

Agricultural + Rural Heritage



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Goal ARH 1: Preserve and enhance Teton Valley’s small town feel, rural heritage and distinctive identity.

Policies

- 1.1 Ensure that planned growth maintains Teton Valley’s rural character. Options include using cluster / conservation oriented development.
- 1.2 Encourage re-platting land back to agricultural production where appropriate and viable.
- 1.3 Ensure that open spaces are managed responsibly.
- 1.4 Establish community design standards for scenic corridors that are consistent with the County’s rural heritage.
- 1.5 Support the smart growth principle of preserving open space, farmland, natural beauty, and critical environmental areas.
- 1.6 Encourage higher density development in and around existing Cities (Driggs, Victor, Tetonia, and Felt) and lower density development or open space acquisition outside the existing Cities.

Agricultural + Rural Heritage



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Goal ARH 2: Balance property rights and rural character.

Policies

2.1 Develop a means to compensate private property owners for large parcels of open space that benefit the community.

Funding options include:

2.1.1 Transfer of development rights program in cooperation with the cities of Victor, Driggs, and Tetonia;

2.1.2 Acquire conservation easements through purchase and voluntary donation;

2.1.3 Establishment of a land district ;

2.1.4 Establishment of a program to fund the acquisition of open space through voluntary open space fees.

2.2 Provide a means for transfer of agricultural land to family members.

2.3 Incentivize maintaining or creating large parcels.

Agricultural + Rural Heritage



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Goal ARH 3: Support and enhance agriculture and ranching.

Policies

- 3.1 Improve and maintain roads important for agricultural production and transportation.
- 3.2 Recognize the Right to Farm Act.
- 3.3 Support local food production outlets such as Farmer’s Markets and encourage local agriculture production.

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Goal ARH 4: Respect cultural heritage sites.

Policies

- 4.1 Sites and structures listed on State and National Registers of Historic Places shall be included on the environmental checklist at the initial stages of a development project. Other landmarks of local interest shall also be included on the checklist. The development review process shall consider options for preserving and protecting these features and sites.
- 4.2 Preservation of cultural heritage sites shall be considered in the design of the development. As with other resources, open space areas shall be used to protect and preserve cultural heritage sites of the County.

Agricultural + Rural Heritage



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Goal ARH 5: Reduce infestation/introduction of invasive species.

Policies

- 5.1 Support on-going efforts to map current noxious weed infestations.
- 5.2 Continue support of public education and outreach that target noxious weed identification, landowner control responsibilities under Idaho State Law, noxious weed management options and noxious weed management funding alternatives.
- 5.3 Continue to offer cost share assistance to willing landowners through the Idaho State Department of Agriculture’s (ISDA’s) noxious weed cost share grant program.
- 5.4 Upgrade current county weed control enforcement policies to better report, police and enforce noxious weed violations under State Law in a fair, timely and consistent manner.
- 5.5 High priority will be given to managing invasive species that have, or potentially could have, a substantial impact on county resources, or that can reasonably be expected to be successfully controlled.
- 5.6 Evaluate the need for additional revenues to manage noxious weeds in Teton County.

Community Events + Facilities



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Goal CEF 1: Provide quality services and facilities in a coordinated manner for the health and safety of the community.

Policies

- 1.1 Encourage locating new facilities in existing population centers to maximize efficiency and convenience and minimize costs.
- 1.2 Develop Master Plans for Recreation, Community Facilities, and Public Services that coordinate and include all providers and users.
- 1.3 Encourage partnerships and working relationships with non-profit groups in order to expand services and facilities.
- 1.4 Reserve locations for new facilities in accordance with the planned areas of growth and build these new facilities when the demand exists.
- 1.5 Maintain a 5-10 year capital facilities program which sets priorities for constructing necessary facilities which are consistent with and implement the Comprehensive Plan.
- 1.6 Identify acceptable Levels of Service (LOS), create LOS plans, and develop standards for measuring service delivery success for fire/EMS, law enforcement, utilities/infrastructure, transportation, weed management, medical care, schools, and parks.
- 1.7 Require the undergrounding of electrical and other facilities where possible in order to preserve the County’s scenic views.

Community Events + Facilities



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Goal CEF 2: Encourage the development of quality education facilities (primary, secondary and post-secondary) and diverse and affordable activities for all ages.

Policies

- 2.1 Encourage expansion and development of pre-K through post secondary education system.
- 2.2 Encourage the siting of new schools near existing neighborhood centers to promote walkability.
- 2.3 Support changing the State educational allocation formula so as to preclude the present underfunding of the school system.
- 2.4 Provide or require new developments to include neighborhood and community parks.
- 2.5 Support the construction of a multiuse recreation facility or network of facilities (pool, gym, climbing wall, bowling alley, etc) when financially feasible.

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Goal CEF 3: Encourage an environment that fosters community involvement.

Policies

- 3.1 Find common ground by identifying shared values and priorities and acknowledging differences respectfully.
- 3.2 Support events that bring diverse segments of the community together.
- 3.3 Support a comprehensive event calendar for multiple organizations.

Community Events + Facilities



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Goal CEF 4: Adequately fund existing and future public services and facilities.

Policies

- 4.1 Seek 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.).
- 4.2 Maintain up-to-date County impact fees which ensure that growth pays its fair share of the costs of necessary facilities and services.
- 4.3 Support programs that reduce the cost of services for the County such as recycling.
- 4.4 New development shall be approved only when adequate public facilities and services are available, or when necessary improvements will be made as part of the development project.
- 4.5 Acquire land for future public parks and recreation centers before development occurs and land costs make it more difficult to acquire adequate sites.

Economic Development



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Goal ED 1: Develop a coordinated and collaborative economic development strategy that encourages, promotes and supports locally owned businesses and creates a hospitable and attractive environment for businesses and tourist.

Policies

- 1.1 Actively work with other economic development focused organizations such as the Chamber of Commerce, Teton Valley Business Development Center, and other municipalities to brand and market Teton Valley.
- 1.2 Incentivize and support local businesses that allow residents to shop locally.
- 1.3 Improve infrastructure such as transportation and telecommunication facilities that are important for business.
- 1.4 Improve existing educational facilities and develop additional educational opportunities such as post-secondary education via the internet, telecommuting and extension offices.
- 1.5 Pursue economic diversity, innovation and creativity to help keep our economy stable and to avoid boom-bust economic cycles.
- 1.6 Support the expansion of recreational, cultural, and entertainment options that would improve visitor experience and boost economic development.

Economic Development



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Goal ED 2: Preserve our rural character and heritage and help local agricultural industries flourish.

Policies

- 2.1 One of the County’s prime economic values is the attraction of a rural, small town lifestyle, magnificent views, clean air and water, and abundances of outdoor recreational opportunities. Development and land use proposals that support, preserve, and balance these values with desirable growth should be encouraged.
- 2.2 Embrace our cultural diversity and heritage by supporting local agricultural industries and businesses.
- 2.3 Promote smart growth strategies that help preserve rural character by strengthening and directing development towards existing communities.
- 2.4 Encourage and attract businesses that are economically and environmentally friendly.
- 2.5 Promote stewardship and accountability in business.
- 2.6 Support new development that adheres to LEED or other environmental sustainability standards.

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Goal ED 3: Recognize that tourism is a fundamental component of our economy and is dependent on healthy natural resources.

Policies

- 3.1 Create and sustain economic development through the promotion of recreational opportunities and natural resources.
- 3.2 Conserve Teton County’s natural resources in order to enhance economic development.

Economic Development



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Goal ED 4: Accommodate additional population by supporting development that is economically sustainable for the County and the community.

Policies

- 4.1 Assess the service requirements of new developments and weigh their off-site impacts against projected changes in revenue before approving new developments.
- 4.2 Recognize the negative economic impact of a high supply of subdivision lots in relation to demand and support policies that will reduce the supply of lots.

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Goal ED 5: Provide a variety of housing types that are affordable for our socially and economically diverse population.

Policies

- 5.1 Support creative economic solutions such as live-work opportunities and appropriate home businesses.
- 5.2 Allow and encourage a variety of housing types and sizes including affordable housing that is located near relevant services when possible.
- 5.3 Explore public-private programs to provide affordable housing.
- 5.4 Adopt a uniform definition of "affordable housing" to provide clarity and uniformity when considering issues and requests related to affordable housing.

Natural Resource + Outdoor Recreation



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Goal NROR 1: 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.

Policies

- 1.1 Maintain and improve existing public land and river access.
- 1.2 Support the creation of new public land access when it's consistent with natural resource protection goals.
- 1.3 Support the creation of a winter travel plan which includes access points.
- 1.4 Consider and accommodate access for different user groups to minimize user conflict and area damage.
- 1.5 Seek cooperation of landowners to improve accessibility to public lands.
- 1.6 Work with the Forest Service and private land owners to inventory and map sensitive areas and institute regulations that protect these areas from unacceptable resource degradation.

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Goal NROR 2: Conserve our public lands and natural resources (air, water, wildlife, fisheries, climate, trail systems, wetlands, dark skies, soundscape, soils, open space, native vegetation).

Policies

- 2.1 Create benchmarks for monitoring and preserving natural resources.
- 2.2 Preserve and enhance biodiversity and native ecosystems.
- 2.3 Regularly update all natural and scenic resource inventories, to assess the incremental impacts of development on the resource and as a basis for regulatory amendments, as necessary. Use the existing Teton County Geographic Information System (GIS) to facilitate the regular update of these inventories and to simplify use of this data in the process of reviewing land development applications.

Natural Resource + Outdoor Recreation



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Goal NROR 3: Provide and promote exceptional recreational opportunities for all types of users (biking, skiing, fishing, OHV, hunting, trail users, equestrian users, boating, non-motorized flight and others) as a means for economic development and enhanced quality of life.

Policies

- 3.1 Enhance and improve all season access to public lands and waterways, except where necessary to protect areas from unacceptable degradation, unacceptable impact to habitat and wildlife, or for public safety.
- 3.2 Recognize the need to accommodate different user groups in a way that minimizes user conflicts and resource damage.
- 3.3 Support a diversity of recreation as a mechanism to bring together community and build acceptance of diverse lifestyles.
- 3.4 Collaborate with Federal and State agencies to improve recreational opportunities.
- 3.5 Establish mechanisms for funding recreation improvements. Opportunities include:

- 3.5.1 Recreation District;
- 3.5.2 Special Bonds.

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Goal NROR 4: Balance private property rights and protection of our natural resources.

Policies

- 4.1 Create developmental regulations that balance natural resources and growth, are predictable and preserve the economic value of the land.

Natural Resource + Outdoor Recreation



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Goal NROR 5: Recognize, respect and/or mitigate natural hazards, including but not limited to flooding, earthquakes, landslides, radon and fires.

Policies

- 5.1 Create regulations that minimize the detrimental effects of special hazards and their inherent risks.
- 5.2 Teton County strongly discourages buildings in flood prone areas. When an owner chooses to build in flood prone areas, Teton County is not responsible for assisting the owner during a flood event or preventing floods in the area.
- 5.3 Teton County strongly discourages construction and development on potential landslide and rockfall areas, near active faults, or in wetlands.
- 5.4 Hazardous areas that present danger to life and property from flood, forest fire, steep slopes, erosion, unstable soil, subsidence or similar geological development constraints will be delineated, and development in such areas will be carefully controlled or prohibited.

Natural Resource + Outdoor Recreation



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Goal NROR 6: Promote the acquisition of open space for natural resource protection by a variety of means including financial compensation.

Policies

- 6.1 Continue to support the efforts of the Teton Regional Land Trust and other accredited land trusts or entities (e.g. Idaho Department of Fish and Game) to acquire land and easements for resource protection and community character considerations.
- 6.2 Create new and sustainable funding options and incentives to protect our open space, rural lands and natural resources (e.g. special districts and bonds).
- 6.3 Support and work actively to facilitate the transfer of ecologically sensitive and rural lands development rights to:
 - 6.3.1 Preserve sensitive wildlife habitats (wildlife breeding, transitional and wintering habitats and movement corridors; riparian areas etc.);
 - 6.3.2 Reduce service demands;
 - 6.3.3 Provide permanent protection to significant natural resources;
 - 6.3.4 Increase the regional open space system and link other permanently protected public and private lands;
 - 6.3.5 Maintain low density development in the Rural Areas.

Natural Resource + Outdoor Recreation



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Goal NROR 7: Balance recreation improvements with protection of natural resources.

Policies

- 7.1 Allow only low impact activities in sensitive areas and higher impact activities in areas of less sensitivity.
- 7.2 Consider seasonal use restrictions to protect natural resources while allowing access at appropriate times.

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Goal NROR 8: Respect sensitive habitat and migration areas for wildlife.

Policies

- 8.1 Teton County recognizes that wildlife and wildlife habitats provide economic, recreational, and environmental benefits for the residents and visitors of Teton County. Land development decisions will strongly weigh the needs of wildlife to protect the inherent values that they provide.
- 8.2 Work with the Idaho Department of Fish and Game, NGOs and other natural resources professionals to utilize wildlife habitat and species information, including new information as it becomes available, to make land use and site planning decisions.
- 8.3 Minimize the cumulative impacts of development on wildlife and wildlife habitat.
- 8.4 Protect and/or improve the diversity of native vegetation.
- 8.5 Protect and improve riparian and aquatic habitats, because they are rich in biological diversity.
- 8.6 The adopted Wildlife Overlay Map, available in the Planning Department, shall be the basis for the initial Environmental Review process required for all new development projects.

Natural Resource + Outdoor Recreation



Goal NROR 8: Respect sensitive habitat and migration areas for wildlife. (cont)

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Policies (cont)

- 8.7 A Wildlife Impact Mitigation Plan shall be developed for any development project which impacts an Important Habitat or which presents concerns of detrimental human-wildlife interaction. Requirements and performance standards for the mitigation plan shall be clearly established in the Land Use Code and shall be the basis for approval of the plan.
- 8.8 Provide incentives for voluntary habitat buffers and seasonal use restrictions along key drainages including Teton Canyon, Bitch and Badger Creeks.
- 8.9 Work collaboratively with other jurisdictions to preserve, enhance, restore and maintain undeveloped lands critical for providing ecosystem connections and buffers for joining significant ecosystems.
- 8.10 Designate and map lands within or buffering Teton Canyon as an irreplaceable natural area and work with private landowners and government agencies to protect and conserve the area’s ecological resources including wintering big game and cutthroat trout.

Transportation



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Goal T 1: Create convenient, safe, timely, sustainable and efficient options for multi-modal transportation that satisfy a multitude of needs.

Policies

- 1.1 Improve overall mobility within Teton County through options for multi-modal transportation.
- 1.2 Capitalize on funding opportunities for multi-modal transportation options.
- 1.3 Explore opportunities for public transit for commuting, visiting and recreation.
- 1.4 Support START, TRPTA, ALLTRANS, Linx, Grand Targhee Local Shuttle and other public transportation providers.
- 1.5 Support the improvement and development of park & ride facilities.

Transportation



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Goal T 4: Develop transportation appropriate for a rural community, respectful of the unique character of Teton Valley.

Policies

- 4.1 Establish principles/process by which future decisions can be made.
- 4.2 Encourage pedestrian connectivity in appropriate areas.
- 4.3 Coordinate and integrate land use and transportation planning and development to ensure that they mutually support overall community goals.
- 4.4 Develop access management policies for future development (for both state highways and rural county roads).

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Goal T 5: Support continued improvements to the Driggs Memorial Airport to support Teton County’s aviation needs.

Policies

- 5.1 Support implementation of (date) Driggs Memorial Airport Master Plan and updates, as adopted, to ensure that the airport can meet projected needs.

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Goal T 6: Support the development of a communications corridor.

Policies

- 6.1 Identify corridors and policy for future communication lines and cellular towers appropriate to the surroundings.