

## Teton County Wildlife Advisory Committee – Special Meeting Minutes – 2/22/23

This was a special meeting called by Committee Chair, Jeff Klausmann for the purpose of a Work Session via Zoom to continue work on writing and editing Guidelines for Natural Resource Analyses, to be submitted to the Board of County Commissioners when complete.

Meeting was called to order at 3pm

Committee members present: Jeff Klausmann, Kathy O’Neil, Tamara Sperber, Renee Seidler, Mike Lien, Wray Landon, Linda Unland

County Commissioner Present: Michael Whitfield

Using the document, “Clean Copy TCNRA(Teton County Natural Resource Analysis) Merged Draft”, the committee members jointly reviewed each part of this document, and suggested changes were made sequentially. Those changes are represented below.

**Title.** It was agreed to change the title of the document to: Teton County Wildlife Habitat Analysis (WHA). The term, “resource” was dropped to provide greater specificity to the actual wildlife habitat. *Jeff suggested that this may elicit further discussion among the Planning Department and the Commissioners.*

- 1. Applicability and Definition.** The question was asked if there are any exemptions to this policy (ie. agricultural land divisions or 1x lot splits). It was suggested that the following copy be added: “unless explicitly exempted in the LDC or in Teton County, ID.” It was agreed that the goal here is to make the applicability consistent with the Land Development Code (LDC). *It was suggested that this will need to be taken to the County Planner for clarification.*
- 2. Purpose and Intent.** It was suggested that this section needs to tie purpose and intent into how this WHA fits into the Comprehensive Plan. As this WHA focuses on wildlife resources, specifically, edits were made to reflect this. *It was noted that the a change needs to be made in the County’s*

*NRO(Natural Resource Overlay)Map/GIS section in the subtext before clicking on the NRO Map. The needed change refers to “critical habitat overlay.” Also, “Revised 2023” should appear after the map.*

Regarding the NRO Map, it was noted that at present, the NRO Map reflects what new information has been accepted, and the intent is to allow other sources of data to additionally be added. *As these other sources (ie. citizen science, TRLT data, FTR data, etc.)of data get adopted, they will get included in the NRO Map.*

3.B. “Priority habitats” was eliminated. The use of “indicator species” and “indicator habitats” are consistent with terminology used in LDC. This should be noted throughout the WHA.

3. **Process Overview.** *In 3.A, it was agreed that “professional” should precede consultant. Also, it was not decided if the county list of prequalified consultants should be a rotating list.*
4. **Procedure for Wildlife Habitat Analysis and Report.** *B.VI. It was agreed that “Priority Conservation” needs definition. Jeff added back in the concept of minimization if avoidance is not possible. Wray felt that a 3 step approach is useful but need instructions for each step.*

**Sub Groups** were formed to further work on the WHA document prior to the committee’s March 1 regular meeting, which will also be an on-going WHA work meeting. The meeting will be on Zoom with only this one agenda item from 3-5 pm.

- Michael, Wray – Section 5 consultant and qualifications to be revised
- Kathy, Jeff – Revise and re-work minimization/mitigation language
- Jeff, Tamara – Work on IDFG checklist
- Jeff, Renee – To modify Teton County, Wyoming’s habitats – to tier to our indicator species and indicator habitats
- Kathy – Clean Up the clean document
- Linda – Minutes from this work session

**Jeff requested that everyone read through the new merged document before the March 1 meeting.** Meeting was adjourned at 4:55pm.