

STEWARDING OUR PUBLIC LANDS AND RESOURCES

Public-Private Collaborations

WW.1 – Windows to Wildlife Initiative

Proposed lead(s) All Agencies & Localities

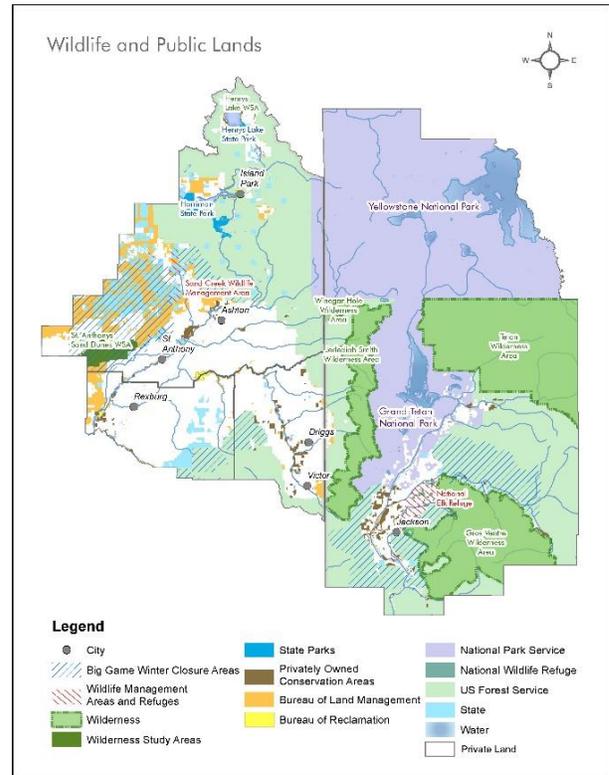
Project Source Appendix E.3

Visitor surveys in national parks and forests have consistently documented the popularity of wildlife viewing as it often ranks as the #2 recreational activity behind scenic driving. This initiative seeks to capitalize on the abundant wildlife resources in the Teton View region by developing a four-season, watchable wildlife program in coordination with state wildlife agencies and federal land managers. Greater awareness of wildlife needs among both residents and visitors could lead to greater acceptance of habitat protection and species recovery measures in both states. The initiative also could help reduce human-wildlife encounters and the resulting injuries both inside and outside our national parks. Elements of the initiative could include:

A Teton View Regional Wildlife Guidebook – This would be designed as a small binder with sections that could easily be updated seasonally by downloading from agency websites current schedules, safety messages and wildlife information from participating entities. Sections could include maps of the region’s best wildlife viewing areas; resource agency interpretive services; and a list of naturalist guide services. Bear and fire safety messages from multiple agencies could be emphasized in one section of the guidebook using a standard template. Sales of the basic binder and dividers could be promoted as a fundraiser to build a matching

fund for projects to benefit the region’s species of critical concern. Design and sale of companion mobile app would also be a possibility.

A Nature Center Network – Local, state and federal agencies would partner with nonprofit and business organizations to create a system of nature-oriented facilities that would promote and support one another. These existing centers could lie within existing local, state parks and national parks, wildlife refuges and management areas, nature preserves or resort areas. By jointly publicizing each center’s location and services, initiative proponents would be encouraging longer stays and an appreciation for what each specific area can offer in terms of watchable wildlife.



WONDERS & WILDLIFE (continued)

Project WW.2 - Implementation of State Wildlife Plans

Proposed Lead(s) Coordination by local, state and federal entities

Project Source State wildlife agencies

A State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP) is a comprehensive strategy to maintain the health and diversity of wildlife within any given state. Congress has mandated that these plans be developed for all 50 states so species protection can be coordinated across state boundaries. The SWAP outlines the steps needed to conserve wildlife and their habitats before they become more rare and costly to protect. Taken together, SWAPs present a national action agenda for preventing wildlife from becoming endangered; an agenda that Teton View counties may choose to apply locally through planning and zoning processes in concert with their state wildlife agency. Competitive state grants are available should the Teton View counties choose to pursue special, SWAP-related projects as a region.

Initiative WW.3 – Safe Corridors for Wildlife Migration

Proposed Lead(s) State highway agencies

Project Source Idaho Transportation Department Study

This initiative would include a variety of cooperative projects in both states to safeguard critical wildlife migration routes between summer habitats and winter forage areas. Pronghorn antelope, elk and moose are among those species most vulnerable to highway collisions and human development inside their migration corridors.

A recent study focused primarily on moose and elk movements recorded 169 collisions with wildlife on the stretch of U.S. 20 between Ashton and Island Park from 2005 to 2009, resulting in moose, elk and deer fatalities, and millions of dollars in vehicle damage. Researchers have tracked the animals' migration routes from their winter range (St. Anthony Sand Dunes vicinity and Sand Creek Wildlife Management Area) to their summer feeding grounds in the Island Park area of Fremont County. Scientists have recommended mitigation measures such as overpasses and underpasses at eight locations to allow wildlife to safely move over or under roads during the spring, summer and fall.



Initiative WW.4 – Conserving Fish and Wildlife Habitat

Proposed Lead(s) Local land trusts

Project Source Organizational websites

There are several local and regional nonprofit organizations that work with government agencies and private landowners seeking to preserve valuable fish and wildlife habitat and open space in the Teton View region. These organizations often bring different resources to bear on land and river conservation challenges and frequently work together under joint initiatives such as the Henrys Fork Legacy Project. Teton View cities and counties may choose to collaborate with these organizations when intensive

WONDERS & WILDLIFE (continued)

development is proposed on sensitive lands or along critical waterways. Land trusts work only with willing agencies landowners and use a market-based approach when dealing with land exchanges or purchase/donation of land or conservation easements. This project would be launched by an informal workshop introducing the organizations linked above to locally elected officials to become current on the regional conservation programs available.

Project WW.5 – Island Park Sustainable Fire Community

Proposed Lead(s) High Country RC&D

Project Source Project website

The Island Park Sustainable Fire Community is a group of concerned citizens comprised of regional officials, Forest Service personnel, residents, and others who seek to raise awareness and minimize the wildfire risk in Island Park, Idaho. Five steps are being promoted through the group's education campaign that could be applied in any Teton View community within the wildland-urban interface:

- Strengthen fire departments
- Create defensible space around homes
- Use fire resistant building materials
- Know evacuation routes
- Request a risk evaluation for cabins



Interagency Initiatives

Initiative WW.6 – Greater Yellowstone Area: Ecosystem Health Projects

Proposed Lead(s) Federal land managers

Project Sources Greater Yellowstone Coordinating Committee

The Greater Yellowstone Coordinating Committee (GYCC) was formed in 1964 to allow representatives from the National Park Service, US Forest Service, the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the Bureau of Land Management to pursue opportunities of mutual cooperation and coordination in the management of core federal lands in the Greater Yellowstone area. Members of the GYCC strive to find intersection in the missions of their agencies and opportunities of cooperative management of GYA resources that make sense, enhance public service and maintain or enhance the integrity of the Greater Yellowstone.

This initiative would ask our agency Consortium partners to more fully engage GYCC in implementing the final regional plan priorities. This would allow GYCC to coordinate strategic thinking for the region and provide for more efficient sharing of resources. Cities and counties may already be involved with the ecosystem health priorities shown below, and would intensify their involvement under this initiative:

- *Aquatic Invasive Species*
- *Terrestrial Invasive Species*
- *Whitebark Pine*
- *Wildlife*
- *Water Quality and Flow*
- *Climate Change Adaptation*

WONDERS & WILDLIFE (continued)

Initiative WW.7 – Sustainable Operations within Land Management Agencies

Proposed Lead(s) Sustainable Operations Subcommittee

Project Sources Greater Yellowstone Coordinating Committee

The GYCC Sustainable Operations Subcommittee facilitates overall coordination and collaboration of sustainable operations practices throughout the public lands of the Greater Yellowstone Area (GYA) in areas such as: water conservation, energy conservation, green purchasing, fleet and transportation management, recycling and waste stream reduction, and employee, visitor and community education. An Alternative Fuels Feasibility Study has been a recent priority in cooperation with the Yellowstone-Teton Clean Energy Coalition.

This project proposes that the Teton View cities and counties approach an adjacent land management agency to partner on ONE mutually beneficial sustainability project that aligns with a Teton View Plan priority and monitor the results over the next five years.



Initiative WW.8 – Increasing Mobility in Our National Parks

Proposed Lead(s) Sustainable Operations Subcommittee

Project Sources Greater Yellowstone Coordinating Committee

This initiative would encourage the concession companies in both Yellowstone and Grand Teton national parks to cooperate with adjacent city and county governments in conducting an in-depth survey of those visitor types most likely to use public transportation. Based on the 3-year Yellowstone pilot, those potential customers include international guests, seasonal employees (both inside and outside the park), hikers and cyclists, RV owners who have parked their rigs, and individuals traveling separately from a larger party. The survey would complement the 2013 findings issued in the Buses for Byways report that found highest in shuttles to trailheads and airports. Once survey results have been analyzed, the following mobility goals would best be addressed through a multi-state initiative led by gateway communities:



- A comprehensive transportation plan for Yellowstone National Park that replaces the 1992 version
- Recreational shuttle development that could link to an emerging transit system
- Feasibility of a seasonal travel pass or discount card to encourage visitor use of public transportation