

FINAL - Teton County Wildlife Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes, October 14, 2022

Committee Member in Attendance: Jeff Klausmann, Kathy O'Neil, Renee Seidler, Linda Unland

County Staff in Attendance: Rob Marin

The meeting was called to order at 1:15 pm by Chairman, Jeff Klausmann

1. Voting members of the committee were confirmed to determine that there was a quorum today. The voting members of the committee are: Jeff Klausmann, Kathy O'Neil, Renee Seidler, Linda Unland, Allison Michalski, Mike Lien and Tamara Sperber.

2. Review of County Natural Resource Overlay (NRO). Rob Marin, the county's GIS specialist, brought the current NRO map and a map reflecting wildlife habitat use and movements in Teton County based on Idaho Department of Fish and Game's Summary of Fish and Wildlife Resources in Teton County, Idaho, as Revised in April of 2022. The Committee had the opportunity to review the Report prior to this meeting, and the task was to compare the NRO and the Report and additional elk and deer GIS data from IDFG to determine where there are gaps in the NRO and make recommendations to the Commission on updates to protect wildlife. The committee agreed that the Winter Range of Teton County wildlife needed to be further addressed, based on the information and research contained in the Report and GIS data. As a result, the committee decided that new elk and mule deer data in the Report be added to the big game migration and seasonal range layer of the Natural Resources Overlay. In addition, the Committee went through the report by indicator species category to make certain that indicator species and habitats are reflected in the NRO either directly or at least covered by other NRO layers, as substantiated in the Report. Rob Marin agreed to create a clipped map that shows the suggested changes. The Committee realizes that these will be recommendations and that these recommendations are substantiated by the revised IDFG Report. The committee unanimously agreed that if a parcel was in any of the overlay layers ALL indicator species and indicator habitats would need to be evaluated by the applicant.

The Committee recommends that Commissioner Whitfield request a digital overlay of mule deer and elk seasonal movement from Figure 4, page 10 of Idaho's Department of Fish and Game's A Summary of Fish and Wildlife Resources in Teton County, Idaho, Revised Report of April 2022 to simplify staff's mapping tasks. It was also agreed that the Committee will likely recommend other NRO changes per this updated Fish and Wildlife Resources summary and/or other wildlife research data.

3. Policy for Natural Resource Technical Studies. As requested by Commissioner Whitfield, the committee reviewed components of an initial

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outline of points to consider when developing a policy for natural resources technical studies to be applied to the Teton County Land Development Code and required when any development is proposed in a Natural Resources Overlay area. The members of the committee agreed that the county should maintain a list of potential consultant experts who would apply to be on the county's expert list. A key question is how to establish qualifications. The question of a price structure was also raised. The committee will look at the Teton County, Wyoming model and Blaine County, Idaho to obtain further understanding of others' policies.

The committee also agreed that regular NRO map updates should occur and a process should be created to petition for changes annually. It was suggested that there be an annual request to Idaho Department of Fish and Game to perform such an update and possibly to include this request requirement in the Land Development Code. The committee will talk to Jade, the Planning Administrator, about this. It was felt that the Wildlife Advisory Committee could make this recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners and work with staff to facilitate this as an on-going committee responsibility.

The other question that was raised: how to make these studies the most effective. The committee will invite Jade to our next meeting to further discuss.

4. Set Meeting Schedule. A motion was made to establish a monthly meeting on the first Wednesday of every month from 3:00 to 4:30 pm. The motion had unanimous consent.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:00 pm.

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