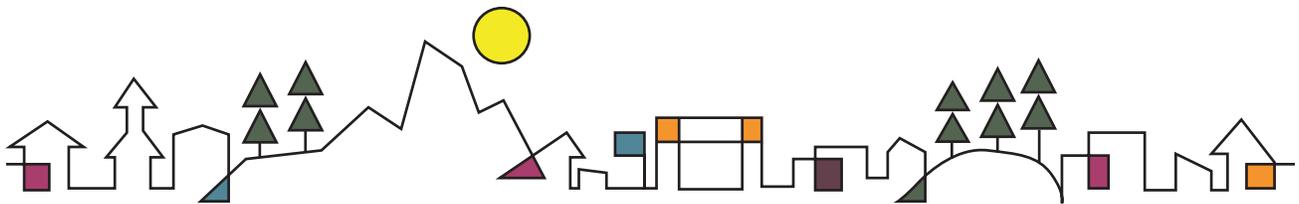

Chapter 4. Vision for a Vibrant Future



A VISION FOR TETON COUNTY

Very few communities can say they truly control their destiny. We live in a closed valley, where each one of us helps determine our own future.

The Vision ensures that County residents' values and goals are accurately reflected in the Plan's elements, policies and frameworks. The Vision provides the foundation for Framework and Implementation. It creates the structure and initial agreements necessary to tackle tough issues. The following Vision drives our community toward an economically sustainable future that preserves the quality of life we have come to know and love.

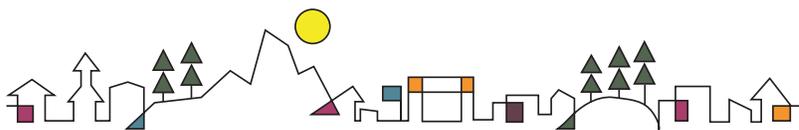
A vision statement and guiding principles for each plan element arose from direction given through input by the Sub-Committees, Core Committee, stakeholders, County staff, elected officials and the public through the Teton Valley 2020 questionnaire and direct Sub-Committee outreach efforts. The result is this draft of a Vision for our community, comprised of the following plan elements:

- Economic Development
- Transportation
- Natural Resources + Outdoor Recreation
- Community Events + Facilities
- Agricultural + Rural Heritage

Vision statements, guiding principles, benefits and opportunities were developed based on the comments received during this process, and are included in the following pages.

*B*uilt on lessons learned and founded on our community values,
the Teton Valley 2020 Vision Document – and corresponding
Comprehensive Plan – Envision a Sustainable Future for Teton County.

4-2



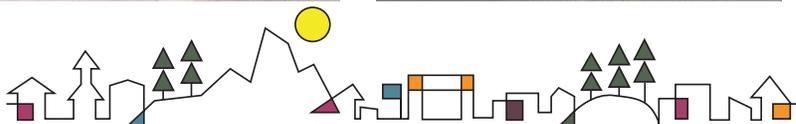
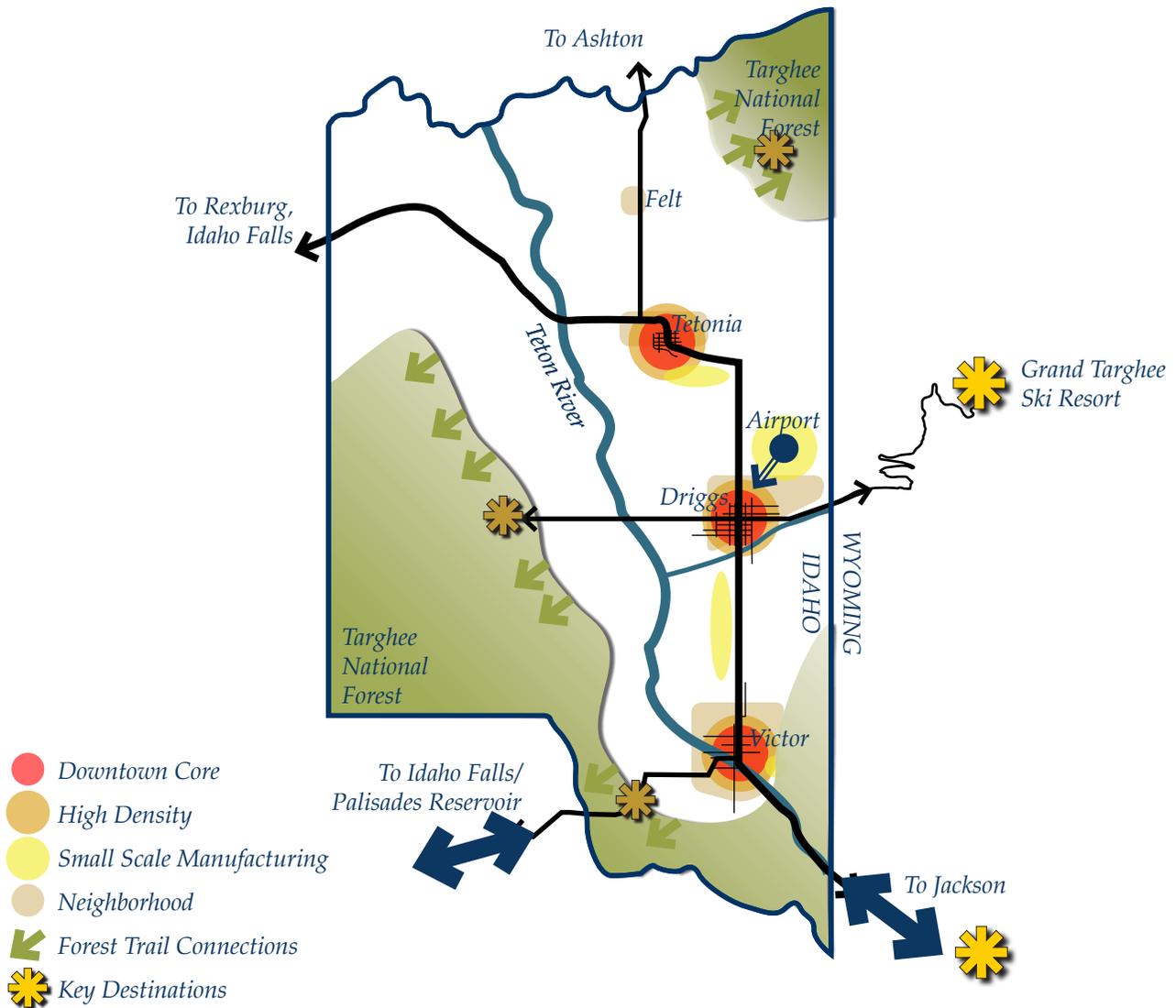
Our Community Envisions a Sustainable Future for Teton County

We will strive to:

- Establish a vibrant, diverse and stable economy.
- Create and maintain a well connected, multi-modal network of transportation infrastructure to provide convenient and safe mobility for all residents, visitors and businesses.
- Preserve natural resources and a healthy environment, which is essential for creating viable future economic and recreational opportunities for all users.
- Contribute to our strong sense of community by providing quality facilities, services and activities to benefit the community.
- Preserve and enhance the rural character and heritage of Teton Valley.

It is this Vision that informs the following vision statements and guiding principles. These will serve as the building blocks for our community's future.

economic development



economic development

Establish a vibrant, diverse and stable economy.

Guiding Principles

- Encourage, promote and support locally-owned valley businesses
- Incentivize local commerce
- Create a hospitable and attractive environment for businesses and visitors
- Preserve our rural character and heritage and help local agricultural industries flourish
- Attract businesses that are economically and environmentally friendly
- Encourage stewardship and accountability
- Pursue economic diversity, innovation and creativity

Benefits

- Provides long-term economic stability (minimizes boom/bust cycles)
- Provides gainful employment
- Provides independence
- Develops community identity
- Keeps money in the valley
- Preserves valley aesthetics

Opportunities

- Brand and market Teton Valley
- Promote smart growth strategies
- Attract businesses that support the guiding principles
- Improve infrastructure
- Improve existing educational facilities and develop educational opportunities to support economic development, including post-secondary education including via the internet, telecommuting and extension offices
- Embrace our cultural diversity and heritage
- Develop a coordinated and collaborative economic development strategy
- Support creative economic solutions such as live-work opportunities and appropriate home businesses

transportation



transportation

Create and maintain a well connected, multi-modal network of transportation infrastructure to provide convenient and safe mobility for all residents, visitors and businesses.

Guiding Principles

- Create convenient, safe, timely, sustainable and efficient options for multi-modal transportation that satisfy a multitude of needs
- Provide a well connected transportation network in Teton Valley
- Provide well maintained transportation infrastructure including roads, paved pathways and sidewalks
- Develop regional connections
- Encourage pedestrian connectivity in appropriate areas
- Develop transportation appropriate for a rural community, respectful of the unique character of Teton Valley

Benefits

- Provides multiple choices for transportation
- Provides interconnection to, from and within Teton County for residents, visitors and businesses
- Increases the economic desirability of Teton County
- Improves traffic flow

- Creates a healthy community
- Reduces future transportation impacts such as pollution and harm to wildlife
- Provides cost-effective and timely transportation solutions

Opportunities

- Improve the condition and safety of existing transportation infrastructure
- Improve wayfinding and gateway signage into Teton Valley and its cities
- Improve overall mobility within Teton County through options for multi-modal transportation
- Develop paved paths to connect all communities within the county to adjacent communities and recreation areas
- Capitalize on funding opportunities for multi-modal transportation options
- Explore opportunities for public transit for commuting, visiting and recreation
- Promote development that is transit, pedestrian, and bicycle friendly
- Establish principles/processes by which future decisions can be made

Multi-Modal Transportation includes pedestrian programs and vehicle types and programs for air, bike, bus, call-and-ride, materials transport and public transit opportunities appropriate for Teton Valley.

natural resources + outdoor recreation

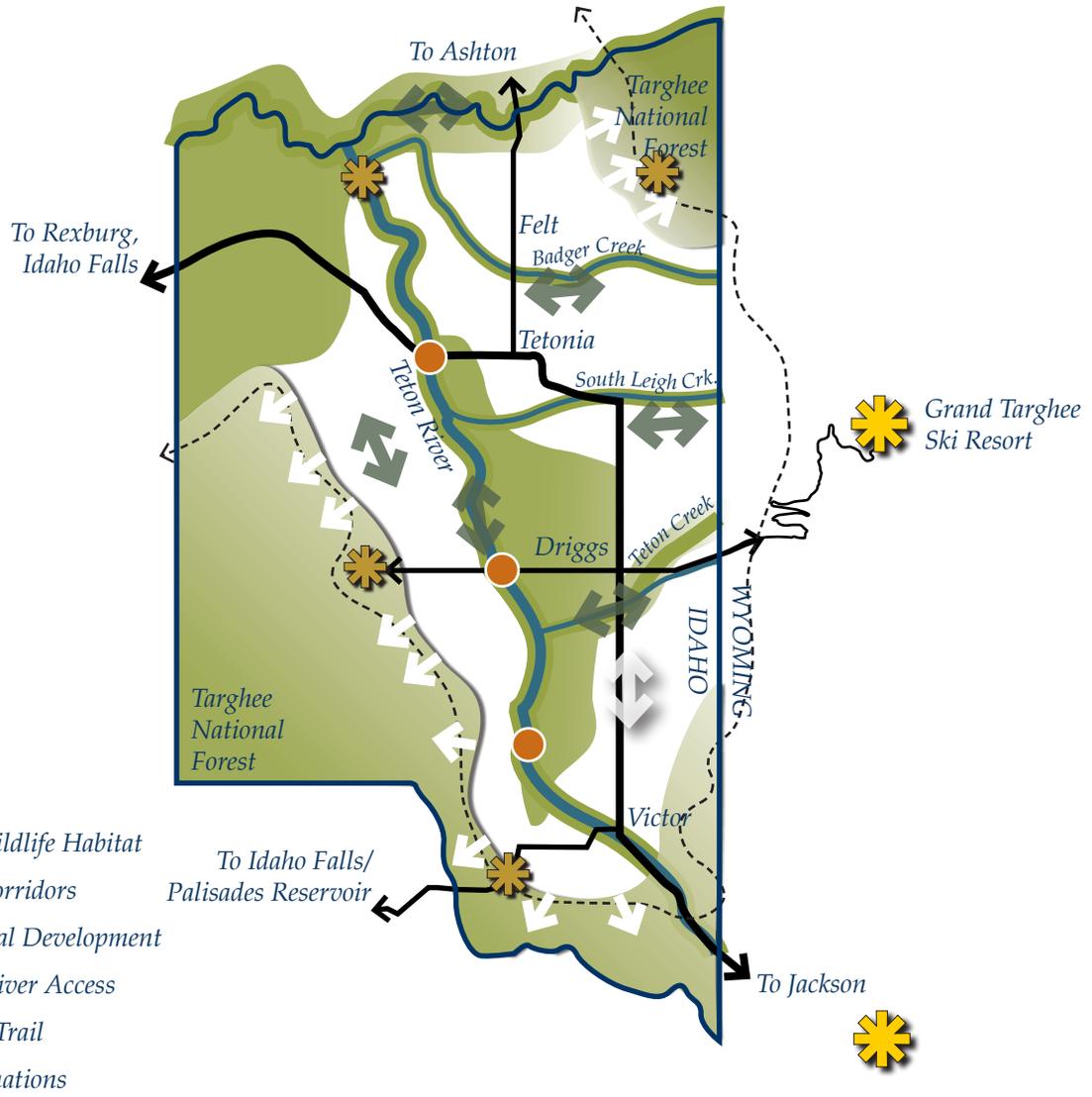
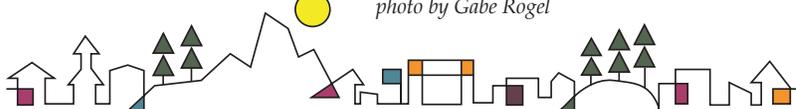


photo by Gabe Rogel

photo by Gabe Rogel



natural resources + outdoor recreation

Preserve natural resources and a healthy environment, which is essential for creating viable future economic and recreation opportunities for all users.

Guiding Principles

- Enhance and preserve our access to public lands and recognize the need to accommodate different user groups in a way that minimizes user conflict and area damage
- Conserve our public lands and natural resources (air, water, wildlife, fisheries, climate, trail systems, wetlands, dark skies, soundscape, soils, open space, native vegetation)
- Provide recreation for all user groups (biking, skiing, fishing, OHV, hunting, trail users, equestrian users, boating, non-motorized flight and others)
- Balance private property rights and protection of our natural resources
- Recognize, respect and/or mitigate natural hazards, including but not limited to flooding, earthquakes, landslides, radon and fires
- Promote the acquisition of open space for natural resource protection by a variety of means including financial compensation
- Reduce infestation/introduction of invasive species
- Respect sensitive habitat and migration areas for wildlife
- Respect cultural heritage sites
- Recognize that tourism is a fundamental component of our economy and is dependent on healthy natural resources

Benefits

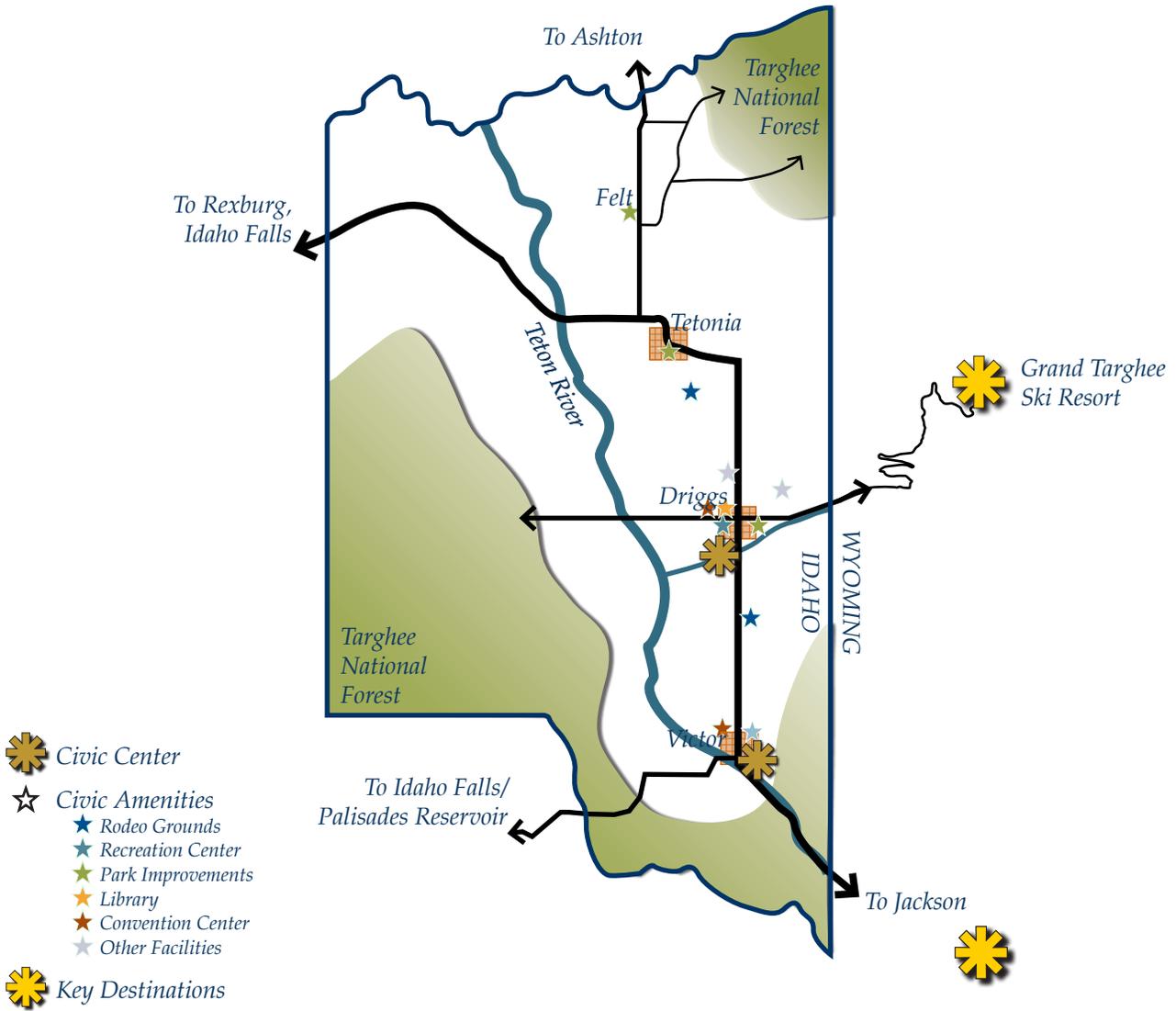
- Conserves native wildlife habitat, wetlands, and water bodies
- Protects and provides an adequate supply of clean water
- Maintains and improves air quality
- Promotes public health, safety and welfare

- Provides physical links between neighborhoods, cities and recreation areas (trails, pathways, etc.)
- Promotes economic development through tourism and quality of life
- Provides sustainable opportunities for generations of families to remain and make a living here through all stages of life
- Brings together community and builds acceptance of diverse lifestyles
- Minimizes detrimental effects of special hazards and their inherent risks

Opportunities

- Create developmental regulations that are consistent with diverse community values, balance natural resources and growth, are predictable and preserve the economic value of the land
- Make this a place where people want to live while remaining affordable, preserving heritage and protecting resources for all users
- Maintain and improve existing public land and river access and work to create new access (e.g. winter travel plan)
- Create new and sustainable funding options and incentives to protect our open space, rural lands and natural resources (e.g. special districts and bonds)
- Preserve and improve our recreational opportunities as well as our natural resources
- Create benchmarks for monitoring and preserving natural resources
- Create and sustain economic development through promotion of recreational opportunities and natural resources

community events + facilities



community events + facilities

*Contribute to our strong sense of community
by providing quality facilities,
services, and activities to benefit the community.*

Guiding Principles

- Encourage diverse and affordable activities for all ages
- Encourage the development of quality education facilities - primary, secondary and post-secondary
- Provide quality services and facilities in a coordinated manner for the health and safety of the community
- Encourage an environment that fosters community involvement
- Encourage location of new facilities in existing population centers to maximize efficiency and convenience

Benefits

- Bridges cultural differences to create a strong sense of community
- Increases community interaction and sense of place
- Supports economic development
- Creates an efficient infrastructure system, as a foundation for community sustainability

Opportunities

- Find common ground by identifying shared values and priorities and acknowledging differences respectfully
- Develop Master Plans for Recreation, Community Facilities and Services that coordinate and include all providers and users
- Explore new funding options (e.g. Recreation District, grants, private donations) to develop and support affordable activities for all ages (e.g. Recreation Center, 4-H, etc.)
- Expand and develop pre-K through post secondary education system
- Encourage partnerships and working relationships with non-profit groups in order to expand services and facilities

agricultural + rural heritage

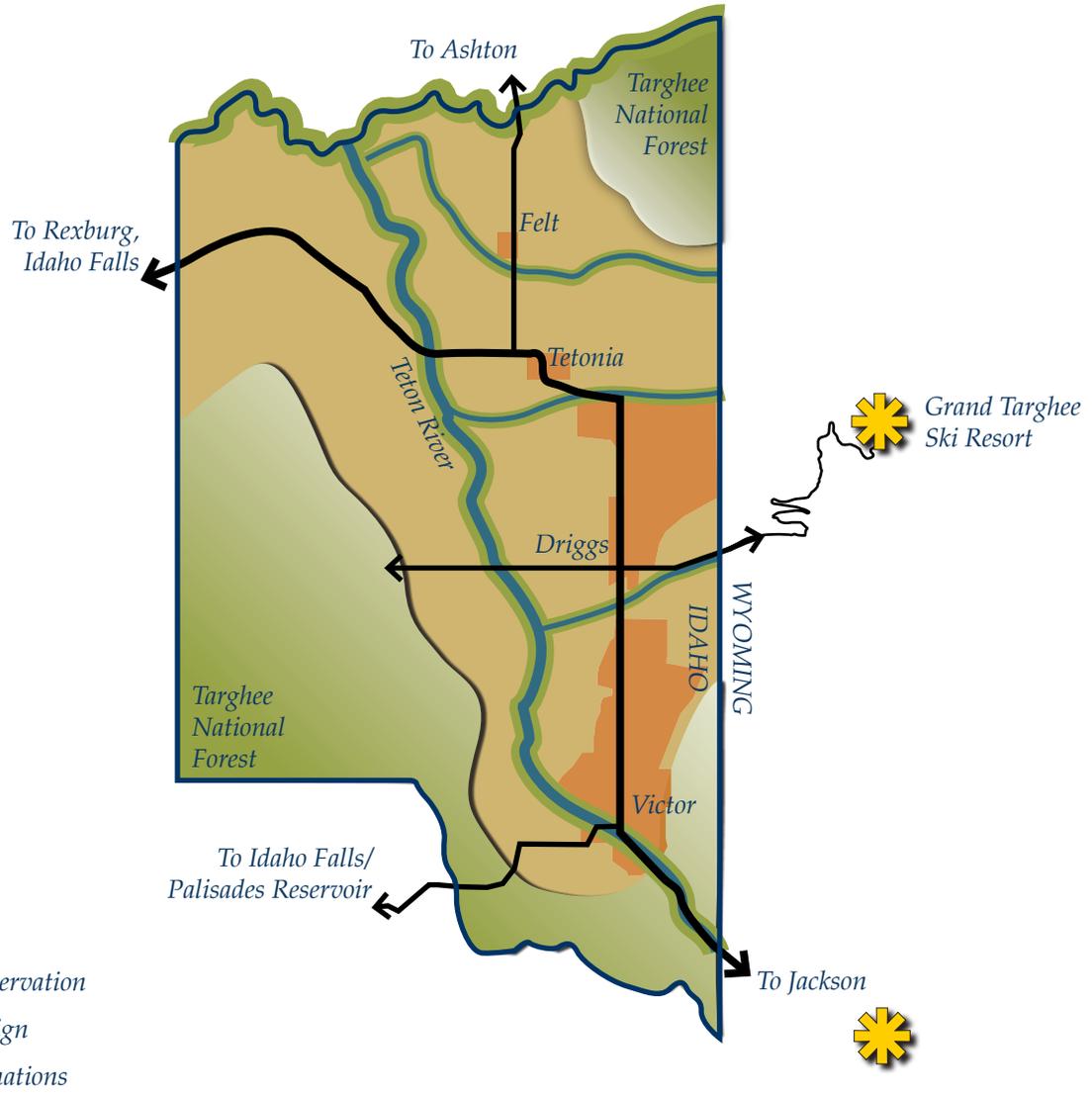


photo by Sandy Mason

photo by Reed Sullivan



agricultural + rural heritage

Preserve and enhance the rural character and heritage of Teton Valley.

Guiding Principles

- Maintain our small town feel and rural heritage
- Ensure that planned growth maintains our rural character
- Balance property rights and rural character
- Develop a means to compensate private property owners for large parcels of open space that benefit the community
- Manage invasive weeds and open spaces

Benefits

- Preservation of open space and rural character
- Preservation of our small town, agricultural heritage
- Promotes Teton County's distinctive identity

Opportunities

- Return platted land back to agricultural production where appropriate and viable
- Support and enhance agriculture and ranching
- Facilitate the transfer of land (such as to family members)
- Explore funding options to protect our open lands (e.g. Land District, voluntary open space fees and Land Trust Conservation Easements)
- Support our local agriculture through improved infrastructure (e.g. improve and maintain roads for agricultural product transportation)

