our current Comp Plan from 1994.

The 1994 plan provides much more context for our community vision, more documentation of existing conditions and challenges, and more data and reference to its role in planning. It also establishes community character preservation as a basis for land development regulations, clearly spells out the rationale for specific policies and regulations, and provides a clearer framework for distinguishing between proposed regulatory versus non-regulatory actions. All these things are lacking in the new draft.

• The draft plan identifies wildlife as our community's overall top priority, but it's missing the detailed language, data, action plans and specific timelines that could direct subsequent regulations to actually protect wildlife.

• Because of existing entitlements and base property rights, Jackson Hole already has the potential to nearly double its existing housing units and commercial square footage. **Simply put, the amount of entitled but not yet built homes and businesses could double the valley's footprint and population over time. How much more expansion on top of this does our community want or need?**

The draft plan still doesn't adequately answer this question, nor does it adequately address the impacts of expansion on our community. The draft needs to connect the dots between the amount of overall expansion it permits and the consequences of that expansion.

• Many of the draft's policies, such as ones concerning the transfer of development rights and others that call for density neutrality, are unclear, incomplete and often contradictory.

• In contrast to our existing plan, community character preservation is no longer the overarching concept that ties the entire plan's goals together. It's now unclear what framework will be the underlying basis for the new land development regulations. Also, the draft needs more, not less, detail about what is meant by "community character" than the '94 plan. We can't protect something that's not defined.

• Many of the hard questions remain to be answered, particularly given that our community has not yet started a review of the Future Land Use Plan (see Page 14). Ideally, the themes and policies section would be clear enough to predictably guide the FLUP maps, but to date this has not been the case.

• The housing chapter in particular has unclear language that would leave the door open for different interpretations in the future. Affordable housing issues have been a major and often controversial factor in past land use decisions, so it's important to have as much consensus and predictability as possible within the plan to avoid contentious debates in the future. (This Comp Plan revision process was supposed to result in more predictability, not less.)

• The revision process has lacked the analyses (fiscal impacts, transportation, natural resource inventories, etc.) that are necessary for responsible comprehensive planning. ■



planning commissions into the hands of the ultimate decision makers, our elected officials). We want to make sure we will have the resources we need over the next crucial year to continue to dig in, analyze, propose solutions and alert citizens to important points in the critical planning process underway.

Please look for Give-a-Buck jars at Alli-

ance events and consider hosting a jar at your business. Or simply throw a little extra into your next regular membership donation and mark it "Give a Buck," and we'll make sure it goes toward this critical community planning fund.

Together, we've made considerable strides already in the Comp Plan process to ensure the community's highest priorities are taken into consideration. With your partnership, we will continue to build a strong plan for the future of our valley! – *Cindy Harger*



Which came first: Bigger roads or more cars?

And can our community hatch better ways to deal with traffic woes than building wider roads?

By Dorothy Jankowsky,
Alliance Communications Director

A perfect storm of traffic trouble struck Jackson Hole on July 16, 2009. Vehicles stopped or slowed to a crawl in all directions when a gas leak at the north end of Jackson shut down traffic on Highway 89, an overturned tractor trailer in the Hoback River Canyon partially blocked Highway 191, work on the Snake River Bridge held up drivers on Highway 22, and construction at Alpine Junction constricted the remaining gateway to Jackson Hole.

“There’s only a couple ways in and out of here,” a Jackson police officer was reported saying at the time. “And when there’s trouble on a couple of them, it gets to be a mess.”

Anyone stuck in that mess – or in any of the other traffic tie-ups that seem to occur with increasing frequency – can relate to how growth affects the valley’s transportation system. Expansion leads to more people and vehicles on the road, which leads to more demand for more and wider roadways. But, as with most growth-related problems, trying to grow our way out of them isn’t the answer.

The transportation chapter of the current draft of the Comp Plan states that:

- Traffic congestion and wider roads are inconsistent with the rural character and natural and scenic resource values of the community.
- Teton County’s development pattern – like

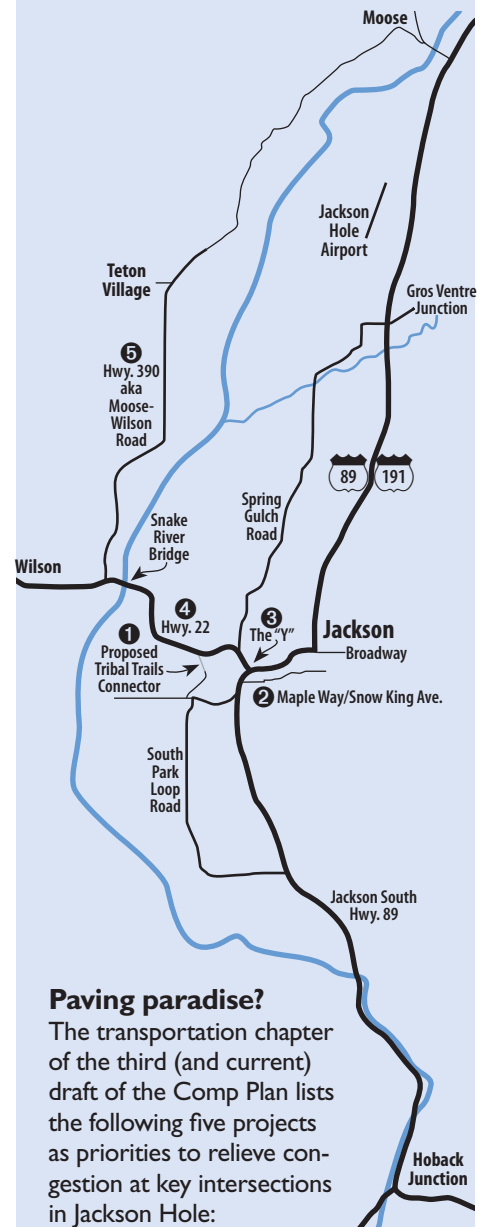
many rural, mountain communities in the West – depends upon automobiles to move people to and from services and work.

- Traffic is growing at a faster rate than population in Teton County, and traffic levels have reached capacity on many of the community’s major roadways.

The draft plan proposes to remedy these issues by “increasing alternative transportation modes” (such as START bus transit and pathways for bikes and pedestrians), “reducing reliance on single-occupancy motor vehicle travel” and “maintaining a safe, efficient, interconnected multi-modal transportation system.” However, the draft acknowledges that “Realistically, the continued convenience, affordability, availability and necessity of the automobile limits the amount of traffic reductions that will be achieved through travel mode shifts. Intersection and roadway improvements will still be required in some areas.” (See box at right.)

The Alliance agrees that increasing alternative transportation choices will help relieve some of the pressure. But we also want to point out that **making sure community development and redevelopment both occur at a reasonable rate will also reduce demands for more and bigger roads.**

If the valley’s transportation system can’t be changed to accommodate additional growth without harming our wildlife and quality of life, then the buildout permitted under the Comp Plan should be reduced accordingly. ■



Paving paradise?

The transportation chapter of the third (and current) draft of the Comp Plan lists the following five projects as priorities to relieve congestion at key intersections in Jackson Hole:

- 1 Construct the Tribal Trails Connector between Highway 22 and South Park Loop Road. (Read more about this on Page 18.)
- 2 Upgrade the Maple Way/Snow King Ave. corridor.
- 3 Reconstruct the “Y” intersection of Highway 22/89/26.
- 4 Pursue a multi-lane roadway with the Wyoming Department of Transportation on Highway 22 between Jackson and Highway 390.
- 5 Redesign Highway 390 from Highway 22 north to Teton Village.

Coupled with WYDOT’s proposed expansion of Jackson South Highway 89 to five lanes (see Page 18), we’re talking about a lot of pavement in the valley’s future.



Ever feel like a deer in the headlights?

Just imagine how the deer feel.

According to the Wyoming Department of Transportation, about one-quarter of the state highways in Teton County are slated for reconstruction and expansion in the next 10 years. What will this mean for driver safety and wildlife?

The Alliance's December 2 annual meeting will feature a special presentation on wildlife crossings. See Page 21 for details.

Road kills already take a toll on the valley's wildlife, not to mention on motorists and their vehicles. For example, WYDOT reports that between 1995 and 2004, there were 202 documented crashes in the seven-mile stretch of the Jackson South Highway 89 from the southern end of South Park Loop Road to Hoback Junction. Ninety-three of these crashes (almost half) involved animals.

Wider roads, more cars and higher traffic

speeds all increase the potential for wildlife-vehicle collisions. That's why the Alliance has begun working on a campaign to promote safe wildlife crossings.

With seed money from a 1% for the Tetons grant that we received in June,

we hope to put Jackson Hole on the road to some transportation solutions that uphold our community's priorities, such as protecting wildlife and community character, while ensuring driver safety.

The Wildlife Matters article below outlines a framework recently developed for western Montana that might work here, too. If you'd like to get involved with this effort, please contact Louise Lasley at (307) 733-9417. ■

Keeping habitats connected takes cooperation

By Dylan Taylor, Conservation Director, American Wildlands

Habitat connectivity – a critical conservation goal for wildlife managers and conservationists – faces an ongoing threat from human transportation systems. Ensuring habitat connections across roads and railways is critical to maintaining healthy populations of native wildlife. But as our roads become more traveled and development encroaches upon habitat, wildlife species face the daily challenge of finding safe places to cross. With increasing frequency, their attempts result in animal-vehicle collisions with dramatic, and often deadly, results for wildlife and drivers.

At American Wildlands, we are actively working to create solutions to this problem. Our Safe Passages program addresses the negative impact of highways on wildlife in the Northern Rockies.

In 2009, we released our *Wildlife Highway Mortality and Linkage Assessment: A Prioritization and Planning Tool for Western Montana* (available at www.wildlands.org). We initiated this effort to create a rapid assessment to help transportation planning agencies identify and prioritize sites for wildlife-motorist safety projects in western Montana. Our assessment incorporated expertise from multiple collaborators, as well as the best available wildlife linkage and animal-vehicle collision data. This in-depth analysis highlighted locations where numerous collisions coincided with important wildlife linkage areas.



Collaboration was the key to this process and resulted in a comprehensive, highly usable planning product. By including a diverse range of stakeholders – the Montana Departments of Transportation and Fish, Wildlife and Parks, the U.S. Forest Service, and numerous county and conservation organizations – we were able to expertly refine our analysis methodology, clarify potential obstacles, find opportunities, and identify on-the-ground sites for future collaboration and wildlife conservation activities. Without the participation of these important partners, our effort would not have had legs.

American Wildlands continues to facilitate this group as we work to create a shared statewide roadkill database, increase wildlife-transportation cooperation between various stakeholders, and create an agency-led wildlife and transportation committee.

Based on the success of our collaboration, we highly recommend this strategy to communities struggling with the interface between transportation planning and wildlife movement needs. The methods and working group process outlined in our assessment were designed to be easily replicated. For Teton County stakeholders, adoption of a similar cooperative framework could lead to an effective, practical decision-support tool to make area roads safer for wildlife and people. ■

The Wildlife Matters Campaign is supported by EcoTour Adventures, Skinny Skis and Patagonia, Inc.

In addition to the items discussed on previous pages, the Alliance keeps track of numerous other community planning matters affecting the valley. Below are some of them; please check our monthly Alliance Action e-newsletters, available via www.jhalliance.org/library.htm, for more.

Jackson South Highway 89 final EIS due out ‘soon’

Wyoming Department of Transportation officials now say that the final environmental impact statement on the expansion of Hwy. 26/89/289/191 from south of Jackson to Hoback Junction is due out early this fall. (It was expected in May.) The draft EIS proposed two disappointing 5-lane alternatives for this 7-mile section of road, and it’s unlikely there will be any pleasant surprises in the final EIS. From the time this project was first raised many years ago, the Alliance has opposed making the highway five lanes wide, given the impacts it would have on wildlife and community character. (We have supported a modified 3-lane alternative.) Moving forward, the Alliance will work to ensure that the best possible wildlife mitigation measures are incorporated into this project’s design. We’ll also continue to question the need for a 5-lane highway throughout this section of road and to explore other options.

Tribal Trails Connector back in the news

The Tribal Trails Connector is a proposed new road that would link the northern part of South Park Loop Road to Hwy. 22, roughly paralleling the bike path southeast of the entrance to Teton Science Schools. For years now, Jackson and Teton County have discussed building this road, which would allow vehicles to bypass the “Y” intersection of Hwy. 22 and Broadway. Recent studies have indicated that this connector could relieve existing and future traffic congestion at the Y, but modeling for the studies appears to have been based on inaccurate regional growth projections. Modeling is only as good as the assumptions on which it’s based, and because our community is still discussing questions regarding growth as part of our ongoing Comp Plan revision, the assumptions for development patterns in South Park may well change. The Alliance believes that before any decisions are made about the Tribal Trails Connector, specific recommendations for traffic improvements in the South Park area should be based on our new Comp Plan. Another concern is that the streets the connector will link to are not designed to carry other than local neighborhood traffic. We also believe problems with the Y intersection should be fixed before new roads are built in the area.

Melody Ranch gravel pit gets 10-year special use permit

As long as we continue to build more roads in Teton County, we’re going to need gravel, which will have to come from somewhere. Exactly where has been the subject of debate for years, and the county’s 2009 gravel study outlined several options, including the Melody Ranch pit. In July, the Teton County commissioners approved a special use permit for this pit that will allow operations to continue for at least another 10 years. The new permit does include some mitigation, but it’s important to remember that the Melody Ranch development was initially approved based on preserving certain areas, including where the pit is, for open space, wildlife and scenic values, not for a long-term industrial operation.

County approves River Crossing expansion

In June, the Teton Board of County Commissioners voted to approve plans for the River Crossing Church expansion, which allows buildings with a combined total size bigger than Albertsons in the Rafter J residential neighborhood. Several commissioners said they felt they had little choice but to approve the proposal because records of past approvals regarding River Crossing’s development plans were unclear, and the county regulations governing such development aren’t clear, either. This highlights the need for more explicit land development regulations for our community – regulations that will actually uphold community priorities as well as increase predictability for decision makers, the public and landowners.

JH Golf & Tennis master plan amendment sought

This fall, Teton County is expected to consider an application to change Jackson Hole Golf & Tennis Resort’s master plan so that dogs would be allowed in the resort’s affordable housing development. While the Alliance is supportive of both dogs and affordable housing in the Jackson Hole community, we also support keeping the master plan as it is. Prohibiting dogs in this affordable housing development was a condition of its approval, meant to help mitigate the development’s high-density impacts in a sensitive area for wildlife. Backing out on this commitment now would set a bad precedent and lead to the erosion of protections for wildlife.

Natural Resources Technical Advisory Board okayed

In June, 10 months after first considering an environmental advisory board, the Jackson Town Council and Teton Board of County Commissioners jointly approved a resolution to create one. As approved, the board will be appointed by town and county electeds, who will decide what issues the board considers – a departure from initial proposals that the group be self-directed. Basically, the volunteer board will interpret existing science on the health of the area’s ecosystem, identify data gaps, analyze existing policy and work with planning staff to improve policies and policy-making, but only as directed by the electeds. While this falls short of the originally proposed intent for the board to assess our ecosystem’s overall health, to consider cumulative impacts of development and to be free to set its own research priorities, we hope that its role will evolve as time goes by.

Town considers major zoning change

In July, the Jackson Town Council directed the planning staff to prepare a text amendment that would allow accessory units within the auto-urban residential zoning district to be sold separately to independent owners. (One single-family residence and two accessory-residential units are allowed on single lots in this district, but current regulations stipulate that all three structures must be owned by one owner.) They also decided that similar changes to three more districts – the business conservation, auto-urban commercial (within the lodging overlay) and possibly mobile home park zoning districts – should also be included in the discussion. Together, these zones cover a huge portion of downtown Jackson, and they’re a source of affordable rentals, so there’s concern that this zoning change could inflate housing prices and displace workers. The proposed amendment would ostensibly open up homeownership opportunities to more people; however, the assumption that smaller homes are necessarily more affordable has been disproved time and again in desirable Jackson Hole, unless some sort of deed restriction is attached to the property. The timing of possible changes before the new Comp Plan is finalized is also a concern. Formal review of the new text amendment is expected to begin in October.

Town enacts moratorium on planned mixed-use tool

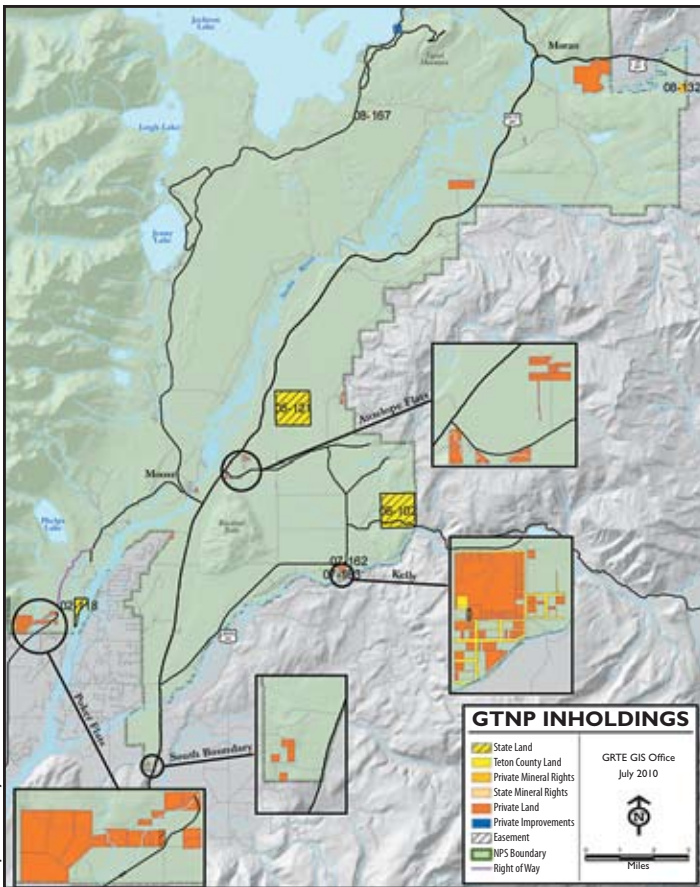
In a surprising but welcome turnaround, in April the Jackson Town Council unanimously enacted an emergency one-year moratorium on the planned mixed-use development tool. During the three-plus years since the Comp Plan revision started, the Alliance twice asked town officials to consider a moratorium on the flawed tool, which allows increased development potential in exchange for questionable community benefits. (The fact that the Jackson Town Council was approving PMDs during the revision contributed to development pressures that undermined the process. A Comp Plan can’t protect something that’s already gone.) What’s next – changes to the tool, or a repeal? We’ll keep you posted.

County cuts PUD-AH and PUD-Planned Resort tools

In another positive step for the Comp Plan revision process, in March the Teton County commissioners voted to eliminate two unpredictable planning tools – the Planned Unit Development-Affordable Housing and Planned Unit Development-Planned Resort tools – from existing regulations. ■



Map courtesy Grand Teton National Park



The hash-marked yellow squares on the map above show the two state-owned school trust sections in Teton Park.

Fate of two square miles of state-owned land in Grand Teton National Park still uncertain

Earlier this summer, Gov. Dave Freudenthal stated that unless the federal government came up with a deal to buy the land, Wyoming might auction off two state-owned square-mile parcels within Grand Teton National Park to private developers.

Known as state school trust lands, the parcels are supposed to generate funds for Wyoming’s public schools. They’re also supposed to be “managed for maximum profit.” However, for this land that’s estimated to be worth more than \$100 million, the state is only getting about \$3,000 a year in grazing leases.

Wyoming has tried to negotiate a fair trade for the parcels with the federal government for the past 10 years, and Freudenthal’s gambit to apply some pressure seems to be working. On August 25, he announced that he had met with federal officials, and “we put together a transaction” that was “certainly positive enough that I don’t feel obligated to go put up a ‘for sale’ sign.”

Although details are still sketchy, it’s likely that the Wyoming Legislature and U.S. Congress would have to sign off on at least part of such a deal, so we encourage you to add to the arm-twisting for a successful trade. Please let state and federal legislators know that offering public lands for private development – especially in Grand Teton National Park – is an option that’s simply unacceptable. Their contact information is available on Page 4. ■

Alliance public lands committee revived

To help keep people informed about issues affecting the public lands surrounding Jackson Hole, the Alliance has revived a committee that’s meeting each month or so at 685 S. Cache at noon for informal discussions. Contact Louise Lasley, Alliance public lands director, at (307) 733-9417 or Louise@jhalliance.org if you’d like to participate, or look for dates of the meetings on our website at www.jhalliance.org/events.htm and just stop by.

Busy fall expected...

In addition to the Jackson South Highway 89 analysis discussed on Page 18, several other long-awaited National Environmental Policy Act studies are expected to be released this fall, and we urge you to keep checking www.jhalliance.org for updates on how you can comment on them. These studies include: The proposed Bridger-Teton land sale and headquarters relocation; the Jackson Hole Airport 20-year lease extension; the Hoback Wells proposal by Plains Energy to develop a 136-well natural gas field near Bondurant; and the final analysis regarding contested energy development leases on nearly 45,000 acres of prime wildlife habitat in the Wyoming Range. We’ll post details on our website on each study as soon as they are released. For background information on these issues, check our recent monthly *Alliance Action* e-newsletters and previous *Alliance News* magazines, all available via www.jhalliance.org/library.htm.

New forest planning rules due out in December

Forest Service officials say they’re finalizing new rules that will determine how and for what purposes our nation’s forests will be managed for years to come, and they expect to release a draft environmental impact statement on the rules in December. A formal public comment period will follow, during which we’ll have another chance to tell them that we want the health and vitality of wildlife and their habitat to take precedence over extractive uses, such as energy development, mining, logging and grazing. Information about the process is available at <http://fs.usda.gov/planningrule> or you can sign up to receive periodic email updates at www.fs.fed.us/news/pr-listserv-subscribe.html. Hopefully, this process will result in a new plan that will remove uncertainties about how to approach forest planning – uncertainties that have stalled revisions to the Bridger-Teton National Forest’s 20-year-old management plan.

Bridger-Teton seeks input on Snake River plan

In March 2009, passage of the Craig Thomas Snake River Headwaters Legacy Act brought some 400 miles of the Snake and its tributaries under the protection of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. Now, Bridger-Teton officials are working on a plan to manage the waterways covered by this legislation, and they’d like your help. Details on how you can participate are available at www.snakeheadwatersact.com and www.fs.fed.us/r4/btnf/wild_scenic.

Teton to Snake fuels management project proposed

The Bridger-Teton is working on a project intended to reduce the danger of forest fires next to residences from Teton Village south along the Fish/Fall Creek Road corridor to Snake River Canyon. Approximately 23,000 acres are being considered for fuel-reduction within an 80,000-acre swath. A meeting was held in July to begin gathering public input; we’ll keep you posted at www.jhalliance.org on other chances to comment as they’re scheduled.

Plan to produce plutonium-238 alarms downwinders

As reported in the June 30 *Jackson Hole News&Guide*, the U.S. Department of Energy is seeking money to produce plutonium-238 – a highly toxic radioisotope used to provide power for space missions, among other things – in a 47-year-old reactor at the Idaho National Laboratory 90 miles west of Jackson Hole. Since our valley is downwind of INL, this raises concerns. Kit DesLauriers, interim executive director of Keep Yellowstone Nuclear Free, says the group is following this issue and will post information at <http://www.yellowstonenuclearfree.com> as it develops. ■

Protections restored for Northern Rockies wolves

On August 5, U.S. District Judge Donald Molloy put the Northern Rockies gray wolf population back on the endangered species list. He decided that the Endangered Species Act does not allow the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to remove federal protection of wolves in Idaho and Montana while keeping protections for wolves in Wyoming.

Molloy ruled in a case that a coalition of conservation groups (including the Alliance) filed in June 2009 against the Fish and Wildlife Service for its April 2009 decision delisting wolves in Montana and Idaho. Essentially, Molloy ruled that wolves in Wyoming, Idaho and Montana have to be either all under federal protection, or all under state management plans that ensure the viability of the species.

This welcome ruling validates the coalition's stance that wolves must be managed as one population across the Northern Rockies. It may also result in Montana and Idaho putting pressure on Wyoming to reject its current wolf management plan – which basically classifies wolves as predators that can be killed on sight throughout most of the state. A better plan would give wolves trophy game status statewide, in which case people who wanted to kill wolves would have to apply for a hunting license to do so. (Wyoming's detrimental plan is the reason Fish and Wildlife had kept federal protections for wolves in the state.)

Throughout the inevitable challenges that will likely follow this ruling, the Alliance will continue to work toward our goal of having the Wyoming Legislature eliminate the wolf predator zone and designate the entire state (excluding national parks) a trophy game zone. We'll also keep encouraging the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to use the best available science in managing wolves so as to assure their long-term viability, including consistent interconnections between the wolves in Idaho, Montana and Wyoming. Visit www.jhalliance.org/issueswolves.htm for more info. ■

Yellowstone grizzlies still at risk

Conservationists were heartened last September when a federal judge reinstated Endangered Species Act protections for grizzlies in the Yellowstone region. The judge agreed that state laws were inadequate to protect the bears, which face threats including the decline of a key food source, whitebark pine nuts. However, on August 9, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Safari Club International filed an appeal seeking to once again delist the species. Fish and Wildlife officials removed federal protections for the area's roughly 600 grizzlies in 2007; the species had been classified as threatened for the previous 32 years. That delisting sparked two challenges, one resulting in last year's reinstatement of protections and another one filed by the Alliance and other groups that is still pending. Meanwhile, this past July, in an arguably antipodal move, the Fish and Wildlife Service decided that whitebark pine could be in danger of extinction and has called for a full review of the species. Bark beetles and blister rust have ravaged the pines in recent years, resulting in millions of acres of dead trees across the west. We'll keep you posted on both issues at www.jhalliance.org. ■

Judge rules Fish and Wildlife excluded large areas from critical lynx habitat

In 2000, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service designated Canada lynx as threatened under the Endangered Species Act. Because the service made this designation without also designating critical habitat for lynx, the rule was challenged. In response, in 2009 Fish and Wildlife issued a final rule that designated some 39,000 square miles in Maine, Minnesota, Montana, Idaho, Washington and Wyoming as critical habitat. This action was also challenged in two separate suits. Conservation organizations claimed in a case filed in Montana that the critical area doesn't include all of the habitat it should. The second case, filed in Wyoming by snowmobile associations, claimed that too much land was included in the designation. (The Alliance joined other conservation organizations as an intervenor in the Wyoming case.) In July, a federal judge ruled in the Montana case that areas had been illegally excluded as critical lynx habitat in Montana, Idaho and Colorado, and ordered Fish and Wildlife to revise their final rule. The Wyoming case is set to be heard this fall. ■

Efforts to reduce spread of wildlife diseases on the Elk Refuge continue

The Alliance, Greater Yellowstone Coalition, National Wildlife Refuge Association, Defenders of Wildlife and Wyoming Outdoor Council joined forces in 2008 to dispute a final decision made by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on a plan to manage elk and bison on the National Elk Refuge. We argued that the plan needed to have a set timeline for ending the refuge's feeding program, which leads to the spread of brucellosis and hoof rot, and leaves the elk herd vulnerable to chronic wasting disease. In April, a federal judge ruled against us, stating that a set end time wasn't necessary, since the Refuge did plan on eventually ending the program. Earthjustice has filed an appeal of this decision on behalf of the coalition. ■

Wyoming governor protects sage grouse 'core areas' to avert ESA listing

In March, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service found that sage grouse protection under the Endangered Species Act was warranted, but that other more critical species were a priority. Meanwhile, Wyoming Gov. Dave Freudenthal has established sage grouse protections on some 16 million acres of the state to preempt the bird's listing as an endangered species. (If sage grouse are listed, it could play havoc with the state's energy-development-dependent economy.) Stay tuned to www.jhalliance.org for updates. ■



Wolves are wildlife, too.

It's true. Wolves are carnivores.

Here are some other truths:

- Even with wolves, bears and cougars in the area, the Jackson Elk Herd has been above the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission's objectives for two decades.
- The majority of elk herds in the state are also above the population objectives set by Wyoming Game and Fish officials.
- The reintroduction of wolves to the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem in 1995 helped restore a balance that existed for thousands of years prior to the wolves' extermination in the early 1900s.
- To keep this balance, Wyoming needs to use the best available science for a wolf management plan that will work for the health of all species, predator and prey alike.

Want more wolf facts?

Visit www.jhalliance.org/wolves.pdf.



Jackson Hole Conservation Alliance
Partnering for a wild & beautiful valley since 1979
(307) 733-9417 • www.jhalliance.org

We ran the above ad this past winter to help keep people informed about the often contentious wolf issue.

COMING EVENTS

In addition to the Wild & Scenic Environmental Film Festival, the Alliance is hosting a variety of events this fall, including our free Info Lunches at noon the third Wednesday of each month at 685 S. Cache St. For the most current information on events of interest to our members, please visit www.jhalliance.org/events.htm, and also check out the following:

WYOPASS Conference

The Wyoming Planning Association is holding its fall conference, titled "The Last of the Old West," at Snow King Resort in Jackson **October 6-8**. Prices (including a discount for locals), registration details and the conference schedule are available at www.wyopass.org. The Alliance will be leading two panels, one on grassroots involvement in local politics and the other on wildlife management and public lands. Questions? Contact organizer Jeff Noffsinger at Jeff.Noffsinger@hotmail.com or (307) 699-0013.

Election Day

Those candidates who support a wild and beautiful Jackson Hole will be elected only if you vote for them on Tuesday, **November 2**. See Pages 8-11 for more information.

Alliance Annual Meeting

Please save the evening of Thursday, **December 2**, for the Alliance's annual membership meeting and featured speaker, Jon Beckmann. Co-editor of a new book titled *Safe Passages: Highways, Wildlife and Habitat Connectivity*, Beckmann will share the latest information on the emerging science of road ecology as it relates to mitigating interactions between roads and wildlife. The event will be held at St. John's Episcopal Church Parish Hall, 170 N. Glenwood. More details will be available at www.jhalliance.org/events.htm as the date approaches.

Highlands & Islands of Scotland

You're invited to join us for a fundraising field trip to Scotland, **June 17-25, 2011**, through Lindblad Expeditions and National Geographic. We'll cruise in classic luxury aboard *Lord of the Glens*. Immerse yourself in Scotland's history and culture. Visit pubs, hike, bike or take nature walks while in port. Booking through the Alliance, including a \$400 donation, saves you money compared to Lindblad's published fares. Prices begin at \$6,138 for double occupancy. Please contact Lisa Rullman at (307) 733-9417 or Lisa@jhalliance.org for details. ■



Courtesy STRCL Wild & Scenic Environmental Film Festival

The farmer filmmakers of *Big River* traded their combine for a canoe and set out to document the impacts that their acre of corn has had on the people and places downstream.

Environmental films encourage action

Wild & Scenic Film Festival takes place October 15.

By **Becky Tillson**, *Alliance Outreach/Community Planning Associate*

This Fall, the Alliance is once again partnering with Patagonia and Skinny Skis to bring highlights from one of the largest environmental film festivals in the United States back to Jackson!

Come on over to the Pink Garter Theatre, 50 W. Broadway in downtown Jackson, at 7 p.m. on Friday, October 15, for the Wild & Scenic Environmental Film Festival. An eclectic mix of inspiring films, adventure chronicles and calls to action, this festival features something for everyone. It offers gems ranging from *Generations: A Perspective of Climate Change* produced by Jackson Hole's own Teton Gravity Research, to a two-minute piece that asks, "Can we get more people to take the stairs instead of the escalator by making it fun to do?"

The festival was begun by the California-based South Yuba River Citizens League to promote strong communities and explore environmental issues through film. It grew

to be the largest event of its kind in America, and now it sends its best films on the road in partnership with other grassroots organizations and businesses.

Fun door and raffle prizes, refreshments and good company will be available both before the 7 p.m. show and at intermission.

This year, we're also hosting two free programs for kids – one in the morning for elementary school classes and one in the afternoon open to the public – highlighting films made by and for young people.

Tickets for the evening event are \$15 and will be on sale beginning October 1 at Valley Books, 125 N. Cache; at the Alliance office, 685 S. Cache; and online via www.jhalliance.org/join.htm. They'll also be sold at the door, where, if you sign up for an Alliance membership, you'll get in for free! Please contact Becky Tillson at (307) 733-9417 or Rebecca@jhalliance.org for more information. Don't miss this one-day-only event! ■

Film Fest Evening Program:

The Fun Theory: Piano Stairs
Big River
Flathead Wild
Greenhorns
Ascending the Giants
Split Estate
Generations

Free Kids' Program:

Every Day at School
Why Don't We Ride Zebras?
Wombat
The Plastic Perils of the Pacific
Ride of the Mergansers
Young Voices on Climate Change
V is for Volunteer

Welcome, New Board Members!



Continuing her years-long commitment to conserving the nation's public lands, recently retired Bridger-Teton National Forest Supervisor **Kniffy Hamilton** joined the Alliance board in August.

"I'm delighted to be on the board of this very active conservation group, which works to protect the wildlife and natural resources that make this part of Wyoming such a treasure," she says.

Hamilton retired in early June after 30 years of government service, more than 10 spent as forest supervisor of the 3.4-million-acre Bridger-Teton. During her tenure, Hamilton's work with conservation organizations, other agencies and the Jackson Hole community to keep lands in the upper Gros Ventre and the Wyoming Range safe from energy development has been a major factor in keeping the area's wildlife diverse and abundant. She also

Growing up on the outskirts of Richmond, Virginia, **Taylor Phillips** spent a lot of time in the beautiful Blue Ridge Mountains. "Early on, I developed a deep connection with the natural world," he says. "But I also saw firsthand the results of sprawl and urbanization of a once rural location," a fate he hopes this valley won't share.

After graduating from Eckerd College, Taylor first visited Jackson Hole in 2002, when "with the balsamroot in full bloom, the bison roaming Antelope Flats and the Tetons piercing the heavens, my heart rose as I knew I had found a new home."

"I immediately appreciated the unique wild character that remains here," he says. "We have something special and we need to keep it."

Since then, he's put his degree in environmental studies and philosophy to use in jobs ranging from varied positions at Teton Science Schools to guiding for the Hole Hiking Experience to creating his own business, EcoTour Adventures. Taylor also found time for a 76-day Alaskan adventure, kayaking the entire 2,000-mile Yukon River with three friends, a trip



Looking after people's well-being is second nature for recently retired health care administrator **Shirley Thomas**. Now, since joining the Conservation Alliance board in early 2010, she's helping to care for an entire ecosystem.

A registered nurse with a bachelor's degree in community health education and a master's in health care administration, Shirley first became involved with the Alliance in the mid-1990s through her daughter, Heather (Thomas) Overholser. (Although

Heather left the staff a while ago, she was a longtime Alliance employee who's now head of Teton County's recycling and solid waste program.)

"I've remained a member ever since," says Shirley, "and I'm excited to be able to share some of my knowledge and passion for our wonderful com-

spearheaded efforts to help the Teton Park pronghorn herd by protecting its migration corridor between Jackson Hole and Sublette County.

A wildlife biologist by profession, Hamilton worked for the Bureau of Land Management for almost 20 years in various jobs before moving to Jackson and her position with the Forest Service in 1999.

"One of my core values is to work collaboratively with people to accomplish goals and objectives," Kniffy says, adding that as an Alliance director, she'll work to motivate the community to "take action in sustaining the quality of life we have in this unique ecosystem."

"Maintaining open space, providing affordable housing for our workforce, limiting gas development in critical wildlife and recreation areas, and protecting habitat for large predators including wolves and grizzly bears are key issues," she adds. "Using sound science is the key for finding solutions to these issues."

A native of Colorado, Kniffy graduated from Colorado State University in Fort Collins with a degree in Biological Sciences and Secondary Education. She enjoys hiking, boating, cross-country skiing, exercising and playing with her three young granddaughters. ■

he calls "a turning point of my life."

"By experiencing the wildlife, natural sounds and solitude, I realized even more how the natural world needs to be cared for," he says. This led to his commitment to work for sustainable ecotourism, and to join the Alliance's board in April 2010. As a director, Taylor wants to engage younger community members in conservation issues. "A large part of Jackson Hole's population recreates in and enjoys the outdoors, and if they see that it can be jeopardized then they will start to care," he says. "Many of them do care but don't know how or aren't inspired to act. I hope to change that."

Taylor's other passions include backcountry skiing, biking, hiking, backpacking, fly-fishing and wildlife photography. ■



munity as a member of the board of this great organization."

Shirley spent most of the past 10 years telecommuting from her Melody Ranch home to her job as director of the Solaris Physician Network in New Jersey; she retired in 2010. Her husband Daniel, a teacher at Jackson Hole High School since 2001, also recently retired, giving the couple more time to become involved in the community.

Shirley believes that the biggest issue facing Jackson Hole is "our development dilemma in a world that presses us to think only of the financial and to forget about the environmental impacts of our actions."

"I hope that I can be someone who can discuss the pros and cons of our development issues and work toward making our town and county truly sustainable," she adds. Besides the Alliance, Shirley serves on the Eco-Fair planning committee and also volunteers for the Center for the Arts, the Grand Teton Music Festival and the recycling center. In her spare time, she enjoys hiking, skiing, watercolor painting, photography and cultivating her organic vegetable garden. ■

Executive Director Search Update: Board Treasurer Nancy Hoffman and her committee have been working diligently in search of our next executive director. Meanwhile, we continue to rely heavily upon our seasoned and experienced staff during this process, and the work of the Alliance continues to exceed expectations, as you see by the reports of our program activities in this magazine. Please don't hesitate to contact us at (307) 733-9417 if you have questions about our search efforts or would like to share your thoughts with a board or staff member. ■



Photo courtesy of the Sobeyes

Pegi and Doug Sobey celebrate yet another adventure.

Leaving a Legacy

Experienced backcountry hikers Pegi and Doug Sobey have had many exhilarating encounters with wildlife, including grizzly bears in Grand Teton, Yellowstone and Katmai national parks.

As longtime supporters of the Jackson Hole Conservation Alliance (Pegi chairs the Alliance board), they are also founding members of the Alliance Legacy Circle, a special group of people who have expressed their commitment to protecting wildlife by including the Alliance in their estate plans.

In addition to establishing a Charitable Remainder Trust, the Sobeyes have also named the Alliance as beneficiary of their IRA, as well as designated a portion of their estate to benefit the Alliance.

In their words: "We want to leave a legacy to support the wildlife and wild places that have sustained us throughout our lives. The Alliance is our trusted guardian to protect the spectacular, yet vulnerable, natural resources that set this region apart, for generations to come."

If you'd like information on including the Alliance in your estate plans, please contact Development Director Lisa Rullman at (307) 733-9417 or Lisa@jhalliance.org. Thank you! ■

Win a great rug!

What do 15 Jackson Hole women, high-quality wool and trout have in common? The Jackson Hole Conservation Alliance Trout Rug Raffle!

Only 300 chances for this one-of-a-kind, heirloom-quality, beautiful, hand-stitched rug will be sold. The drawing will be in September 2011 or when all 300 tickets have been sold, whichever comes first. Tickets are \$100 each.

To purchase yours, please stop by the Alliance office at 685 S. Cache St. in Jackson, call Lisa Rullman at (307) 733-9417, or order them online via www.jhalliance.org/join.htm.



David J. Swift

Take a chance – this heirloom 39" by 66" rug could be yours for only \$100!

All proceeds support the Alliance's work to sustain our unique community by standing up for the valley's wildlife and quality of life. ■

Combined Federal Campaign underway

If you work for the federal government (or know someone who does), please consider the Jackson Hole Conservation Alliance for your Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) donation.

The Alliance is an approved charity in the 2010 Intermountain Campaign, which last year raised more than \$2.6 million for charities in Utah, western Colorado, eastern Idaho and Wyoming. Open to federal employees throughout the nation, the CFC is the largest, most successful workplace fundraising model in the world.

Your CFC donation to the Alliance will directly support work to protect and enhance the public lands, wildlife and natural resources of Jackson Hole, including our efforts to keep the Bridger-Teton National Forest headquarters in the valley. For more information about the campaign, visit www.opm.gov/cfc. ■

Help keep Jackson Hole wild and beautiful ~ join us!

Please visit www.jhalliance.org/join.htm for details or to join online, or simply cut out and mail in this form. Thanks!

Name _____ E-mail _____

Mailing Address _____

Member, \$30 Family, \$50 Friend, \$200 Patron, \$350 Benefactor, \$1,000 Guarantor, \$5,000 Protector, \$10,000

Please make your check payable to: Jackson Hole Conservation Alliance, P.O. Box 2728, Jackson, WY 83001

The Alliance is a 501(c)(3) organization. Gifts are tax-deductible. Our nonprofit tax ID number is 83-0245647. We don't publish names of donors.

I have remembered the Conservation Alliance in my will/estate planning. Please contact me about planned giving.

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The Jackson Hole Conservation Alliance is dedicated to responsible land stewardship in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, to ensure that human activities are in harmony with the area's irreplaceable wildlife, scenic, and other natural resources.

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KRISTY BRUNER, *Community Planning Director*
GAIL FUSTOS, *Finance Manager*
DOROTHY JANKOWSKY, *Communications Director*
LOUISE LASLEY, *Public Lands Director*
HEATHER MATHEWS, *Office Manager*
LISA RULLMAN, *Development Director*
BECKY TILLSON, *Outreach/Community Planning Associate*