

Wildlife Habitat Analysis (WHA)

1: Applicability and Definition:

This document applies to proposed land division, development, special use, and certain building permits within Teton County, Idaho on sites that are wholly or partially within or immediately adjacent to Teton County's Natural Resource Overlay (NRO) Map (*updated January 2023*).

A Wildlife Habitat Analysis (WHA) is an in-depth professional appraisal of wildlife and habitat on land proposed for potential division, development (including some building permits) or special use in Teton County, Idaho. The WHA is a two part, phased document that includes the analysis as the first phase and the conservation plan as the second phase. There is an Abbreviated WHA (A-WHA) available for certain building permit requests detailed in the document.

2: Purpose and Intent:

Teton County's Comprehensive Plan strives to "establish a vibrant, diverse and stable economy" and to "preserve natural resources and a healthy environment, which are essential for creating viable future economic and recreational opportunities for all users". Fish and wildlife are central ecological, recreational and economic drivers in Teton County. In addition, this County is recognized as a vital component of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem (GYE), which is one of the largest, nearly intact temperate ecosystems in the world (NPS 2020). Teton County is key to conserving wildlife at the ecosystem scale and the Teton River Basin has been identified as the highest conservation priority within the GYE for its combination of ecological irreplaceability and vulnerability (Noss et al. 2002). In order to respect and maintain this ecological vitality, development proposals should proceed in a responsible way with an emphasis on conserving wildlife, habitats and supporting landscapes.

Conservation of County-designated wildlife habitats as shown on the Teton County Natural Resource Overlay map should always be at the forefront of any Teton County land division or development plans. A Wildlife Habitat Analysis (WHA) serves a critical role in this process. The broad purposes of a WHA are:

- A. Provide information that will help the Applicant, the Boards of Planning and Zoning and County Commissioners, the Building Department, citizens, and other reviewers and decision-makers recognize and assess the wildlife habitat features

of the proposed development site;

- B. Help the Applicant design the development project in ways that avoid impacts to Indicator Species and Indicator Habitats;
- C. Help the Applicant avoid costly reworking of the project design later on in the planning process; and
- D. Streamline the environmental review.

The following sections detail the steps and methodology in the land division or development application process specifically as they relate to wildlife habitat and their analyses.

3.0: Process Overview - Land Divisions, Developments (excluding Building Permits) and Use Permits

Pre-application conference.

The Applicant shall meet with the Teton County Planning Staff to determine from the outset if the proposed land division/use/development is on a site that is required to undergo a WHA due to its location relative to the NRO.

The following steps shall be taken when a WHA is necessary:

A. Engage a WHA Consultant.

Teton County will objectively select a Consultant from a County-maintained list of pre-qualified Consultants (further details in *Wildlife Habitat Analysis - Consultants and Selection, Section 5* of this document).

The Consultant will work with the Teton County Planning Department and Applicant.

Costs of the Consultant and WHA shall be paid by the Applicant, who will contract directly with the pre-qualified Consultant.

B. Performance of WHA.

Detailed in Section 4 of this document.

C. Creation of WHA Report up to and including Section 4B VI.

Detailed in Section 4 of this document.

D. Creation of Conservation Plan (Section 4B VII).

At this stage of the WHA, prior to creating the Conservation Plan, Consultant will:

- a. Re-engage with County Planning Staff to review the completeness of the WHA via the required checklist, then
 - b. Re-engage with County Planning Staff and Applicant to identify how the WHA findings and development project concepts may integrate with one another and how conservation priorities will inform the Conservation Plan with appropriate development options and alternatives (Conservation Plan components detailed in Section 4B VII).
 - c. Create the Conservation Plan.
- E. Submission of Final WHA Report.
After the final WHA with Conservation Plan is submitted and accepted as adequate and complete by the Planning Department (see Section 4A VIII), the Applicant may advance to the Concept Plan stage of the application (Teton County Land Development Code Chapter 4, Section 13).

3.1: Process Overview - **Building Permits**

A parcel within the Natural Resource Overlay (NRO) may require an Abbreviated WHA (A-WHA) for building permits (which constitute development per LDC 5-4-1). The process for determination of requirements for an A-WHA is detailed below and included as a flowchart in Appendix D: *Flowchart for Determining A-WHA Requirements for Building Permits*.

Pre-application conference.

If the parcel or the site on which a building permit is being sought is within the NRO, Applicant shall meet with the Teton County Planning and Building Departments prior to submitting permit request to determine if the proposed development will be required to undergo an A-WHA.

An A-WHA will *not* be required for a parcel within the NRO if: a) the requested building will not be located within the NRO-covered area of the parcel, or; b) the building permit request is for *additional* development located within an existing building envelope or, in the absence of a building envelope, within 100 feet of existing development on the parcel (assuming other code regulations such as buffers and setbacks are not violated).

The A-WHA requirement may be triggered by any of the following:

- Parcel has not been evaluated by a WHA (or similar County-approved resource analysis) and building away from the NRO is not possible, or
- Parcel is located in a subdivision where building envelopes were not determined during the subdivision process, or
- Parcel is located in a subdivision where a WHA (or similar County-approved resource analysis) was not completed during the subdivision process.

The following steps shall be taken when an A-WHA is necessary:

A. Engage a WHA Consultant.

Teton County will objectively select a Consultant from a County-maintained list of pre-qualified Consultants (further details in *Wildlife Habitat Analysis - Consultants and Selection, Section 5* of this document).

The Consultant will work with the Teton County Planning and Building staff and Applicant.

Costs of the Consultant and WHA shall be paid by the Applicant, who will contract directly with the pre-qualified Consultant.

B. Performance of A-WHA.

Detailed in Section 4C of this document.

C. Creation of A-WHA Report with Conservation Plan.

Detailed in Section 4C of this document.

D. Submission of A-WHA Report with Conservation Plan.

After the final A-WHA with Conservation Plan is submitted and accepted as adequate and complete by the Planning and Building Departments, the Applicant may advance to Building Permit Application submission.

4: Procedure for Wildlife Habitat Analysis and Report:

For A-WHA procedure, advance to section 4-C below.

A. General Procedure for WHA.

The complexity of the WHA is dependent on the complexity (acreage, habitats, and species) of the parcel.

- I. A WHA will be carried out by pre-qualified Consultants familiar with the habitats of the Teton Valley region and how these habitats fit ecologically within the larger landscape. They will be knowledgeable about the life history needs of Indicator Species in Teton County (Section 4A III), as well as species and habitats covered by the Teton County Natural Resource Overlay, and species described in *A Summary of Fish and Wildlife Resources in Teton County, Idaho* (Idaho Department of Fish and Game, April 2022) report and *Idaho Species of Greatest Conservation Need* as outlined in the Idaho State Wildlife Action Plan.
- II. For any proposed land division, new or modified development, or land/special use that is shown by the Natural Resource Overlay Map to impact one or more Indicator Species or Indicator Habitat, ***all Indicator***

Species and Indicator Habitats shall be assessed and addressed during the Wildlife Habitat Analysis.

- III. Teton County Indicator Species and Indicator Habitats shall be used as the foundation to assess the wildlife and habitat of the property. These species and habitats are detailed in Sections 5-4-1-C and 5-4-1-D of the Land Development Code.
- IV. Field assessments shall be carried out at the appropriate time of year to accurately map and describe Indicator Habitats. The number of field assessments to be performed is at the discretion of the Consultant but should be determined by best practices and reflective of the complexity of the property. Consultants shall develop a potential species occurrence list based on these habitats, field work, consultation with the Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) and the scientific literature.
- V. Formal, in-depth, documented consultation between the County Planning/Building Staff, Consultant and IDFG shall happen early in the WHA process to ensure that wildlife and habitats are correctly characterized and that the best available data are used. The County strongly recommends that all Consultants refer to *A Summary of Fish and Wildlife Resources in Teton County, Idaho* (Idaho Department of Fish and Game, April 2022) prior to consultation with IDFG. The County also recommends that other scientific data sources be utilized at this point, including properly vetted citizen science data.
- VI. Teton County Planning staff will complete the checklist in Appendix A, which will be initiated during the joint consultation with the Consultant and IDFG and completed once the WHA (at the pre-Conservation Plan stage) is submitted to the County Planning/Building staff for review. The checklist will then be included with the final submitted WHA report. The checklist supports process streamlining by documenting consultation with Planning staff, Consultant and IDFG and acknowledging that the required WHA report contents (prior to Conservation plan) are adequate and complete. (Appendix A).
- VII. The WHA findings and Conservation Plan are to be submitted in a written final report using the outline detailed in Section 4-B of this document. The extent of the WHA analysis and the complexity of the Conservation Plan shall be reflective of the size and complexity of the site and the proposed project.
The submitted report shall include all of the information specified in Section 4-B. One paper copy and one electronic copy of the report shall

be submitted to the County.

- VIII. The submitted final report will undergo preliminary review by Planning Department staff for adequacy of meeting Teton County WHA Policy within 60 days of the final report submittal. Under extraordinary circumstances, Planning staff may seek a third party technical review of submitted report, if needed, with costs borne by Applicant.

If the report meets the County's requirements and is determined to be adequate and complete, a letter or email confirming completion will go to both the Consultant and the Applicant. If the report is not considered adequate, an "incomplete" letter/email will be prepared, identifying which areas need to be revised in the report for resubmittal. A record of this action will be placed in the file for the project application.

B. WHA Specific Procedure and Report Contents.

I. **Cover sheet.**

All reports shall include a cover sheet. A template cover sheet is provided in Appendix B. Required cover sheet items include the following:

- a. Original report date
- b. Revision report dates (if applicable)
- c. Parcel number(s)
- d. Project name (if known)
- e. Applicant name and contact information
- f. Reporting/Lead Consultant - name, company
- g. Declaration signed by Lead Consultant

II. **Executive Summary/Synopsis.**

The executive summary is one of the most significant parts of the Wildlife Habitat Analysis Report. It should **not** be an introduction, a preface, or a random collection of report highlights. There should be no new information provided in the executive summary. Rather, the executive summary should stand alone as a condensed version of the entire Wildlife Habitat Analysis. It should inform the reader about key aspects of the assessed property, existing land uses, habitat types and conditions, sensitive species, any known proposed project plans or land uses, conservation priorities, and recommended conservation plan. The length of the executive summary depends directly on the nature and complexity of the wildlife and habitat within the property. The purpose of the executive summary is to provide a quick reference for the public and decision makers. Therefore, the language should be less technical than that used in the remainder of the

report.

III. **Methodology.**

A brief summary describing how the assessment was performed and the report prepared.

- a. Research conducted: reports, maps, records, etc.
- b. Field Survey Details: date(s), duration, names of participants, weather conditions and how the area was surveyed (e.g. transect, entire property, etc.).
- c. Description of how habitats were mapped.
- d. Indicate completion of joint consultation with County Planning staff, Consultant, and IDFG (Appendix A).
- e. References: reports, communications and other information reviewed.

IV. **Property Overview.**

- a. Landscape Description.

Describe the overall landscape encompassing the property.

Example: Property is near Teton Canyon. Describe the landscape with a focus on ecological attributes. *“The Teton River Canyon at this location provides critical habitat for wintering big game, especially mule deer..... Water resources within this reach are vital to Yellowstone cutthroat trout because it is a significant Yellowstone cutthroat trout conservation stream.”*

- b. Property Context within Landscape.
 - i. **Map 1:** Include a map that 1) indicates how the property fits spatially within the landscape; 2) shows all overlays and includes all waterways of any size with defined bed and banks that flow for more than two weeks/year; 3) shows land ownership in the immediate vicinity of property.
 - ii. Supporting Narrative: Describe general area habitats and potential species present.

Example: Property is bisected by Bitch Creek. How does Bitch Creek fit into the landscape context of Teton Canyon ecologically? *“Bitch Creek is one of the most important tributaries for Yellowstone cutthroat trout.... The Bitch Creek drainage with its willow and forested riparian, shrubland and grassland habitats is the major conduit for mule deer and elk seasonally migrating on and off winter range.....”*

c. Property Description

Describe existing conditions, current/prior land uses, existing improvements/structures, topography, elevations, proximity to watercourses or waterbodies, and soil types.

Example: Property is located along Bitch Creek Canyon and consists primarily of farmland. *“The property consists primarily of agricultural land, currently farmed in barley, on a rolling upper bench with scattered aspen stands in areas historically too steep or rocky to farm. Shrubland, conifer forest, and willow riparian habitats line the rim and steep canyon walls descend into the Bitch Creek bottom. Elevation of the property ranges from approximately 5,800 feet along Bitch Creek at the bottom of the canyon to approximately 6,100 feet at the property’s high point near the center of the property. The northern boundary borders Bitch Creek, following the creek for approximately 0.5 miles. Well-drained, loess soils of the upper bench transition to steep, colluvium with rock outcrops along the canyon walls.”*

V. Detailed Field Assessment.

a. Property Ecological Resources and Conditions/Quality (e.g., degraded, high quality, etc.)

i. Describe the wildlife habitat on the property and include a map and narrative of vegetation, waterways, wetlands, and Indicator Habitat on the property.

a. **Map 2:** An illustration of vegetation and habitat types on the property using the *Teton County Idaho Habitat Types and Vegetation Classification* (Appendix C).

b. Describe terrestrial habitat quality and condition; make note of high functioning habitats and those that are degraded. For degraded habitats describe the reasons for degradation.

Example: *“A large portion of the property is a retired agricultural field seeded to tame grasses and invaded by noxious weeds”.*

c. As applicable, describe aquatic habitat quality and condition.

Example: *“The section of Bitch Creek along the property has healthy fish habitat with a functional riffle/pool complex and robust riparian cover. The stream is connected to its historic floodplain which is comprised of healthy willow and shrub vegetation. This section of Bitch Creek appears to be stable and able to accommodate flood events.”*

d. List the types and extent of noxious weeds present on the property.

ii. Describe other property conditions likely to affect wildlife use of the property (e.g., topography, aspect, watercourses, wetlands, soils, and current land uses - grazing, farming, etc.) and summarize the quality of said habitats and conditions.

Include representative photographs of Indicator Habitats and landscape features potentially important to Indicator Species (e.g. drainages, slopes, significant habitat patches, etc.).

b. Likely Wildlife Species Occurrence

i. Describe possible wildlife use of the property based on landscape position, habitat presence and condition.

ii. Describe each species' scale of landscape reliance (e.g., is the species supported by habitat contained within the property or dependent on the wider landscape for conservation?)

iii. Consider habitat uses for breeding/nesting, nursery, foraging, seasonal migration (terrestrial, aquatic and avian), other transition range and overwintering habitat, as appropriate, for Indicator Species.

iv. Reference up-to-date local, State (IDFG), and Federal (USFWS, USFS, and/or BLM) data regarding species that have been recorded/observed on or near the property.

v. Describe direct observations and indirect signs of wildlife on the property (e.g., browsed vegetation, tracks, scat, hair/feathers).

Note: For wildlife occurrence, priority should be given to Teton County Indicator Species (Teton Land Development Code Section 5-4-1-C), Idaho Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) and game species as defined by the Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG), as well as federally listed Threatened, Endangered, or Candidate species.

c. Connectivity

Describe the landscape connectivity that supports wildlife and fisheries movements and ecological processes. Include specifics of how features of the property relate to surrounding landscape features in supporting connections, corridors and floodplain functions. Consider buffers to habitats on the property (e.g., agricultural fields) that support the function of Indicator Habitats.

Example: “Elk utilize this property and surrounding areas as winter range and as transitional habitat to parturition areas...Mule deer migrate from winter range in the valley to summer range in Grand Teton National Park across this parcel.”

VI. **Priority Conservation Targets** (Species or Habitat Functionality Focus)

Priority Habitat and Species Mapping

a. **Map 3:** This map is more in-depth than Map 2 with more species-specific detail to explain and support choices of priority targets. Detail specific Indicator Species habitat (e.g., mule deer winter range, waterbird breeding/nesting area, etc.). Map known areas of wildlife use occurring on the property and in the immediate vicinity. Use aerial mapping in cases where access to adjacent parcels is not possible.

b. Supporting Narrative – Describe why these habitats and species were selected as priority conservation targets.

Example: “A large wooded draw, dominated by Douglas fir on the north slope and sagebrush steppe on the south, cuts through the northwest corner of the parcel, this feature extends onto neighboring parcels forming a large patch of security habitat for big game. Conservation of this feature is important for seasonal big game migration.”

VII. **Conservation Plan**

As noted in Section 3.0-D, the Conservation Plan portion of the WHA should be created only after the Consultant, the County Planning Staff, and the Applicant review the required checklist, the WHA findings and any development project concepts to achieve optimal conservation focused on avoidance > minimization > mitigation.

It cannot be overemphasized that the WHA will inform development concepts and planning that are presented in the Conservation Plan. The Conservation Plan must demonstrate that the WHA is guiding the development being planned on the property.

Structure of Conservation Plan:

Given the species occurrence, habitats present, and landscape context, describe the conservation plan and priorities for the property in relation to proposed development infrastructure including roads, utilities, building envelopes (size, location and configuration), parks and other residential amenities. (Reference Land Development Code Section 5-4, Section 5-5 and Section 6-5) Clustering of infrastructure and minimization of roads is strongly encouraged as a strategy to conserve larger intact habitat patches.

Avoidance and Minimization:

- a. Describe in detail how impacts to Indicator Species and Indicator Habitats and Idaho Species of Greatest Conservation Need can be avoided by careful development design for this property. Given the uncertain outcomes, costs and timelines needed to achieve habitat restoration or replacement, avoidance of wildlife impacts is always the preferred approach for development in Teton County and the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem.
- b. If avoidance of impacts by development or land division of this property is concluded to not be possible, the process of arriving at this conclusion must be described in detail and justified.
- c. If avoidance of development impacts has been convincingly demonstrated to not be possible if development occurs anywhere on this property, describe in detail how impacts to Indicator Species and Indicator Habitats and Idaho Species of Greatest Conservation Need could be minimized by careful development planning.

Mitigation and Enhancement:

- d. If it is concluded that impacts to Indicator Species, Indicator Habitats and/or Idaho Species of Greatest Conservation Need can neither be avoided nor minimized if the development project occurs on this property, the process of arriving at this conclusion must be convincingly detailed and justified. In this scenario, the Conservation Plan must also describe measures to mitigate impacts to the above species. Impact mitigation and habitat enhancement measures could include onsite or offsite options. In either case the County is only interested in meaningful mitigation.

Example: Applicant proposes to mitigate habitat fragmentation from infrastructure impacts by conserving an isolated patch of vegetation on-site. However, the County would prefer more effective off-site mitigation options that build on existing habitat conservation or land protection.

- i. Given the uncertainty of achieving successful mitigation, Teton County will generally require at least a 2:1 ratio of mitigated habitat to affected habitat. Ratios for some very high value habitats (e.g. riparian and coniferous forest) may be even higher.
- ii. Mitigation and Enhancement Plans
 - a. Describe in detail the proposed wildlife mitigation.
 - Enhancing degraded habitat -
If degraded habitat already exists on the property, does the owner intend to restore the habitat and, if so, briefly describe the restoration project and how it would provide direct benefits to Indicator Species and Indicator Habitats.
 - Land Protection with a Conservation Easement:
Is a Conservation Easement meaningful and viable either on or off the proposed property.
 - In lieu fee mitigation
 - b. Provide detailed mitigation plans showing where mitigation will happen and the specific actions needed to achieve success.
 - c. Detail specific performance criteria (e.g. plant survival, percent noxious weed changes, etc.) that will be monitored and evaluated over time to determine achievement of mitigation goals.
- iii. Mitigation Cost Estimates and Assurances
 - a. Provide a detailed cost estimate for proposed wildlife mitigation actions.
 - b. Cost estimate should include the cost of retaining a Consultant from Teton County's pre-qualified list to develop a performance monitoring plan and complete annual monitoring visits to report on results of mitigation efforts and offer adaptive management actions, when needed, until success is achieved (typically 3-5+ years depending on the habitats being created or restored.)

- c. Provide proof of financial surety to ensure habitat mitigation is successful over the long-term.
 - iv. Mitigation Performance Monitoring and Adaptive Management
 - a. Consultant (either same Consultant who performed the WHA or another pre-qualified Teton County consultant) shall monitor and shall submit annual monitoring reports for at least three years following the completion of mitigation efforts.
 - b. Describe adaptive management actions that could be used to ensure success.
 - e. **Conservation Plan Map**

Map 4: Utilizing all of the above conservation information, submit a Conservation Plan map visually detailing the conservation plan narrative and recommendations. Include proposed concept development elements (roads, utilities, lot layout, building envelopes, open space and other residential amenities) on the map. Also include priority targets from Map 3. Alternatively, Map 4 may be an overlay of the above Conservation Plan information on Map 3.

C. Abbreviated WHA and Conservation Plan.

Impacts from a single building site are assumed to be minor, but cumulative impacts from multiple poorly-sited buildings in sensitive habitats can add significantly to impacts on wildlife. Applicants shall work with County staff and Consultant to evaluate wildlife resources on the property and propose infrastructure placement to avoid, minimize and mitigate impacts to Indicator Habitats and Indicator Species.

Given the relative simplicity of siting a single home or accessory building, the Abbreviated WHA and Conservation Plan are intended to be both efficient and affordable. In most cases the Abbreviated WHA and Conservation Plan shall be covered in a 1-2 page report with two simple maps.

Required report contents:

- I. Describe the landscape setting of the lot.

- II. Describe Indicator Habitats included on the lot including their general condition.
- III. Describe any landscape features potentially important for Indicator Species.
- IV. Describe the process for siting proposed buildings and access and demonstrate how impacts to Indicator Habitats were avoided, minimized or mitigated to conserve Indicator Species.
- V. Required maps
 - a. **Map 1:** Show how the lot fits into the broader landscape. Include land topography, streams and wetlands as provided by USGS and show the parcel boundaries, NRO layers and the names of adjoining property owners.
 - b. **Map 2:** Show the parcel boundaries, Indicator Habitats and proposed building envelope for proposed building(s) and any proposed access. (Note: to minimize impacts to wildlife, building(s) shall avoid, minimize and mitigate impacts to Indicator Habitats.)

5: Wildlife Habitat Analysis - Consultants and Selection

- A. Teton County, Idaho will maintain a list of pre-qualified Consultants who will perform all Wildlife Habitat Analyses (WHA) and reports for proposed Teton County development projects that require a WHA.
- B. Consultants interested in being considered for pre-qualification shall contact the Teton County Planning Administrator and submit an application (Appendix E).
- C. Consultants will be offered projects on a rotating basis. Consultants will have the opportunity to accept or decline a given project. If declined, the offer will then move to the next consultant in line.
- D. Consultant shall disclose to the County any conflicts of interest with the Applicant.
- E. Project Applicant has a single right of refusal for a selected Consultant for any given project.

F. Teton County has a single right of refusal for a selected Consultant for any given project.

G. All costs of the Consultant, the Wildlife Habitat Analysis, the Report, and Conservation Plan, Mitigation Performance Monitoring and Adaptive Management, as well as possible third-party technical review (if required by the Planning Department) will be paid by the applicant.

H. Qualifications for Consultants:

I. General Requirements:

The Consultant responsible for development and certification of a WHA (the Lead Consultant) must be a biologist (or similar professional) knowledgeable about the habitats and biota of Teton County, Idaho which is located within the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem (GYE). As a minimum, the Lead Consultant must understand the life history and seasonal and migratory habitat needs of wildlife species in the GYE, including and in particular, Idaho game species and Species of Greatest Conservation Need as designated by the Idaho Department of Fish and Game.

II. Specific Requirements for Lead Consultant:

- a. A Master of Science (MS) degree in biology or a closely related natural resource field of study such as zoology, wildlife or wildlife habitat management, conservation biology and ecological studies, OR Six (6) years of experience in wildlife habitat management or wildlife research with documented ability to evaluate wildlife habitat conditions and quantify potential environmental impacts of proposed habitat alteration.
- b. Two (2) years of local field experience in the GYE within the past 5 years, ideally within the Teton Region, sufficient to identify local flora and fauna (and signs thereof) with particular attention to Idaho Species of Greatest Conservation Need and Teton County, Idaho Indicator Species and Indicator Habitats.
- c. Familiarity with habitat impact avoidance and mitigation methods, including but not limited to habitat buffers, revegetation design and implementation, barrier removal, or water treatment.
- d. Willingness to submit to periodic evaluations of adequacy of projects performed in Teton County as a determinant of ongoing

approval.

- e. Ability to demonstrate cooperation with project stakeholders on previous projects and with other entities including but not limited to local, state, and federal agencies; and adjacent landowners. If problems with project stakeholders and/or permitting agencies occurred, explain how the issues were resolved.
- f. Ability to show financial competitiveness in preparing WHA reports. Consultant may be asked to provide past report examples including costs associated with them.

Appendix A: Checklist for WHA

Wildlife Habitat Analysis Consultation Checklist

Applicant Name: _____

Project Name: _____

Professional Consultant Name: _____

Teton County, ID Planning Staff _____ (name and title) and Professional Consultant consulted with _____ (name and title) from Idaho Department of Fish and Game¹ (IDFG) on _____ (date)

Consultant must conduct a field visit to the proposed project area and provide Maps 1 & 2 of the WHA prior to the joint consultation with the Planning Staff and IDFG.

- Planning Staff will complete ‘A’ questions during joint consultation with Professional Consultant and IDFG.
- Planning Staff will address ‘B’ questions after submission of Wildlife Habitat Analysis to Teton County Planning Staff for review.
- If WHA information/analysis is found to be incomplete in any of the sections of the checklist, Planning Staff will note deficiencies in question C of the section(s) that need to be addressed in the WHA before resubmittal.
- Strategies to avoid, minimize, and/or mitigate development impacts will be discussed during the joint consultation and should be considered in the Conservation Plan.

Complete: (A) during consultation with IDFG, (B) after review of WHA, and (C) if specific portions of the WHA are found to be incomplete.	Section Complete or Incomplete for Submitted WHA	
	Complete	Incomplete
<u>Section 1. Project’s Ecological Fit</u>		
A) How does the proposed project fit ecologically within the greater landscape setting? _____ _____ _____		
B) Does the Wildlife Habitat Assessment adequately describe how the proposed project fits ecologically within the greater landscape setting?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
C) What deficiencies in the WHA (resulting in an “Incomplete” for this section) must be addressed prior to resubmittal of the WHA to the Planning Staff?		

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<p><u>Section 2. Indicator Habitats</u></p> <p>A) What Indicator Habitats³ are contained within the project area and as part of the larger landscape (if applicable)?</p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <p>B) Does the Wildlife Habitat Assessment adequately provide a detailed description about the existing habitats, with a focus on Teton County Indicator Habitats³, and their relative condition(s) contained within the project area and as part of the larger landscape (if applicable)?</p> <p>C) What deficiencies in the WHA (resulting in an “Incomplete” for this section) must be addressed prior to resubmittal of the WHA to the Planning Staff?</p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<p style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p><u>Section 3. Species</u></p> <p>A) What Teton County Indicator Species⁴, Idaho Species of Greatest Conservation Need, game species as defined by IDFG, and federally listed Threatened, Endangered, or Candidate species are likely to occur within the proposed project area based on the habitats found on the property and considering the wider landscape position?</p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <p>B) Does the Wildlife Habitat Assessment provide a list of species, with a focus on Teton County Indicator Species⁴ Idaho Species of Greatest Conservation Need, game species as defined by IDFG, and federally listed Threatened, Endangered, or Candidate species, likely to occur within the proposed project area based on the habitats found on the property and considering the wider landscape position?</p> <p>C) What deficiencies in the WHA (resulting in an “Incomplete” for this section) must be addressed prior to resubmittal of the WHA to the Planning Staff?</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></p>

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<p><u>Section 4. Conservation strategies</u></p> <p>A) What strategies can be implemented to avoid, minimize, and/or mitigate development impacts to Indicator Habitats, Indicator Species, Idaho Species of Greatest Conservation Need, game species as defined by IDFG, and federally listed Threatened, Endangered, or Candidate species? These strategies should be considered in the Conservation Plan.</p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>		

WHA reviewed by Teton County Planning Staff :

Signature: _____

Printed Name:

_____ Date

Title:

If, upon initial review, the WHA was found to be incomplete in one or more sections, the resubmitted WHA has been reviewed and all deficiencies have been addressed. **Yes** **No**

Comments:

Resubmitted WHA reviewed Checklist completed by:

Signature: _____

Printed Name:

_____ Date

Title:

¹ Planning Staff and Consultant must consult with IDFG Habitat Biologist for the Cartier Habitat District or the Technical Assistance Manager in the Upper Snake Regional Office at (208) 525-7290.

² If Wildlife Habitat Assessment (WHA) is incomplete, Planning Staff will provide comments regarding deficiencies in Section C. Once the deficiencies are addressed, the WHA shall be resubmitted to Planning Staff for review and completion of the checklist.

³ Indicator Habitats as listed in Teton County Land Development Code Section 5-4-1-D, based on “*A Summary of Key Fish and Wildlife Resources of Low Elevation Lands in Teton County, Idaho*”, by Idaho Department of Fish and Game, dated April 29, 2022.

1. Emergent Wetlands
2. Willow Riparian
3. Forested Riparian
4. Aspen
5. Conifer Forest
6. Shrubland
7. Grassland
8. NRCS Conservation Reserve Program Grassland
9. Documented wildlife migration corridors
10. Stream channels

⁴ Indicator Species as listed in Teton County Land Development Code Section 5-4-1-C, based on “*A Summary of Key Fish and Wildlife Resources of Low Elevation Lands in Teton County, Idaho*”, by Idaho Department of Fish and Game, dated April 29, 2022.

1. Columbian Sharp-Tailed grouse
2. Bald Eagle
3. Grizzly Bear
4. Rocky Mountain Elk
5. Mule Deer
6. Moose
7. Trumpeter Swan
8. Greater Sandhill Crane
9. Long-billed Curlew
10. Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout
11. Any Federally Listed Threatened or Endangered Species

Appendix B: Sample Wildlife Habitat Analysis Cover Sheet

Teton County Idaho Wildlife Habitat Analysis

Date of Report:

Date Revised (if applicable):

Consultant Name:

Company:

Applicant Name and contact information:

Project Name (if known):

Parcel Number(s)/Description:

Lead Consultant Declaration:

“As the qualified lead consultant, I hereby certify that this Wildlife Habitat Analysis was prepared according to the policy established by Teton County Idaho and that the statements furnished in the report and associated maps and photos are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.”

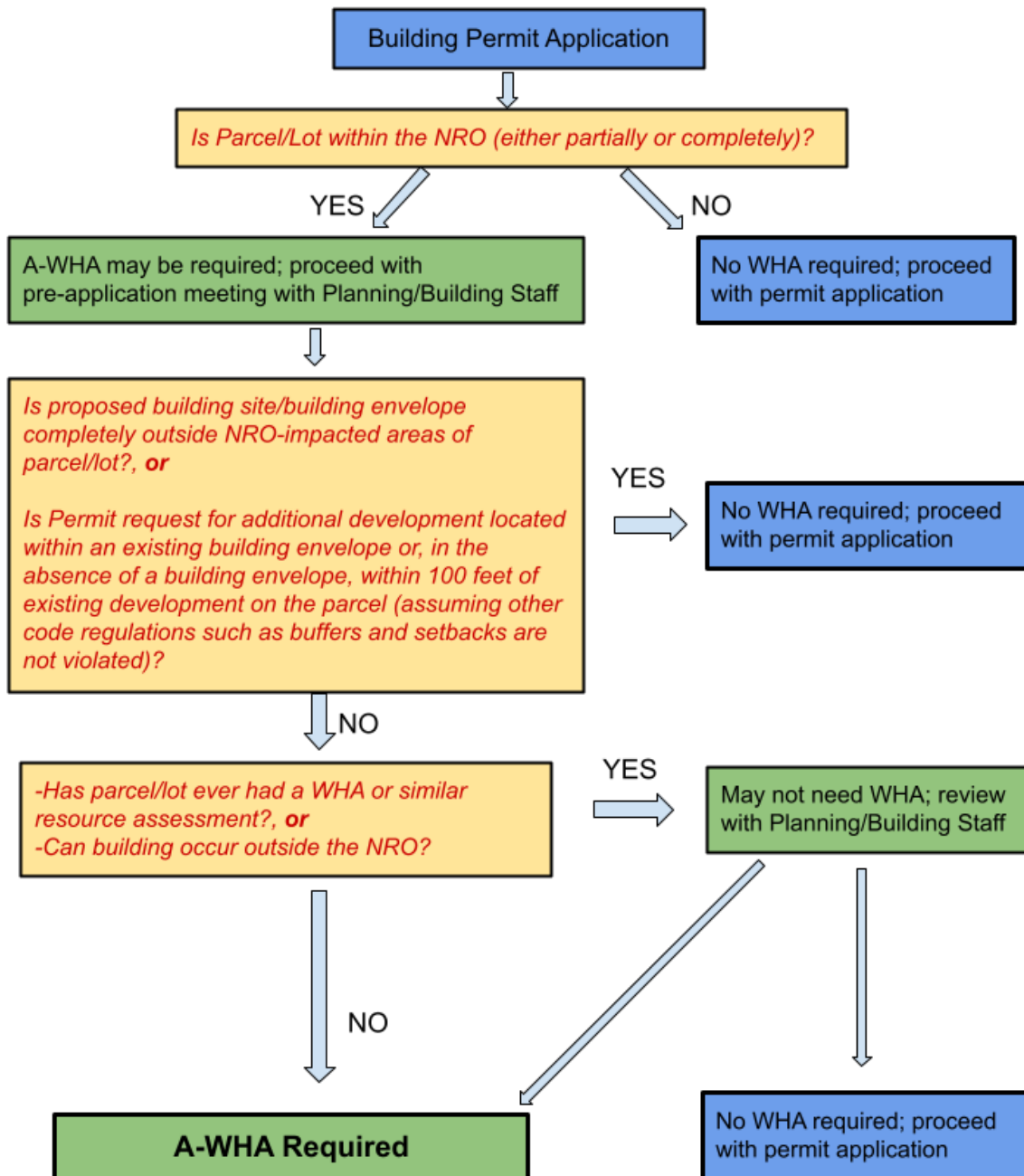
Signature Line

Date

Appendix C: Teton County Idaho Habitat Types and Vegetation Classification

(In process)

APPENDIX D: Flowchart for Determining A-WHA Requirements for Building Permits



Appendix E:

Application for Wildlife Habitat Assessor

This application is to be completed by consultants who wish to be considered for performance of Wildlife Habitat Analyses for Teton County, Idaho. Qualified consultants will be placed in a rotating pool. Selection criteria are presented in Section 5: "Wildlife Habitat Analysis - Consultants and Selection" of Teton County, Idaho Wildlife Habitat Analysis (WHA) Policy.

Education: Attach resume, if available (section 5: H. II. 1.)

Check if continued on attachments

Relevant Experience: Include time frames (section 5: H. II. 1.)

Check if continued on attachments

Relevant Experience in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem:

Include time frames and 3 references familiar with your work (section 5: H.II. 2.)

Check if continued on attachments

Anticipated cost range for performance of WHAs (Provide ranges for both standard and abbreviated WHAs) as described in the Policy

Check if continued on attachments

Name: _____

Company: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____