

FINAL - Minutes of Teton County Wildlife Advisory Committee Meeting 11/2/2022

Committee Members in Attendance: Jeff Klausmann, Kathy O'Neil, Tamara Sperber, Wray Landon, Mike Lien, Linda Unland

Staff in Attendance: Rob Marin

Meeting was called to order at 3:08 pm

1. Minutes. Minutes of October 14, 2022 Advisory Committee meeting were approved.
2. County Wildlife Overlay Maps. Rob Marin provided a preliminarily updated Natural Resources Overlay(NRO)map based on the Summary of Fish and Wildlife Resources in Teton County, Idaho as prepared by Idaho Fish and Game and new data from Fish and Game, April 2022. In addition, the Teton Regional Land Trust(TRLT) provided updated data on Sandhill Cranes to be included in the revised NRO. Remaining information to be included is further waterbird breeding information from the TRLT. It was decided that this committee will wait to make final recommendations on the NRO until it is adjusted for waterbirds. At that time, the committee will call a special meeting to approve all of the changes to the NRO. Once approved by the committee, the revised NRO will be submitted to the Board of County Commissioners for their approval. Bear Conflict Zones were discussed, and it was agreed that we need to contact Fish and Game for updated information and that we would proceed with the revised NRO before obtaining this information.
3. Policy for Natural Resource Technical Reviews. Just to review prior discussions, it was agreed that if a project is in any wildlife overlay, any and all indicator species and habitats must be considered by developers. At our October committee meeting, we agreed to reach out to Teton County, Wyoming and Blaine County, Idaho to determine how they have developed their policies pertaining to wildlife overlays and assembling and vetting "experts" to complete studies required if a project were to fall in an NRO. Jeff Klausmann reached out to Teton County, Wyoming and is waiting to hear back from them. Kathy O'Neil contacted Blaine County and is also waiting to hear back from them. The questions we are trying to ascertain are: How does their process work; how do they determine who is qualified to do the studies; how do they vet them; do they have any resident professionals on their staff to handle some of this. We will hope to have some feedback from these two counties by our next committee meeting.
4. New Business. Possible new agenda Item: It was suggested that the committee look at the feasibility of Teton County, Idaho preparing a "Mountain Neighbor" booklet as was just completed in Jackson. A booklet for living in this county and living with wildlife.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:40 pm