



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

For immediate release: 2/20/09

Contact: Kristy Bruner, JHCA Community Planning Director, kristy@jhalliance.org

**The Jackson Hole Conservation Alliance hosts workshops on
“Making Growth Pay its Way” as the *Next Steps* Speaker Series concludes**

(JACKSON, WYO.) Planning for responsible development is like trying to balance a very elaborate set of scales; in order for new growth to benefit the community, it should provide more benefits than costs. The final installment of the Jackson Hole Conservation Alliance’s *Next Steps* Speaker Series, “Making Growth Pay its Way,” will address this balance, and the importance of finding solutions that ensure future development pays its way.

Gabe Preston, a fiscal impact analyst with RPI Consulting in Durango, Colo., will give two presentations on the economic impacts of growth, speaking to issues that are covered in the updated Jackson/Teton County Comprehensive Plan. The first is on Thursday, Feb. 26, from 7 to 8 p.m. at the Conservation Alliance, 685 S. Cache, and the second is Friday, Feb. 27, and will feature a presentation and workshop from 10 a.m. to noon at the County Commissioners’ chambers, 200 S. Willow.

During both presentations, Preston will address the following question: If Jackson Hole wants to have future development pay its fair share of the cost of maintaining and expanding local government services and facilities, what needs to happen?

This event will mark the completion of the Conservation Alliance’s *Next Steps: Exploring Solutions for Jackson Hole* speaker series, funded in part by The Community Foundation of Jackson Hole. With presentations and discussions on wildlife-sensitive planning, affordable housing, the impacts of road expansions on wildlife, and the fiscal impacts of growth, the *Next Steps* series has covered a range of issues that are important to our community. Through increased access to information and lessons learned from other communities, we hope the community is now better equipped to make important decisions in both the forthcoming Comp Plan update and subsequent writing of new land development regulations. These decisions will play a critical role in dictating the future direction and character of Jackson and Teton County.

“We were pleased with the amount of community interest in and passion for each of these issues” said Becky Tillson, Conservation Alliance program intern, “People are informed and interested already, and are hungry for more information.”

“Gabe Preston’s presentation will be an excellent way to wrap up the series,” said Kristy Bruner, Alliance community planning director. “It’s an important time to address the costs of growth and to make sure we pursue fair, effective and fiscally responsible land use policies. Every development comes with a price tag, and we have to decide who is going to be responsible for paying it.”

Both events are free and open to the public.

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

Details in Brief

Event: “Making Growth Pay its Way” - The fourth and final installment of the Jackson Hole Conservation Alliance’s community planning speaker series *Next Steps: Exploring Solutions for Jackson Hole*

Dates and Times: Thursday, February 26, 7 to 8 p.m. at the Jackson Hole Conservation Alliance, 685 S. Cache; and Friday, February 27, 10 a.m. to noon at the County Commissioners’ chambers, 200 S. Willow.

Cost: Free

Special Guest: Gabe Preston, fiscal impact analyst with RPI Consulting

More Info: Kristy Bruner, Community Planning Director, Jackson Hole Conservation Alliance, 733-9417, kristy@jhalliance.org

###

The Jackson Hole Conservation Alliance is a non-profit organization dedicated to responsible land stewardship to ensure that human activities are in harmony with the area's irreplaceable wildlife, scenic and other natural resources. The organization has approximately 2,000 members from Jackson Hole and across the nation.