

AGENDA

2022

AN UNCENSORED VISION
FOR A COMMUNITY
LIVING IN BALANCE
WITH NATURE



JACKSON HOLE CONSERVATION ALLIANCE

A Newsletter of the Jackson Hole Conservation Alliance | Volume 36 | Issue 1 | Winter/Spring 2015

Conservation & Community

A Newsletter of the Jackson Hole Conservation Alliance

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About AGENDA 22

This newsletter introduces **AGENDA 22**, an uncensored vision for a community living in balance with nature.

For the issues at the core of our mission to protect the wildlife, wild places, and community character of Jackson Hole, this newsletter explains:

- **Our Challenges** – The specific problems we should work to solve for the issue.
- **Our Vision** – What it looks like when we have solved the problems we face.
- **Our Solutions** – Balanced policy tools that will help achieve our vision.
- **Case Study** – Stories of people working to make this vision a reality.
- **Indicators** – Metrics we can use to measure our progress toward our vision.
- **What You Can Do** – Ways you can help make our shared vision a reality.

AGENDA 22 focuses on proactively and effectively addressing the big challenges we face to achieve the largest possible impact given the assets of our community. Instead of listing every problem confronting our community and proposing a laundry list of impractical remedies, **AGENDA 22** highlights realistic and strategic opportunities for our community to create a better future.



Our Mission

The Jackson Hole Conservation Alliance protects the wildlife, wild places, and community character of Jackson Hole.



The Alliance's Vision for Jackson Hole. © Ray Noland



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A Letter from Our Executive Director

For three and a half decades the Alliance has effectively worked as a watchdog to keep Jackson Hole wild and beautiful.

The results of our work are all around of you, most of which are things you don't see today. We're proud of our accomplishments and committed to ferociously protecting the wildlife, wild places, and community character of this amazing place.

Now, it's time to build on our tradition of protecting what makes this valley special. It's time to take charge of our future and unite our community around a shared vision of a better future and empower the whole community to work together toward this vision.

In the pages that follow we introduce **AGENDA 22**, an uncensored vision of a better future for Jackson Hole and how we can make our community a national model of living in balance with nature.

AGENDA 22 explains the challenges we face as a community, a positive vision of responding to these challenges, balanced solutions we can adopt to achieve this vision, stories of people working to make this vision reality, indicators we can use to measure our progress toward this vision, and tangible things you can do to help make it happen.

At the foundation of **AGENDA 22** is our moral responsibility to leave things better than we found them and create a better world for our children – which means preparing for and tackling climate change now.

The science is unequivocal: climate change is happening, we're causing it through our burning of fossil fuels, and it is already having devastating consequences like monster wildfires, super storms, and historic droughts.

We recognize that no one community can solve climate change; but we also recognize we all have to work together. We have to play our part, however small it may feel. In doing so we can build a stronger community – one prepared for whatever the future may bring. We can show the rest of the world that if cold, isolated, fossil fuel dependent Jackson Hole can live in balance with nature, they can do it too.

But we can't get it done without your help. Please join us in working together to advance balanced solutions that constructively respond to the big challenges we face. Please join us in holding our elected representatives accountable for making decisions in the best long-term interest of our community. Please join us in an honest conversation about the long-term consequences of our decisions based on facts and data.

Please join the growing movement working together to advance **AGENDA 22** and create a better future for Jackson Hole.

Thank you for everything you do.

Craig M. Benjamin

Craig M. Benjamin
Executive Director
Jackson Hole Conservation Alliance



© Stacy Benjamin

Thanks to Everyone Who Joined the Alliance in Celebrating Our 35th Anniversary!



Celebrating 35 Years in Jackson Hole

On September 21, 2014, hundreds of people packed the Center for the Arts for our 35th anniversary celebration. The evening featured great food and drink, both a live and silent auction, opportunities for people to sign up to volunteer with ten of our organizational friends who are working toward a better future, and the premier of an original film highlighting thirteen people who are strengthening our community's roots through their everyday actions.

Thank you to everyone who joined us for the evening's festivities, all of the sponsors and people who made the celebration possible, and to the thirteen local roots honorees highlighted in the film.

You can view the original film at: tinyurl.com/localroots.



© Taylor Glenn



© Taylor Glenn



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A Vision for Community Planning

Our Challenge

While they make up only 3% of Teton County, our private lands shape our quality of life, as they are where we live, work, and spend most of our days.

Our private lands are also disproportionately important for wildlife as they contain some of the valley's best winter ranges. We have a responsibility to ensure the rules we write for our private lands protect the wildlife, wild places, and community character of this special place while respecting private property rights.

But right now our land use rules allow too much development in rural Teton County without adequate protections for wildlife, while discouraging thoughtful growth in Town and other walkable neighborhoods. This results in fragmented and degraded wildlife habitat, conversion of open space and working agricultural lands into second homes, polluted rivers and creeks, costly infrastructure expansions, and increased traffic congestion.

At the same time, we have not yet made the investments or implemented the policy tools necessary to preserve the critical wildlife habitat and open spaces that define our valley.

Our Vision

Jackson Hole should promote an ethic of stewardship on our private lands. We should build a greater Jackson Hole with walkable neighborhoods surrounded by protected open space, working agricultural lands, and connected wildlife habitat.

To achieve this vision we'll need to update our land use rules so they encourage thoughtful growth in Town and other walkable neighborhoods, while discouraging development in rural Teton County; improve protections for wildlife and habitat; and step up as a community to permanently protect critical wildlife habitat and the lands that shape our rural heritage.

Our Solutions

In order to build a greater Jackson Hole with walkable neighborhoods surrounded by protected open space, working agricultural lands, and connected wildlife habitat, our community should:

- Direct growth out of rural areas into walkable neighborhoods through zoning changes, updates to land development regulations, tools that shift growth, and other incentives.
- Update land development regulations to better protect fish and wildlife habitat, habitat connectivity, open spaces, scenic vistas, and rural character while strengthening wildlife protection standards for development density, intensity, location, clustering, permeability and wildlife-human conflict.
- Identify and implement additional options for the acquisition of permanent open space for wildlife habitat protection, scenic vista protection, and agriculture preservation.



Flat Creek ripples through Karns Meadow in the winter. © Kim Fadiman

Community Planning Case Study

In 1905, pioneer and early Jackson Hole resident, Peter Hansen Karns, laid claim to a 41-acre parcel of land along a one-mile stretch of Flat Creek in a meadow located near the geographic center of the Town of Jackson.

Originally known as Karns Ranch, the prime riparian habitat began to suffer as the Town of Jackson began to grow, to the extent that in 1992 the Environmental Protection Agency declared Flat Creek “threatened” because of the cumulative impacts to wildlife from development and a toxic cocktail of polluted runoff.

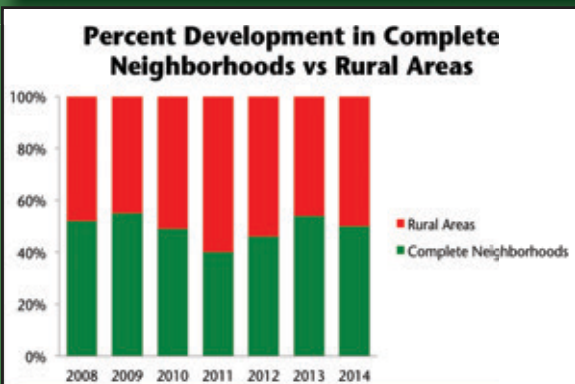
According to Tom Segerstrom, land steward and staff biologist for the Jackson Hole Land Trust, a wide variety of animals can be found in Karns Meadow including several species which are listed as threatened or endangered, such as bald eagles, osprey, and moose. Other species that can be found in the meadow include mule deer, hawks, owls, trumpeter swans, coyotes, and river otters. The meadow also acts an important corridor

for wildlife movement between East Gros Ventre Butte and Snow King Mountain.

As concerns for the ecological integrity of Flat Creek began to increase, the Karns family came to the conclusion that it was best for the community of Jackson Hole if the meadow was converted into a park.

In 2003, Peter Karns sold his great-grandfather’s ranch to the Town of Jackson for a handshake and pennies on the dollar, agreeing the land would be placed under a conservation easement and remain protected open space and critical wildlife habitat in perpetuity.

Karns Meadow is owned by the Town of Jackson, overseen by the Jackson Hole Land Trust, and managed by Teton County / Jackson Parks and Recreation. ■



What You Can Do

- Sign up to volunteer with **Neighbors with Nature**, the Alliance’s community planning campaign, at JHAlliance.org/neighborswithnature.
- Sign up to volunteer with the Jackson Hole Land Trust at jhandtrust.org/get-involved/volunteer.
- Sign up to volunteer with the Jackson Hole Wildlife Foundation’s Wildlife Friendly Fencing program at jhwildlife.org/index.php/fencing_projects and help wildlife safely move through our community.

AGENDA 22



Safe wildlife crossings can help ensure connectivity and reduce collisions. © Mark Gocke

A Vision for Wildlife

Our Challenge

Jackson Hole is a wild place with abundant wildlife, located in the heart of the last remaining large, nearly intact ecosystem in the continental United States.

We consistently rank wildlife as our top community value. Yet all too often our actions don't align with our core community value of protecting wildlife.

Some homeowners don't know or choose to ignore recognized best practices to reduce conflicts with wildlife, resulting in tragic consequences for bears, moose, elk, deer, cougars, wolves, and people.

Our land use rules allow too much development in rural Teton County, resulting in fragmented and degraded wildlife habitat. Because of climate change, wildlife diseases and invasive species will be more likely to invade our valley.

On average, 114 mule deer, 35 elk, and 15 moose are struck and killed by motorists every year on Teton County roads. Too many of us choose to recreate in ways that disrespect wildlife. And all too often politicians interfere with the public agencies responsible for managing our wildlife and don't provide them with the tools and autonomy necessary to do their job.

Our Vision

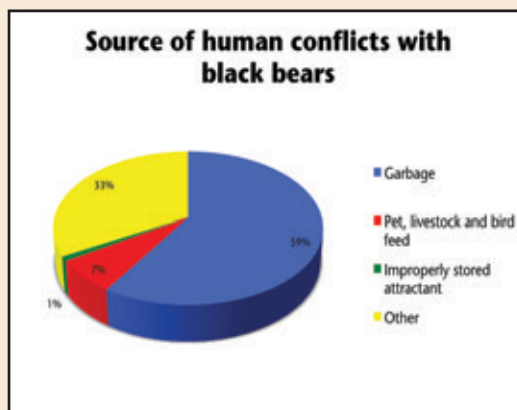
Jackson Hole should be a model community of living in balance with nature with healthy, abundant, and sustainable wildlife populations.

To make it happen we'll need to take personal responsibility for our private property, improve protections for wildlife in our land use rules, get serious about making it safe for wildlife to cross the road, consider the impacts of our recreational activities on wildlife, work together to give our public wildlife management agencies the support and independence they need to do the right thing, and ensure our wildlife management agencies use a science-based approach to maintaining healthy populations of all wildlife including iconic species like wolves, grizzly bears, and elk.

Our Solutions

For Jackson Hole to become a model community for living in balance with nature, our community should:

- Inform homeowners about and adopt policies that encourage small, easy changes to private property that reduce the chances of conflicts with wildlife.
- Direct growth out of rural areas into walkable neighborhoods and strengthen protections for wildlife in our land development regulations.
- Build a network of wildlife crossings or similar wildlife-vehicle collision mitigation measures.
- Choose to recreate in a manner that respects wildlife.
- Provide our public wildlife management agencies with the support and independence necessary to make their decisions based on facts, data, and science.
- Provide everyone with the freedom to safely and conveniently get where they need to go on foot, bike, or transit.



Wildlife Case Study

In 1986, Wyoming State Senator Boyd Eddins championed passage of the Nugget Canyon Wildlife Migration Project Act. The Act compelled State agencies to work together toward decreasing the number of wildlife-vehicle collisions (WVCs).



© John Eddins

Twenty-three years later, Senator Eddins helped cut the ribbon on seven wildlife crossings and deer fences, standing alongside his son, John Eddins, a district engineer for the Wyoming Department of Transportation (WYDOT).

John Eddins recently moved on from 27 years at WYDOT working to reduce

injuries and fatal collisions with people and wildlife on the highways of Wyoming. Core to his legacy is maintaining one of the longest wildlife corridors in the lower 48 states; a span aptly known as the “path of the pronghorn” which stretches from the Gros Ventre drainage to Rock Springs.

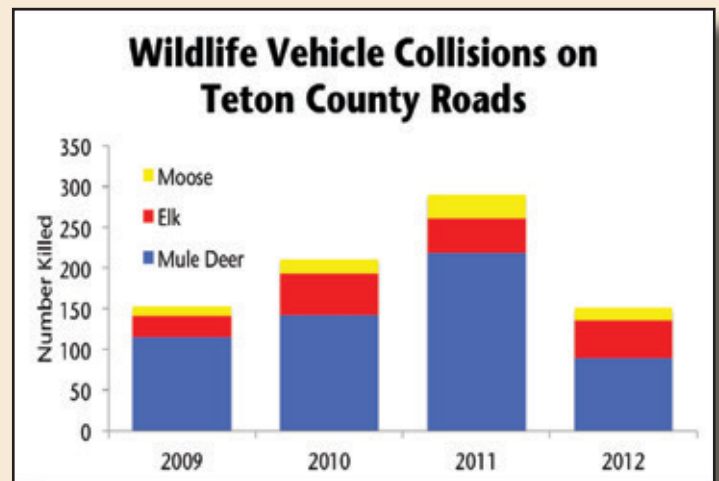
While at WYDOT, John led several wildlife crossing initiatives that won the Federal Highway Administration’s Exemplary Ecosystem Initiatives award, an honor given to State Department of Transportation agencies for making outstanding commitments to environmental stewardship:

- **Moran Junction to Dubois Wildlife Crossing Study (2005)**, this study covered a 38-mile section of U.S. 26/287 between Moran Junction and Dubois. The study helped identify wildlife movements along the Moran Junction-to-Dubois section of the highway, and enabled the development of highway design, construction, and maintenance criteria for wildlife-crossing structures and habitat linkages.
- **Nugget Canyon Fence and Wildlife Underpass (2010)**, located along U.S. Highway 30, the Nugget Canyon project demonstrated a cost-effective solution to building a wildlife crossing that delivered immediate results through a dramatic decrease in wildlife-vehicle collisions.
- **Trappers Point Wildlife Under and Overpasses (2011)**, located on U.S. Highway 191, the Trappers Point project has become world renowned in protecting a long-distance pronghorn antelope migration route.

Wildlife crossings are bridges or tunnels designed to help wildlife safely cross the road. Combined with high fences along roads to funnel animals to the crossings, wildlife crossings can reduce wildlife-vehicle collisions by nearly 90% and have proven to be the most effective measure to reduce wildlife-vehicle collisions across America and around the world.

In addition to his work reducing WVCs, John diligently worked to: maintain over 6400 miles of highways; navigate fickle federal highway funding cycles that fluctuate with the political winds; establish long-term conservation easements with private land owners to ensure long-term wildlife migration corridors remain open; and build public and political will to pay for it all.

John received his Bachelor’s degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Wyoming. In December 2014, John retired from WYDOT in order to pursue new ventures in the private sector. ■



What You Can Do

- Visit wildneighborhoods.org to learn how you can reduce the chances of conflicts with wildlife on your property.
- Sign up to volunteer with *Neighbors with Nature*, the Alliance’s community planning campaign, at JHAlliance.org/neighborswithnature.
- Sign up to volunteer with *Safe Wildlife Crossings*, the Alliance’s campaign to make it safe for wildlife to cross the road, at JHAlliance.org/wildlifecrossings.
- Don’t Poach the Powder or the Pathway; visit JHAlliance.org/DontPoach to learn how you can avoid recreating in areas that harm wildlife.
- Go to naturemappingjh.org to record the wildlife you observe and contribute to the community-wide dataset of wildlife that helps inform land management decisions.



Students enjoy the benefits of riding their bikes to school. ©Lauren Dickey

Our Challenge

It's hard to get around Jackson Hole, for people and wildlife, no matter how you're trying to get where you need to go.

Our neighborhoods lack sidewalks. Our streets aren't safe for our kids to ride bikes to school. Unless you're going to and from Teton Village during the winter, the START bus just doesn't work for most of us. There's rarely another route we can take to get to our destination. These obstacles force many of us into our cars, resulting in ground transportation accounting for approximately 60% of our community's climate change causing pollution.

On average, 114 mule deer, 35 elk, and 15 moose are struck and killed by motorists every year on Teton County roads. The summer tourist season floods our roads with traffic. Because of this seasonal congestion, and because many mistakenly believe that wider roads will alleviate congestion (despite decades of data proving wider roads only encourage people to drive more and do not reduce congestion), proposals are in place to dramatically expand the highways that bisect our community, which would harm our community character and make it even harder to get around.

Our Vision

Jackson Hole should invest in a better transportation future that aligns with our values of protecting wildlife and our community character, provides everyone with the freedom to safely and conveniently get where they need to go on foot, bike, or transit, and does not include expanded highways.

To get on the right path we'll need an honest conversation about the long-term consequences of our transportation decisions based on facts and data. An honest conversation that asks hard questions about entrenched assumptions used to plan our transportation investments. A conversation that helps us rethink our approach to transportation and leads to smart, fiscally responsible, strategic transportation investments that align with our values and help build a better transportation future.

Our Solutions

In order to provide everyone with the freedom to safely and conveniently get where they need to go, our community should:

- Approve a dedicated funding source for significant investments in walking, bicycling, and transit.
- Expand and improve transit service on existing routes and between Jackson and Wilson/Teton Village; the airport/Grand Teton National Park; Teton County, ID; and Lincoln County, WY; and on other strategic routes.
- Build a network of wildlife crossings or similar wildlife-vehicle collision mitigation measures.
- Ask hard questions about the assumptions behind any proposal to expand our highways.
- Direct growth out of rural areas into walkable neighborhoods.

Transportation Case Study

Alicia Cox, the Executive Director of the Yellowstone-Teton Clean Energy Coalition, is charging forward on transportation in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem.



© Stacy C. Noland

Alicia moved to Jackson Hole from the Midwest in the fall of 2010 to pursue a career in conservation biology. Soon after her arrival, she found herself working as a research associate here at the Jackson Hole Conservation Alliance, and she later landed a role working as a wildlife biologist for the Teton Science Schools.

Then in early 2011, Alicia was granted the opportunity to combine her field research work with her passion for transportation advocacy when she was hired by the Yellowstone-Teton Clean Energy Coalition (YTCEC), a U.S. Department of Energy designee for the Clean Cities program, an innovative program designed to advance our nation's economic, environmental, and energy security by supporting local actions to reduce petroleum use in transportation.

Recently promoted to executive director of the YTCEC, Alicia is tasked with the herculean mission of leading a campaign to reduce the use of fossil fuels in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, improve air quality by reducing vehicle emissions, and increase the region's energy security and sustainability. Her efforts have centered on the promotion of alternative fuels and vehicles, encouraging the expansion of our regional transit system, and implementing innovative conservation strategies and technologies to reduce energy consumption, particularly from fossil fuels.

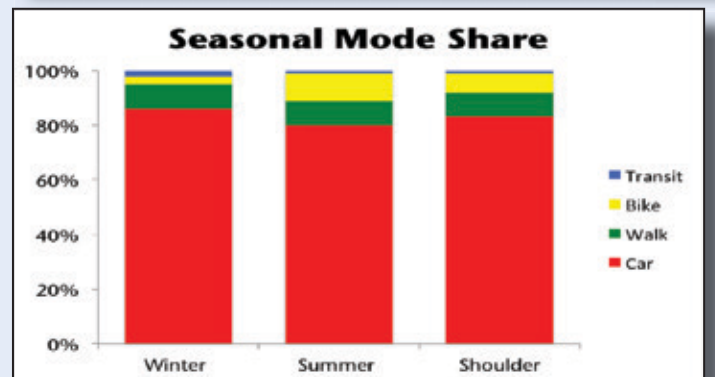
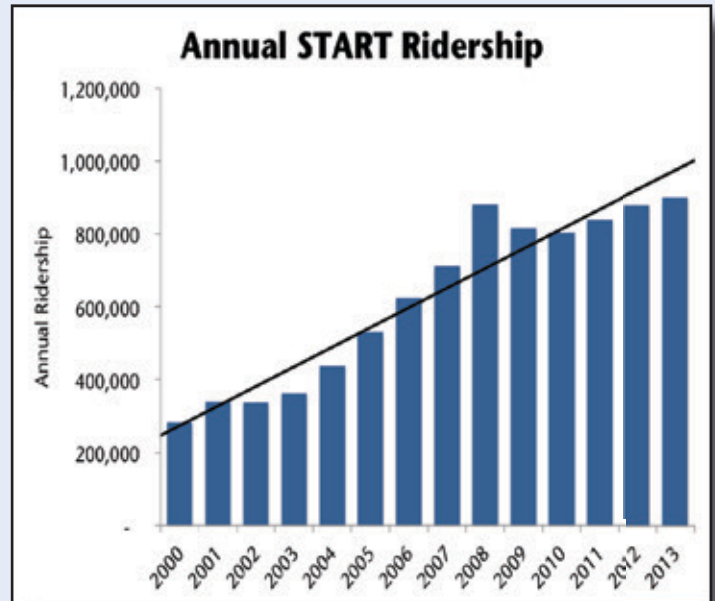
In June 2014, through an innovative partnership between the Town of Jackson and Energy Conservation Works, the YTCEC paved the pathway for the installation of the first publicly available electric vehicle charging stations in the state of Wyoming; one located on the Town Square and the other in the public parking garage on Millward Street.

Under Alicia's leadership, the Yellowstone-Teton Clean Energy Coalition is laying the foundation necessary to create a region-wide electric vehicle-charging infrastructure in the Greater Yellowstone Region.

The organization also plans to lead an initiative to re-introduce public transit service between the town of Jackson, Grand Teton, and Yellowstone National Parks

– an initiative on which the Alliance looks forward to partnering with Alicia and the YTCEC.

Alicia holds a Bachelor's degree in Biology from Central Michigan University, a Master's degree in Environmental Science and Conservation Biology from Miami University, and is a graduate of the Jackson Hole Conservation Alliance's Conservation Leadership Institute. ■



What You Can Do

- Sign up to volunteer with the Alliance's **Transportation Transformation** campaign at JHAlliance.org/transformation.
- Sign up to volunteer with **Safe Wildlife Crossings**, the Alliance's campaign to make it safe for wildlife to cross the road, at JHAlliance.org/wildlifecrossings.
- **Walk, ride your bike, take transit, or carpool** to work one day a week – you'll love it the Hole time.

AGENDA 22



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A Vision for Housing

Our Challenge

It's incredibly difficult for hard working people to find a decent, affordable place to live in Jackson Hole.

When people who work here can't afford to live here, they face a daunting choice. Commute long and dangerous distances, consuming significant amounts of fossil fuel, increasing traffic and wildlife-vehicle collisions, reducing family time, and undermining our community character. Or deal with unsafe and cramped housing conditions, camping, living in their cars, or housing costs that eat up most of their income.

This unacceptable situation exists primarily because our community has chosen not to invest in building housing that our workforce can afford and our land use rules present unnecessary obstacles to building the types of housing hard working people need, while encouraging the construction of tourist lodging and houses attractive to second homeowners.

Our Vision

Jackson Hole will stay a strong community where at least two-thirds of our diverse workforce can affordably rent or purchase a safe and healthy home that meets their family's needs. People who work in Jackson Hole should be able to live here.

We can work together as a community to create housing opportunities that align with our values of protecting wildlife and our community character and provide those who work here with the security of having a safe, decent, and affordable place to call home.

Our Solutions

To stay a strong community we should:

- Approve a dedicated funding source for the production, preservation, and management of housing for the diverse makeup of our workforce.
- Update our land development regulations to generate a supply of housing suitable and affordable to workers.
- Establish a housing trust fund to equitably allocate public funds, private donations, and in-lieu fees to housing organizations, employers, and the private sector to increase the production of affordable housing.
- Facilitate and incentivize private construction of workforce housing.

Above: Jason Leslie (left), Zaist Construction Management, and Scott Horn (right), Jackson Hole Mountain Resort, are all smiles as residents begin moving into Powderhorn Housing Development.

Housing Case Study

It's no secret that affordable housing for Jackson Hole's seasonal workforce has been a community-wide challenge dating back to the post-WWII economic booms of the 1950s and 60s. And still today, affordable housing is one of the single most important conservation issues we face as a community.

Scott Horn, a 21-year resident of Jackson Hole and Chief Administrative Officer at the Jackson Hole Mountain Resort has spent a decade leading the Resort's efforts to build affordable housing in our community.

"Providing affordable housing for seasonal employees is a logistical challenge for companies that significantly increase their staffing levels, especially in the summer months. We've rented blocks of housing owned by other people in the past, but it just wasn't enough to meet the demand." - Scott Horn

In 2003, under the leadership of Jerry Blann, President of the Mountain Resort, the company purchased 2.32-acres of real estate just behind Kmart in West Jackson. At the same time, the company began investigating what similar resort communities were doing, namely Aspen and Vail, to address their seasonal employee housing issues. The Resort also began working with the Town and County planning departments to solicit feedback and support for its vision to build a high-density apartment complex to house their seasonal employees.

In 2014, in partnership with the Four Seasons and Teton Resort Group, the Mountain Resort broke ground on Phase 1 of the Powderhorn Housing Development, a three-building complex of three-story buildings that will house 94 seasonal employees.

Each fully furnished apartment unit features communal living and dining areas, a kitchen, and two full bathrooms. Individual tenants will have his or her private 110-square foot bedroom and closet, which can be locked off from the rest of the apartment.

Tenants need only supply bedding, towels and kitchenware. Storage for bikes and skis are available on each floor, as are laundry facilities. Two units are wheelchair accessible. Rent is just under \$600 a month.

The Powderhorn Housing Development is the perfect location for its seasonal employees, especially those who are car-free. It's within close walking distance to grocery stores, a movie theater, restaurants, retail shops, bike paths, the post office, and most importantly for Mountain Resort employees, the Teton Village bus line.

Ground breaking for Phase 2 is yet to be announced; nonetheless the Resort is working on plans that would include two or three buildings that would ultimately house an additional 90 to 120 seasonal employees.

Although the Powderhorn Housing Development is a step in the right direction, Jackson Hole as a community still has a long way to go in terms of closing our seasonal housing gap. ■



What You Can Do

- Sign up to volunteer with **Neighbors with Nature**, the Alliance's community planning campaign, at JHAlliance.org/neighborswithnature.
- Sign up to volunteer with Habitat for Humanity of the Greater Teton Area at tetonhabitat.org/volunteer.

Harnessing the power of the sun at the Town of Jackson's waste water treatment plant. © Phil Cameron



“Jackson Hole should lead the transition away from the dirty energy economy of the past toward the clean energy economy of the future.”

Our Challenge

In Jackson Hole, we are addicted to fossil fuels. We burn oil to get around. We burn coal to keep the lights on in the fall and winter. We burn natural gas to heat our homes and businesses. And we burn oil to export our garbage and import our food.

While we power our community in the spring and summer primarily with hydropower, Jackson Hole has the highest per capita energy use rate in America – nearly double the national average. This means other communities are forced to burn fossil fuels instead of being able to use some of the hydropower we consume. It also means that we have significant opportunities for improvement.

Our Vision

Jackson Hole should lead the transition away from the dirty energy economy of the past toward the clean energy economy of the future by breaking our addiction to fossil fuels.

To get this done we'll need to build on current helpful local government initiatives and use our ingenuity and innovation to rethink how we power our community, get around, manage our waste, and source our food. Focusing on how we power our community, this should involve dramatically increasing our supply of locally generated distributed renewable energy, and reducing our demand for energy through efficiency and conservation.

Our Solutions

In order to break our addiction to fossil fuels and build the clean energy economy of the future, our community should:

- Implement policies like a feed-in tariff to encourage the generation of local distributed renewable energy.
- Advance policies and incentives like group net metering to encourage small-scale community-owned renewable energy projects, like solar gardens or a neighborhood wind turbine.
- Expand incentives and financing options for owners of existing buildings to participate in a community-wide energy retrofit program.
- Direct growth out of rural areas into walkable neighborhoods while providing everyone with the freedom to safely and conveniently get where they need to go on foot, bike, or transit.



Erin Leon and Phil Cameron from Energy Conservation Works are leading the charge to raise the energy IQ of Jackson Hole residents.

© Taylor Glenn

Energy Case Study

Laurie Coe is a lifelong resident of Jackson Hole and a homeowner in West Jackson who makes energy efficiency look easy.



After graduating from Jackson Hole High School in the early 1980s, her parents encouraged her to buy a house, instead of renting. Subsequently, she applied for and received a low interest home loan from the Farmers Home Administration that she used to purchase a two-bedroom modular

home in West Jackson. She was just 19-years old. Besides professional athletes and entertainers, how many 19-year olds have the foresight and wherewithal to make the commitment to invest in a home at such a very young age?

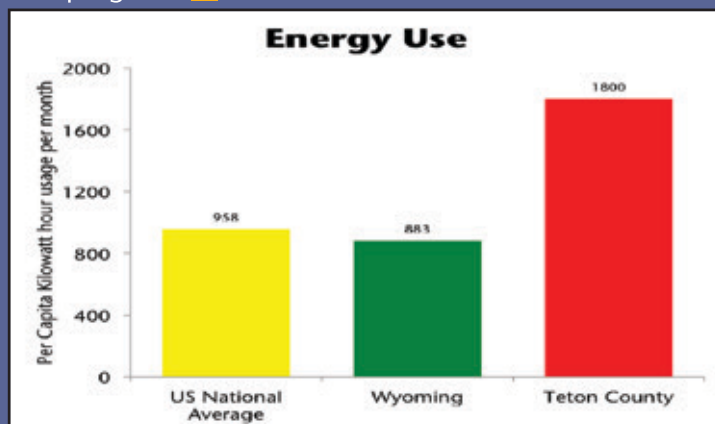
We all know how the arctic-like climate in Jackson creates unique wear and tear on our homes. Over the course of three decades, appliances, pipes, insulation, and windows will inevitably wear out and more efficient options will arise. And this was the case with Laurie's home – to the extent she admits to using bubble wrap to keep out Old Man Winter.

In 2013, tired of living in a cold, drafty house where she was continually throwing hard earned money out of the proverbial window, Laurie decided to do something about it. So she contacted Lower Valley Energy (LVE) for assistance. Upon receiving her call, LVE connected her with Energy Conservation Works (ECW) to learn more about financing efficiency improvements and schedule a home energy assessment to identify them. The assessor combed through her house to identify potential energy-saving measures, and provided a detailed report and explanation of ways she could retrofit her home and save a few dollars in the process.

As a result of the technical and financial support from LVE and ECW, Laurie decided to replace the front door and south facing windows to her home. She is expected to save approximately 3,630 kilowatt hours of energy use, which equates to over \$200 in savings annually. Through an innovative residential loan program being managed by Energy Conservation Works, Laurie secured a \$7500, zero-percent interest loan that she will pay back as part of her monthly utility bill over the next five years.

Laurie wants to share the message that when one LVE customer saves on their energy bill, we all do as this helps reduce our burning of fossil fuels. She is proud of this great program made possible through the partnership of Lower Valley Energy and Energy Conservation Works.

Laurie will continue to pay back her zero-interest loan one month at a time, save on her energy bills, and enjoy a cozier and more comfortable home. Laurie plans to replace her existing thermostats and insulation during the next phase of energy efficiency improvements through the residential loan program. ■



What You Can Do

Helpful tips you can use to save money and make your home more energy efficient include:

- Install energy efficient light bulbs and appliances
- Upgrade insulation and weather stripping
- Upgrade to programmable electronic thermostats
- Install the "Smarthub" smartphone app to monitor and measure energy use
- Lower the temperature on your hot water tank, especially when you plan to be out of town
- Conduct a full-scale energy assessment with Lower Valley Energy
- Contact Energy Conservation Works to determine if you qualify for a low interest loan

Note: The above actions are subject to Lower Valley Energy financial rebates.

TO LEARN HOW YOU CAN SAVE ON YOUR ENERGY BILLS, and enjoy a cozier and more comfortable home this winter visit Choosetoreduce.org

Other helpful things you can do:

- Sign up to volunteer with **Neighbors with Nature**, the Alliance's community planning campaign, at JHAlliance.org/neighborswithnature.
- Sign up to volunteer with the Alliance's **Transportation Transformation** campaign at JHAlliance.org/transformation.

AGENDA 22

A Vision for Food, Waste, Water & Wildfire



Whole Food Rescue © Ali Dunford



© Stacy C. Noland



Rafting the Snake River © Zeenie Scholz



Horsethief fire. © IncidentWeb

Food

IT'S DIFFICULT TO GROW FOOD IN JACKSON HOLE'S CHILLY CLIMATE, resulting in food being our largest import expense with 96% of our food being imported into the valley. This uses inordinate amounts of fossil fuels, makes it tough for grocers and restaurants to source locally grown food, and challenging for consumers to afford it, limiting accessibility for everyone.

Jackson Hole should build a robust localized and regionalized food system because our community deserves affordable, healthy, regionally sourced food grown in an environmentally responsible way.

With booming food markets in Idaho, Utah, Colorado, and Montana, we can focus on sourcing regionally while building our local food economies.

Waste

TRASH IS OUR COMMUNITY'S BIGGEST EXPORT, with our trash shipped 100 miles one-way to a landfill in Idaho costing us approximately three million dollars a year. Even though it costs less than half as much to recycle and compost, we currently divert only 34% of our waste.

Jackson Hole should achieve 60% diversion of our waste into recycling and compost programs by 2030.

This would save our community millions of dollars each year, take dozens of trucks off of our roads, and reduce our consumption of fossil fuels.

Imagine the 1988 Yellowstone fires becoming a normal occurrence.

Water

AT FIRST GLANCE, YOU WOULDN'T THINK WATER IS AN ISSUE IN JACKSON HOLE. America's greatest rivers start their long journey to the sea in our backyard, most of our rivers and streams are protected, and our groundwater aquifer is in robust shape. Yet our local creeks are under threat.

Development gone wrong threatens Fish Creek with nutrient pollution, changing the character of this once fish-rich stream, while a toxic cocktail of polluted runoff flows into Flat Creek every time it rains and as the snow melts.

Jackson Hole's creeks should be clean and clear and provide for thriving fish and riverine habitats.

We should take responsibility for doing development right and cleaning up dirty water before it enters our creeks.

Wildfire

BECAUSE OF CLIMATE CHANGE, THE RISK OF BIGGER, BADDER WILDFIRES in Jackson Hole is expected to increase sevenfold in the coming years. Imagine the 1988 Yellowstone fires becoming a normal occurrence. Consider that nearly 4,500 homes in Teton County are located in the wildland-urban interface, directly in the path of future wildfires. Think about the threat this poses to our families, our homes and property, and the budgets of the Forest Service and our local firefighting agencies.

Jackson Hole should prepare to live with and through wildfire.

This will involve homeowners taking personal responsibility for making small, easy changes that prepare their private property for wildfire, directing growth away from areas at risk from wildfire, the adoption of regulations that encourage people to build and operate homes in ways that reduce wildfire risk, and increased funding for fire prevention and suppression. ■

Pigs from Haderlie Farms chow down on compost. © Ali Dunford





A Letter from Our Co-Chairs

As the Board Co-Chairs of the Conservation Alliance, we are proud to announce the launch of AGENDA 22, our vision to create a better future for Jackson Hole. We intend to make our community a national model of living in balance with nature.

We recognize it takes more than a vision to create a better future. As the saying goes, “A vision without a plan is just a dream, but a vision with plan can change the world.” Consequently, **AGENDA 22** is more than a vision – it’s a proactive blueprint of balanced solutions we should adopt to achieve this vision.

The Alliance is committed to advancing AGENDA 22. We are doing this through Alliance initiatives such as:

- Leading and engaging in issue advocacy campaigns. These include community planning, wildlife management, appropriate use of our public lands, making it safe for wildlife to cross the road, and transportation.
- Developing the next generation of leaders through our Conservation Leadership Institute. This program has empowered 49 participants over the past year with the skills necessary to hold decision makers accountable.
- Educating backcountry skiers and hikers about seasonal closures of wildlife habitat with our Don’t Poach the Powder program, and informing homeowners how to prepare for wildfire and reduce conflicts with wildlife through our Wild Neighborhoods program.
- Holding our elected representatives accountable for making decisions in the best long-term interest of our community through our Civic Engagement program.
- Developing a program to empower and support citizen-led campaigns that advance **AGENDA 22** outlined in this newsletter.

You have to start with a vision and a plan, but it obviously takes a lot more than that to create a better future. In addition to thousands of hours of work, it requires the support of people like you to provide the funding necessary to run these programs and implement the plan.

Please make a generous gift to the Jackson Hole Conservation Alliance today. You are helping us run the programs that advance **AGENDA 22** and create a better future for Jackson Hole.

Thank you for your support.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Hardie'.

David Hardie
Co-Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Sullivan'.

Mark Sullivan
Co-Chair

P.S. Your gift will help us take another step toward making Jackson Hole a national model of living in balance with nature.



Alliance Launches Civic Engagement Program

The Alliance's Siva Sundaesan discusses the need to build more wildlife crossings in Jackson Hole. © Stacy C. Noland

Jackson Hole currently lacks a conservation entity holding our elected representatives accountable for their decisions that shape our future, engaging Teton County residents in the electoral and ballot initiative process, or educating Teton County residents on the electoral issues that affect a conservation agenda.

To fill this gap, the Alliance is excited to announce the launch of our Civic Engagement program. The Alliance's Civic Engagement program will educate Teton County voters about relevant conservation issues and elected representatives' and candidates' positions and actions on these issues.

Additionally, the program will seek to engage eligible voters in our political process through get out the vote and voter registration activities.

As Thomas Jefferson said,
"An enlightened citizenry is indispensable for the proper functioning of a republic. Self-government is not possible unless the citizens are educated sufficiently to enable them to exercise oversight."

Over the coming years, the Alliance's Civic Engagement program will:

- Continue to train young and emerging leaders through our Conservation Leadership Institute (see next page). We will invite new constituencies into the program and support graduates in positions on volunteer boards and commissions.
- Educate candidates about conservation issues and inform voters regarding candidates' positions on these issues.
- Educate voters about how their elected representatives voted with respect to conservation issues.
- Engage eligible voters in our political process through get out the vote and voter registration activities.
- Lobby and track our elected representative's votes on conservation issues.

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED in helping to hold our elected representatives accountable for their decisions that shape our future, contact Skye Schell, Civic Engagement Director, at 307-733-9417 or skye@jhalliance.org. ■



“Destiny is not a matter of chance,
but of choice. Not something to
wish for, but to attain.”

— William Jennings Bryan

Jackson Hole Conservation Leadership Institute

An initiative of the Jackson Hole Conservation Alliance

49 PEOPLE. 3 ROUNDS. 1 YEAR.

In November of 2014, 14 people graduated from the third round of the Jackson Hole Conservation Leadership Institute (CLI), our flagship leadership development and community-organizing program.

These 14 people join 35 previous graduates from the first two rounds of CLI (held over the past year) with the skills and knowledge necessary to organize, advocate, and hold local decision-makers accountable for building a better future for Jackson Hole.

For eight consecutive Wednesday nights, from October 1 through November 19, young and emerging leaders from the Jackson Hole area spent 3 hours each night learning how to hone their public speaking abilities, identify and tackle key public policy issues that affect our community, build effective stakeholder engagement strategies, and dynamically delegate roles and responsibilities to achieve results.

Participants also heard from local and regional thought leaders and subject matter experts on topics ranging from land use development and affordable housing, to energy conservation and wildlife management, to the future of conservation in the American West.

Alliance staff have been inspired and impressed by these new leaders' energy, and we will be relying on them heavily in the coming year to lead campaigns to advance **AGENDA 22**.



Fall 2014 CLI Grads are all smiles after 8 weeks of hard work. © Stacy C. Noland

From L to R, front to back: Elisabeth Rohrbach, (Craig Benjamin, Executive Director), Lin Heffner; Monika Flanigan, Jessica Spalding, Meghan Cratty, Erin Leon, Mandy Crane, Jacques Li; Shane Rothman, Michael Krulin, Johnny Ziem, Reid Walker, Sam Petri, (Skye Schell, Civic Engagement Director), and Josh Metten.

“CLI is an amazing program. In two short months I was able to gain concrete skills to organize a grassroots lobbying effort, in addition to gaining a deeper understanding for the various components that make up our community, and how everything in our town and county are interwoven, whether subtly or obviously.”

— Elisabeth Rohrbach, CLI Graduate

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT CLI, visit JHAlliance.org/cli or contact Skye Schell, Civic Engagement Director, at 307-733-9417 or skye@jhalliance.org. ■

Be Responsible. Respect Wildlife. Don't Poach the Power.



A herd of bull elk band together at sunset to pass the night on the National Elk Refuge in Jackson Hole, Wyoming. © Thomas D. Mangelsen

Cold temperatures, extreme terrain, and deep snow are what we live for as skiers, snowboarders, snowmobilers, and snowshoers.

These same elements, combined with scarce food supplies and the dire need to conserve energy, make it really hard for wildlife, especially big game, to survive our long, cold, harsh winters.

When we disturb wildlife, we force them to expend precious energy avoiding us, and this can lead to a long, slow death.

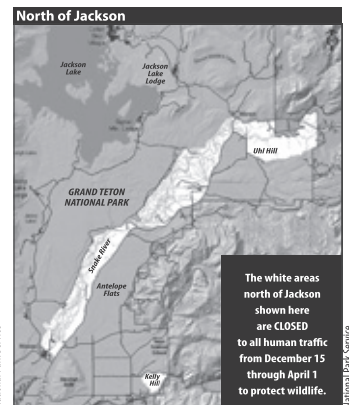
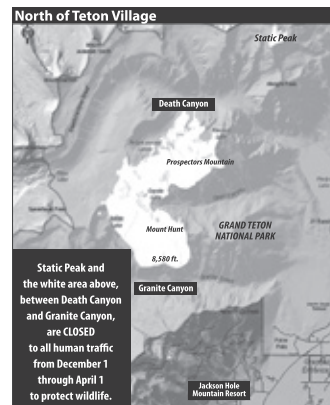
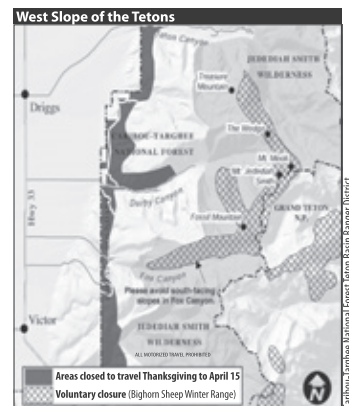
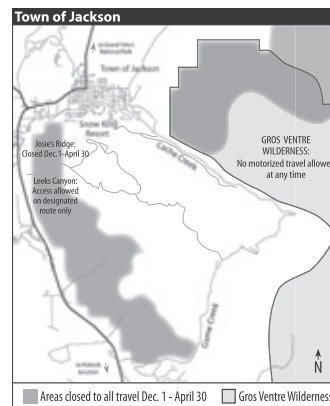
As responsible winter recreation enthusiasts, you're encouraged to know before you go which backcountry areas serve as critical winter habitat and migration pathways for wildlife.



TO DOWNLOAD MAPS of winter wildlife closure areas to avoid this winter visit JHalliance.org/dontpoach.

Protect wildlife – don't poach the powder!

Please stay out of these places that are closed to protect wildlife.*



Winter is the most stressful time of the year for wildlife. Deep snow, scarce food and cold temperatures make energy conservation key for winter survival.

When we disturb wildlife, we force them to spend energy avoiding us, which can result in their death.

We have many places to ski and snowmobile, but elk, deer, moose and bighorn sheep rely on undisturbed areas to survive the winter.

Please respect wildlife and their habitat.

Stay out of areas that are closed to protect our wildlife.

Remember, "poaching" closed areas on foot or with dogs, skis, snowboards or snowmobiles can be as harmful to wildlife as poaching with a rifle.

To report trespassers in closed areas, call the Teton Interagency Dispatch Center at (307) 739-3301. In Idaho, report trespassers to the Caribou-Targhee National Forest Teton Basin Ranger District at (208) 354-2312. * More detailed winter access and travel maps are available at local visitor centers and U.S. Forest Service offices. Don't forget to keep yourself safe, too – check avalanche conditions at www.jhavalanche.org or call (307) 733-2664.

Don't Poach the Powder partners include: Bridger-Teton National Forest, Grand Teton National Park, Greater Yellowstone Coalition, Jackson Hole Conservation Alliance, National Elk Refuge, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, and Wyoming Game and Fish Department.

Jackson Hole is a Wild Place.

We all know that wildlife, including moose, elk and deer, but also predators like bears, wolves, and mountain lions, move through our neighborhoods. The potential for harmful encounters is high, which often lead to bad outcomes for both people and wildlife.



Recently, a wolf walked through Melody Ranch—luckily with no incident. Last year a cougar was spotted on the pathway near Gregory Lane, again luckily with no incident—but police and other agencies moved to close the pathway to help protect people. But sometimes things can go wrong: an incident with a cougar up Cache Creek a few years ago created problems for citizens, agencies, and (ultimately) the cat.

Wildfires are also a real and potential threat to homes in our community: the 2012 Horsethief Canyon fire cost millions and put the town itself at risk, and the Green Knoll Fire in 2001 threatened hundreds of homes.

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT the simple things you can do to reduce the chances of conflicts with wildlife and prepare your property for wildfire, visit Wildneighborhoods.org.

Moose guards the entrance to the Old Wilson Schoolhouse. © Zeenie Scholz



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- Alex Norton, Jackson/Teton County Planner
- Anya Tyson, volunteer
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Wildlife

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- Doug Brimeyer, Wildlife Management Coordinator, Wyoming Game and Fish Department
- Dusty Lassefer, Bear Wise Community Coordinator, Wyoming Game and Fish Department
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- John Eddins, (former) District 3 Engineer, Wyoming Department of Transportation
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- Tim Fuchs, Region 1 Supervisor, Wyoming Game and Fish Department
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Transportation

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Youth riding through Stilson Ranch. © Lauren Dickey



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