



Community Planning Director

JOB DESCRIPTION
July 2022

Organizational Overview

43 years ago, a group of caring neighbors bound by a ferocious love for the magic of Jackson Hole founded the Jackson Hole Alliance for Responsible Planning. We've worked as a watchdog to defend Jackson Hole from many things you don't see today; from oil/gas wells in Cache Creek to a dam that would have flooded Oxbow Bend, and much more. Now, as the Jackson Hole Conservation Alliance, we believe our valley still needs a local organization with deep roots to address bad ideas that don't align with our community's values. And we believe that if we are to succeed in protecting the wildlife, wild places, and community character of Jackson Hole, we must do more than respond to threats: we must empower the whole community to proactively create a better future.

That's why we work to make Jackson Hole a national model of a strong community living in balance with nature: where abundant populations of wildlife have the freedom to roam across the landscape, through our neighborhoods, and safely cross our roads; where we live in walkable neighborhoods with accessible transportation choices and workforce housing, surrounded by protected open space, working agricultural lands, and connected wildlife habitat; and where we respect wildlife when we recreate on protected, wild, well-managed public lands.

The Alliance has 43 years of experience in community planning and has profoundly influenced the way that Jackson Hole has (and has not) developed. We advocate for development that respects this unique landscape and represents our community's vision to protect our wildlife, wild places, and community character. This vision, outlined in the Teton County Comprehensive Plan, includes preserving and protecting the area's ecosystem to ensure a healthy environment, community, and economy for current and future generations.

Position Overview

The Community Planner will help the Alliance shape land-use, housing, and other community development plans for the benefit of our wildlife, wild places, and community character. They will work on and manage a broad portfolio of projects, including reacting to proposals (e.g., Northern South Park neighborhood plan) and leading our own proactive projects (e.g., scenario planning, participation in the Teton Transportation Coalition). They will help determine how the Alliance should engage on current and long-range planning issues as they arise, developing compelling alternatives to projects we deem harmful to our community, formulating proactive plans and policies to create a better future, and building community and political support.

Major Responsibilities

- Watchdog development proposals, planning processes, policy changes (e.g., Comprehensive Plan and Land Development Regulations), and state legislation through the lens of the Alliance's mission
- Frequently attend/watch town council and board of county commissioners' meetings and keep other staff updated on issues related to the Alliance's work
- Research, shape, and implement proactive planning campaigns
- Advise Executive Director, Board of Directors, and Alliance staff on planning issues
- Develop grassroots and political support for Alliance policy goals through effective communication, relationship building, persuasive lobbying, and grassroots organizing
- Clearly frame and translate technical community planning issues into understandable and story-based communications in a variety of formats, from social media to comment letters
- Build and maintain strong collaborative relationships with a broad range of organizations, coalitions, elected representatives, agency staff, donors, media, and community leaders
- Serve as a community planning resource to other staff
- Work on grant applications with development staff
- Stay informed on planning issues through literature review, research into peer communities, professional development opportunities, and discussions with planning professionals

Qualifications

Applicant should be a quick learner, proactive self-starter, and good team player. Other preferred qualifications include:

- Understanding of the planning issues facing resort and mountain town communities with a seasonal, tourism-based economy
- Policy analysis and technical and persuasive writing skills
- Ability to adapt to changes in the public process and pivot to new strategies
- Excellent interpersonal communication skills and public speaking ability
- Ability to effectively lobby elected officials and key decision-makers
- A work history that includes extensive teamwork and collaboration
- Experience engaging people in complex processes with clear communication
- Ability to work a flexible schedule including evening meetings (e.g., Town Council)
- Creative thinker and problem solver
- Ability to quickly learn technical subjects from literature review and conversations with subject matter experts and stakeholders
- Passion and resilience: advocacy can be controversial and challenging
- Knowledge of local area, partners, and staff
- GIS or other technical skills
- Master's degree in planning or a related field or demonstrated expertise in rural / small community or long-range planning. AICP certification preferred

Compensation

Salary is dependent on experience and knowledge, and thus has a broad range from 60k to 85k. The Alliance offers a comprehensive benefits package including health, vision, and dental insurance; parental leave; retirement contributions; professional development; vacation, sick leave, paid holidays, and flexible schedules.

Location

Our staff works remotely Mondays and Fridays and are together in our Jackson, WY office Tuesdays-Thursdays.

Application deadline and timeline

Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. We encourage early applications, and we will conduct interviews with qualified candidates on a rolling basis. Start date is flexible.

To apply

Send cover letter and resume to jobs@jhalliance.org. The Alliance is an equal opportunity employer and encourages applications from candidates in communities traditionally underrepresented in conservation. The Alliance strives to create a welcoming and inclusive environment for all. Contact Dawn Webster at 307-733-9417 x7 with questions about the role.