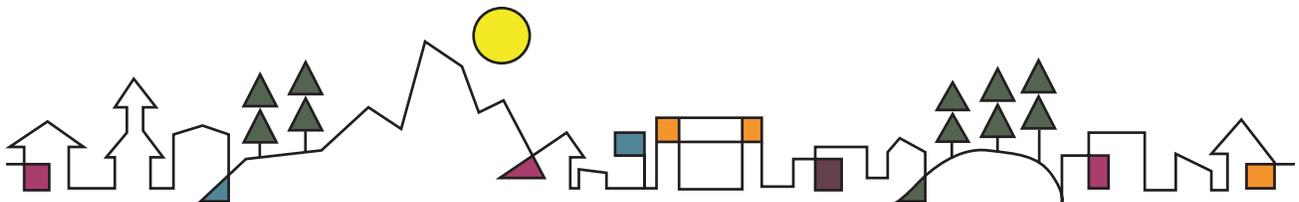

Chapter 3. A Community Based Plan



In order for the Comprehensive Plan to represent the goals, aspirations, and desires of the community, it is essential for the community to be involved with its creation. Therefore, it was very important to the Teton County Board of County Commissioners from the outset that the Plan be created with a “bottom-up” approach, and that citizens with diverse voices had the opportunity to participate in the process. The resulting Plan process was truly a grass-roots effort that strived to obtain broad-based public input. This was accomplished by creating an open and honest process, hearing all concerns, and addressing issues as much as possible within the Plan. Ideally, the Plan is broadly supported by the community, even if all elements are not entirely to the satisfaction of every member.

Methods include surveys, “Plan Van”, events, workshops, living room meetings, “Workbooks-to-Go”, websites and committees.

EARLY OUTREACH

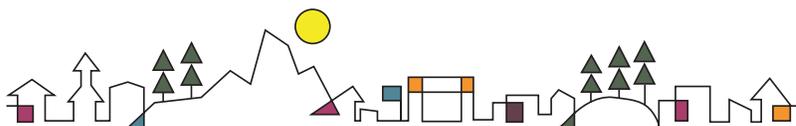
In the spring of 2010, a group of twelve involved Teton County residents were appointed by the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) to design the process by which a new Comprehensive Plan would be written. This group became known as the Plan for Planning committee or P4P and members were chosen to represent a diverse cross-section of viewpoints. The P4P committee met twice a month and had three main goals:

- Begin initial outreach to the community
- Develop the process to create the new Comprehensive Plan
- Make a recommendation to the BOCC for a consultant team

Initial outreach to the community by the P4P included several different activities and approaches. A kick-off event was held in Teton, Driggs and Victor with the purpose of raising awareness for the Comprehensive Plan and the process by which it would be created. A Valley-wide mailing and an online questionnaire asked questions about the values important to Teton County residents. This online questionnaire had approximately 740 people (7.4% of the population) respond.

The P4P categorized the public feedback into five major content areas: Economic Development, Transportation, Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation, Community Events and Facilities, and Rural and Agricultural Heritage. They decided that the Comprehensive Plan should focus on each of these content areas, recognizing that property rights was an important part of all of these pieces and would be considered in all categories throughout the process.

The P4P decided that a separate committee should focus on each of the content areas defined in the outreach efforts, but was concerned about coordination and communication among the committees. For that reason, they decided the chair of each committee would also serve on a core coordination committee (the Core Committee) that would coordinate all pieces of the plan to ensure cohesion and consistency among the parts of the Plan. The P4P solicited for volunteers and brainstormed ideas of who should be on each Sub-Committee, trying to ensure that all



stakeholder groups were represented in the process. They also tried to balance each Sub-Committee with a broad spectrum of political and ideological viewpoints. The volunteers were chosen as representatives of the community and everyone who desired to volunteer was placed on a Sub-Committee. No one was turned away.

It was the responsibility of the committee members to not only attend regular meetings and discuss, debate, and work through the topics that are included in the Plan, but also to continually reach out to others in the community for input.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

In addition to involving a wide net of volunteers on committees, a variety of additional public outreach efforts were made throughout the process. This included public workshops, open houses, stakeholder interviews, a “plan van”, online surveys, newspaper articles and ads, and a dedicated website.

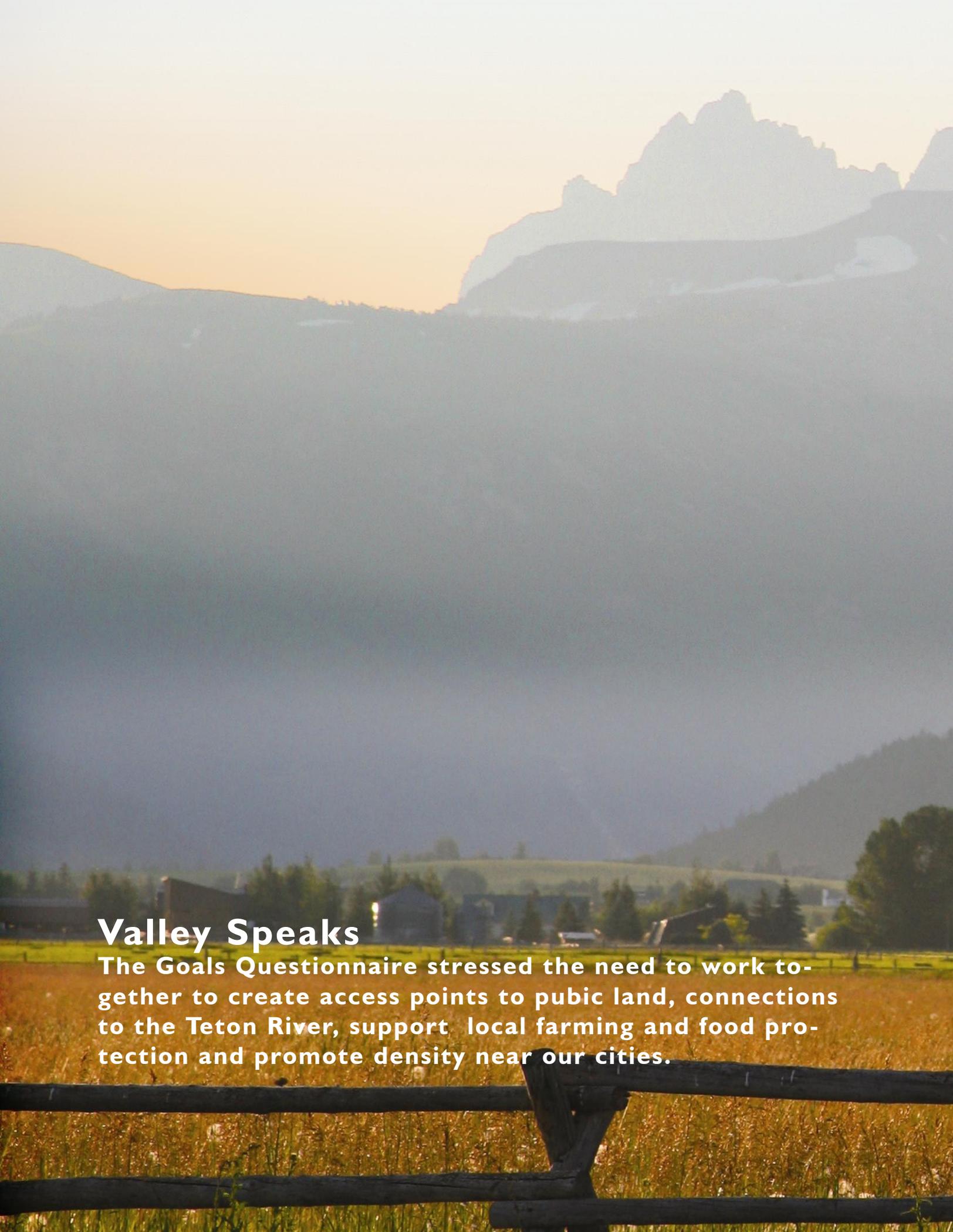
Three large Community Workshops were held at key points throughout the Comp Plan process. The workshops included Vision Workshop #1 held on August 25, 2011 and the “What If?/Framework” Workshop #2 held on December 6, 2011, and the Draft Plan Open House held on May 30, 2012. During these large community events, the work accomplished by the Sub-Committees and Core Committee was presented to the public for feedback.

Additional Community Meetings were held in Tetonia, Driggs, and Victor during the week of March 20-22, 2012. These meetings focused on land use tools that were being considered and an online survey was developed on the same topic so that those who could not attend the meetings could also give input.

Stakeholder interviews were held early in the process with individuals from City and County departments, State and Federal agencies, local and regional non-profit organizations, citizen groups and clubs, key citizens and property owners, local business leaders, and others. Stakeholder interviews have the ability to provide information that no other outreach tool can. In particular, interviews are the best method to drill down to specific issues regarding a particular niche in the community, be it for a specific subarea, property owner or developer. Stakeholder interviews are better tailored to hear this perspective than a public workshop or broader outreach event.

Committee volunteers helped create and mobilize a “plan van” that contained information about the Teton Valley 2020 project and traveled to different locations throughout the valley during the summer of 2011. The activities and materials from the Community Workshops were placed in the Plan Van which traveled to events including the Farmers Market, Music on Main, Felt Centennial Celebration, and the Soil Conservation Service’s Rural Living Workshop.

Regular, ongoing briefings with decision-makers were held to ensure that the Comprehensive Plan adhered to the County’s regulatory requirements and was a reflection of the community’s expressed



Valley Speaks

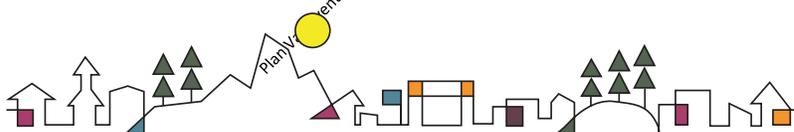
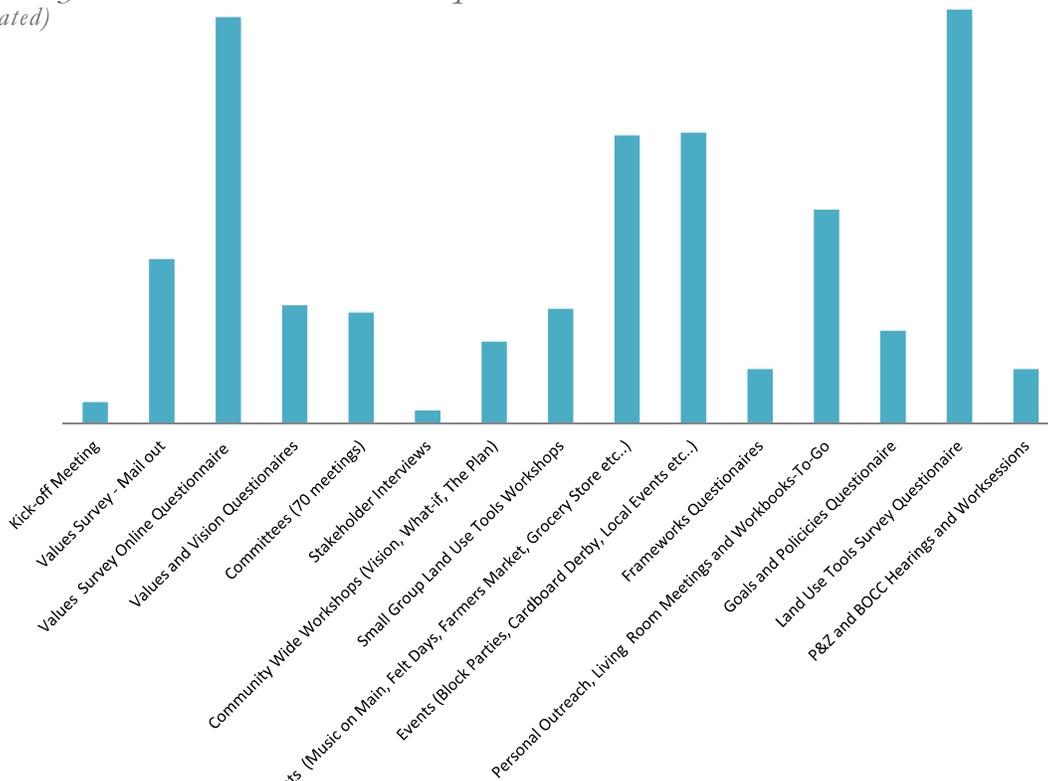
The Goals Questionnaire stressed the need to work together to create access points to public land, connections to the Teton River, support local farming and food protection and promote density near our cities.



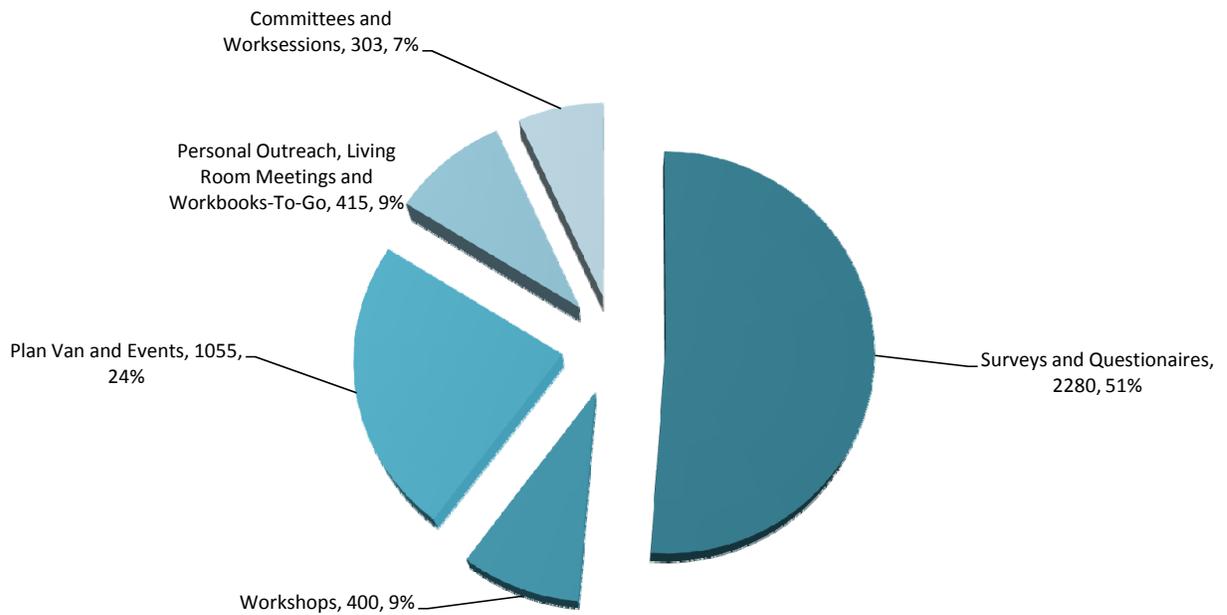
values. After each community workshop and at key milestones, a joint work session with the P&Z, BOCC and the Core Committee was held in order to keep the decision-makers informed of the Plan’s progress and to get approval before moving to the next step in the process. As required by Idaho Code, the final Comprehensive Plan was presented to the P&Z at a public hearing for their recommended approval to the BOCC. Based on recommendations from the P&Z, the Comprehensive Plan was approved by the BOCC.

In addition to personal contact with the community through meetings, interviews, and “plan van” excursions, outreach was conducted through the web and print media. The Teton Valley 2020 website (www.tetonvalley2020.org) and the Teton County website (www.tetoncountyidaho.gov) publicized information about the Comprehensive Plan process and all committee, Planning and Zoning (P&Z) and Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) meetings were noticed a minimum of 5 days prior to the meeting date. Agendas, meeting minutes, survey data, workbook exercises and other information were also available on the Teton Valley 2020 website. Newspaper ads were placed in both the Teton Valley News and the Valley Citizen one and two weeks prior to each Community Workshop and Community Meeting. Teton Valley 2020 banners were displayed above Highway 33 in Victor for several months and also in front of the Driggs City Center. Numerous newspaper articles and opinion pieces were written and radio features were aired as well.

Community Outreach Tools - People Reached (to be updated)



Community Outreach Methods - People Reached
(to be updated)





Valley Speaks

The youth Sub-Committees came up with two goal statements: “We want a teen-friendly community and environment”, and “We want a community that values its natural heritage, has a vibrant economy, diverse consumer options, and a teen-friendly environment”.





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