



Jackson Hole Conservation Alliance
(307) 733-9417 • www.jhalliance.org

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Upcoming Speaker Series *Next Steps: Exploring Solutions for Jackson Hole* To Inform Comp Plan Update

(JACKSON, WYO.) As the Jackson/Teton County Comprehensive Planning process proceeds, a number of issues, such as conservation, affordable housing, and fiscal impacts, have emerged as vital to the adoption and effectiveness of the forthcoming plan. This November, the Jackson Hole Conservation Alliance presents the first two installments in an informative speaker series to aid our community's Comp Plan update. This speaker series is funded in part by The Community Foundation of Jackson Hole.

As we move from identifying community values to figuring out how to protect those values, it's important to look at lessons learned elsewhere. What can other communities tell us about how we should approach the challenging issues ahead? This speaker series aims to help our community further understand and discuss the issues facing Jackson/Teton County as well as explore appropriate and effective solutions.

The first installment of the *Next Steps* series, "Making Wildlife Data Available for County Planning: An Example from the Madison Valley," will take place on Wednesday, Nov. 12. The Wildlife Conservation Society will present a case study of a conservation assessment they conducted in Montana's Madison Valley. Researchers will give an overview of this project and explain how a similar research framework and methodology could be used here in Jackson Hole.

To meet diverse schedules, there will be two opportunities, at both 3 and 7 p.m. The 3 p.m. presentation will provide a more detailed overview of conservation assessment methods and methods for identifying "focal species" as conservation targets. The 3 p.m. presentation will take place at the Teton County Public Library, 125 Virginian Lane. For those that can't make it to the afternoon presentation, we will hold a more general discussion in the evening, at 7 p.m., in the Conservation Alliance conference room, 685 S. Cache. Both presentations and discussions will provide an excellent forum to introduce questions, concerns and potential solutions for Jackson Hole. The Wildlife Conservation Society will be featured at both events, and both are free and open to the public.

The second installment of the *Next Steps* series, "Protecting Our Community: Housing Working Families," will take place on Friday, Nov. 14. The Conservation Alliance and the Teton County Housing Authority are partnering to bring in three national affordable

housing experts. Topics will include: the impacts and consequences of higher mitigation rates, finding the right mix for rental and ownership affordable housing, long-term impacts of converting rental housing inventory (to ownership), and producing affordable housing with Jackson Hole's unique context in mind. The primary component will be Q & A for the public; therefore all the topics and questions community members bring to the table will be part of the discussion.

The event will take place from noon to 2 p.m. at Hansen Hall in St. John's Episcopal Church. Bring a bag lunch and your questions. Beverages and light snacks will be provided.

The speaker series *Next Steps: Exploring Solutions for Jackson Hole* provides opportunities for planners, elected officials, non-profit organizations and local citizens to learn about what other communities have done when faced with issues such as affordable housing and conservation-based planning, just as Jackson faces those questions now.

“As the next draft of the Jackson/Teton County Comprehensive Plan is being prepared for release for public comment, it is an important time for the public to bring up questions and comments about some of the largest issues we face,” said Kristy Bruner, the Conservation Alliance’s Community Planning Director. “It is also important to have the opportunity to learn from the experiences of similar regional communities in an effort to make our new plan both highly effective and sensitive to diverse perspectives.”

“As the process moves forward we are all in a position to be as informed as possible and to make our voices heard. With a better understanding of lessons learned elsewhere, our community will be all the more equipped to positively influence the Comp Plan Update,” said Kristy Bruner.

For more information about the events please contact the Jackson Hole Conservation Alliance at (307) 733-9417.

Details in Brief

Event: Kickoff - The Jackson Hole Conservation Alliance Community Planning Speaker Series *Next Steps: Exploring Solutions for Jackson Hole*

Dates and Times: Nov. 12, 3 to 5 p.m and 7 p.m. & Nov. 14, Noon to 2 p.m.

Locations: Teton County Public Library, Jackson Hole Conservation Alliance, Hansen Hall at St. John’s Episcopal Church

Cost: Free

More Info: Jackson Hole Conservation Alliance, (307) 733-9417, kristy@jhalliance.org

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