

City of

TETONIA



SCENIC CORRIDOR AND NATURAL OPEN SPACE PLAN

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OVERVIEW

The City of Tetonian lies parallel with the majestic Grand Teton Range along the eastern Idaho border. Entering the valley from the west on Highway 33 presents a breathtaking view of the Grand Tetons and the Teton basin. The corridor is part of the Teton Scenic Byway, which travels north from Victor on Idaho 33, along the western side of the Teton Range.

Tetonia and the surrounding area are endowed with creeks, streams and woodlands. Natural wetlands, waterways and wildlife corridors provide native vegetation and habitat for wildlife.

INTENT

The Tetonia Scenic Corridor and Natural Open Space Management Plan is set forth to identify and map scenic vistas and view corridors, natural landforms, wildlife and habitat corridors, and review strategies to preserve and protect scenic corridors and natural open space for future generations.

TETONIA COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

The Tetonia Comprehensive Plan supports a Scenic Corridor and Open Space Plan:

Objective: Maintain the historic visual edge of the City of Tetonia along Highway 33.

- Provide areas of open space adjacent to the highway and original city edge.
- Integrate clustering and setback regulation in the land use code to preserve the historic visual edge.

Objective: Protect natural and scenic vistas and view corridors.

- Identify and map scenic vistas, view corridors, and landmarks.
- Develop land use guidelines to ensure view protection when considering new development.

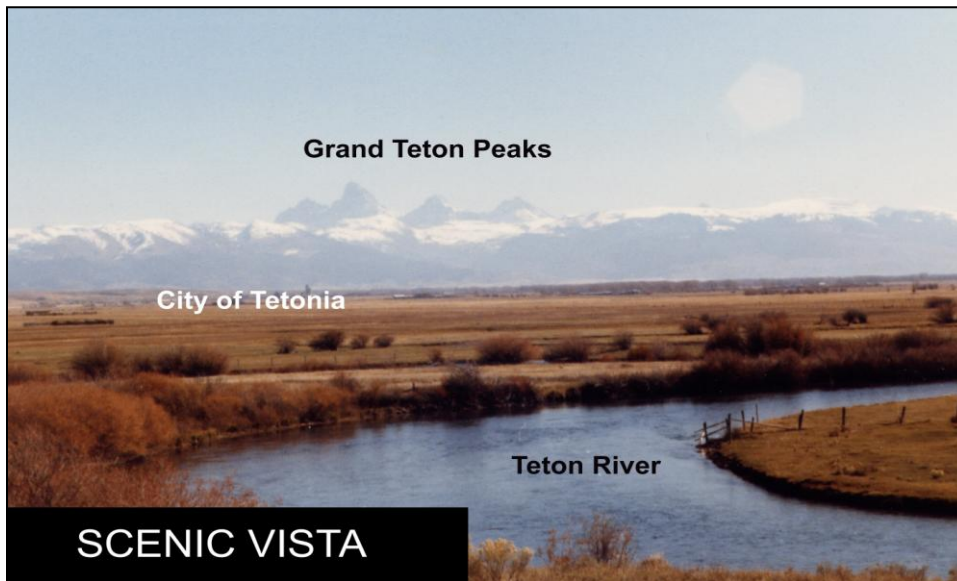
Objective: Protect wildlife corridors and critical habitats for the ongoing presence and survival of wildlife in the region.

- Utilizing information from the Idaho Department of Fish and Game, require development to map wildlife activity including, but not limited to, deer and elk corridors and wintering habitats; standards for protection should meet or exceed those created by federal, state and local regulations.
- Form partnerships with county, state and federal agencies to facilitate the survival of wildlife in the Teton Valley.

TETON BASIN/TETONIA SCENIC VISTA AND CORRIDOR

A scenic vista is a distinctive setting that is locally and regionally treasured for its natural beauty and unique character. A scenic corridor is an area visible from a highway, waterway, or a major hiking, biking, or equestrian trail, or publicly accessible right-of-way that provides vistas over water and across expanses of land, such as farmlands, woodlands, mountaintops or ridges.

SCENIC VISTA AND CORRIDOR



Rugged peaks of the Grand Teton Mountains, meandering streams and open meadows present a majestic scenic vista and corridor when entering the Teton Valley from the west. The scenic corridor historically begins at the west entrance into the Teton Basin along Highway 33 and fans out to the north and south in an easterly direction toward Teton.

Residential sprawl, commercial strip development, billboard blight, inappropriately sited cell towers and ridgeline development could transform the landscape and destroy its scenic beauty.

Preserving the Teton Basin/Tetonia scenic vista and corridor will inspire residents and visitors for many generations to come. Scenic areas endow communities with



substantial benefits, such as higher property values and increased tourism revenue. Protecting the scenic vista and corridor from the effects of haphazard development will preserve the unique lure of Teton and the Teton Valley, build community pride, and attract positive growth to the area.

PROTECTING THE SCENIC VISTA AND CORRIDOR

- Educate the community and encourage citizen participation.
- Initiate incentives to encourage scenic corridor and vista preservation.
- Establish land trusts to purchase land.
- Institute Transfer of Development Rights. TDRs preserve scenic areas by transferring, or "sending," development rights from sensitive lands to "receiving" areas marked for growth.
- Regulation
 - Establish design guidelines and design review that will limit the impact of development on scenic vistas and corridors.
 - Implement zoning and land use ordinances for view protection. Zoning laws may limit the height of buildings based on their proximity to a designated corridor and overlay zoning places additional restrictions on zoned areas and is often used to control density, grading, ridgeline development, and vegetation.
 - Establish a greenbelt. Greenbelts are open tracts of land that create a scenic buffer between developed areas and the surrounding countryside. Most greenbelt ordinances allow only agricultural activities on designated lands.
 - Enact strict billboard controls.

NATURAL OPEN SPACE

Natural open space is undeveloped land that is protected from development, which may be endowed with



waterways, woodlands, farmland, grazing pasture, natural wetlands, and wildlife corridors.

WATERWAYS

Waterways provide scenic beauty, habitat for wildlife, irrigation for agricultural use and regeneration of the aquifer. The Teton River is a major part of the Teton Basin/ Teton scenic corridor. South Leigh Creek meanders

through woodlands and pastures south of Tetonía providing educational, recreational and ecological benefits to the community. Other creeks and streams provide a water run-off system beneficial to Tetonía and neighboring areas.

RIPARIAN AREAS AND WETLANDS



Riparian lands are directly influenced by permanent water. These areas border a river, stream or body of water. Wetlands are inundated or saturated by surface or groundwater and generally include swamps, marshes or sloughs. Riparian areas and wetlands are distinctly different from the surrounding lands because of unique soil and vegetation. These lands often support a variety of trees, plants

and animal life. Protecting stream banks, stream bank vegetation and wetlands will preserve wildlife habitat and shade-cover for fish and aquatic insects (food for fish and birds), while also providing managed recreational and scenic open space.

WILDLIFE HABITAT

The wildlife populations in the Teton Basin are dependent upon the preservation of natural open space, including farmland and grazing pastures. Ducks, geese, and sandhill cranes survive on cultivated crops. Mourning dove and cottontail rabbit are common with a few sage grouse and sharptailed grouse. Small populations of Chinese pheasant and Hungarian partridge are found. Trout and other aquatic species are prevalent. Larger wildlife species include deer, moose and elk.

A report is available to the public entitled "Wildlife Overlay and Wildlife Conservation Measures Technical Support Document Teton County, Idaho." Prepared by the Teton Land Trust, the document delineates Teton County's most valued resource, wildlife and fish habitat, and provides recommendations for native plant and wildlife preservation. See also Attachment A, Teton Basin Wildlife Overlay.

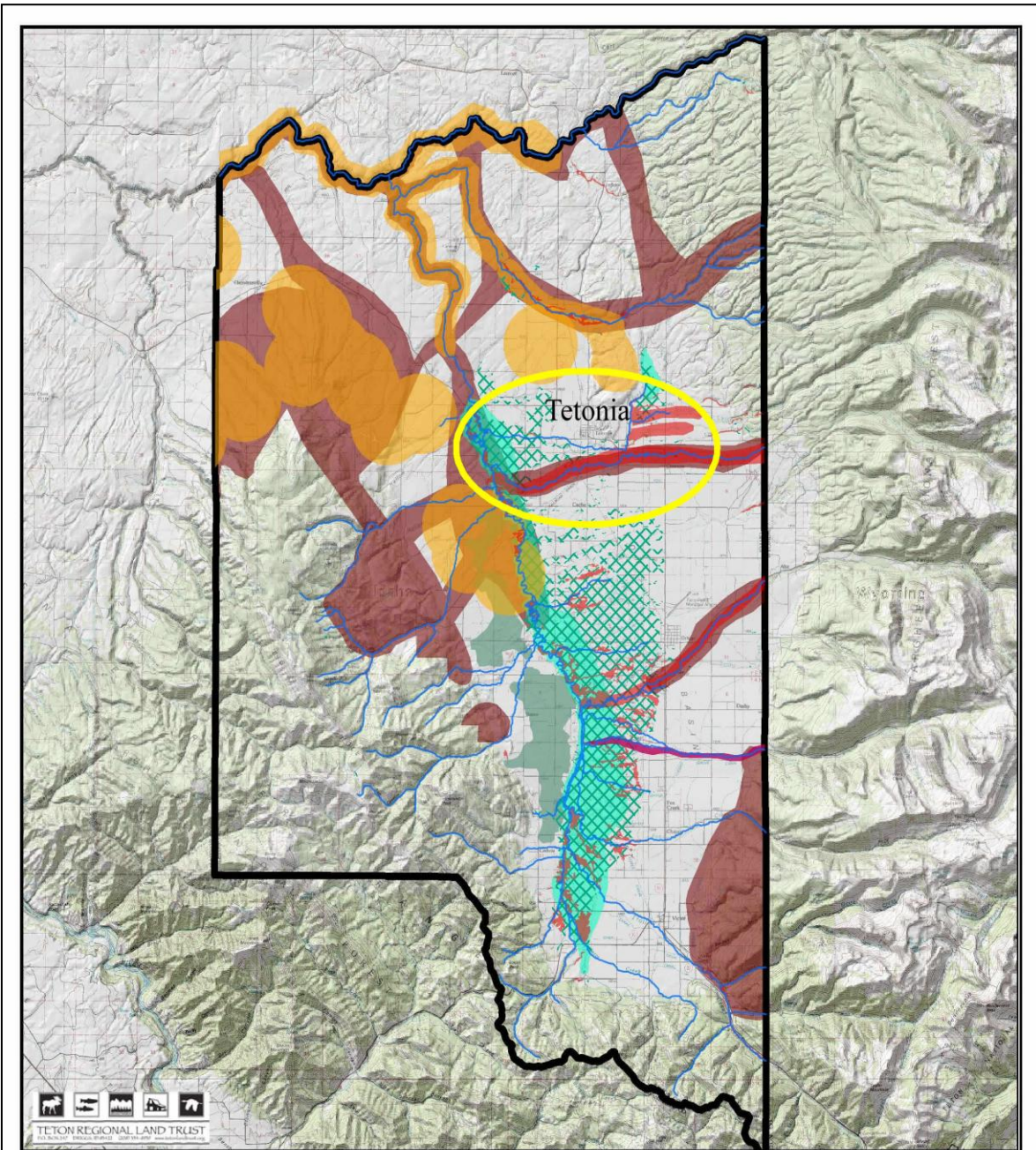
PROTECTING NATURAL OPEN SPACE

The city's long term vision is to protect the natural resources of Tetonía in order to support sustainable populations of diverse and valuable plant and animal species while providing opportunities for ecologically sensitive public enjoyment, recreation and education. Master planning, in harmony with policies and guidelines, will provide a blueprint for future decisions and actions that ensure consistency with the city's quest.

- Provide clear expectations and regulatory assurances regarding development occurring within a natural open space area
 - Ban construction on the most sensitive wetlands and stream banks, and permit only minimal disruption to others.
 - Restrict building on steep slopes adjacent to waterways.
 - Limit building in buffer zones of natural vegetation, up to 300 feet in some areas.
 - Screen wetlands from development.
- Incorporate trails, parking areas, picnic areas and public access points to protect and enhance the natural setting.
- Initiate incentives to protect natural open space.
- Encourage projects that restore and protect the natural environment, including water supply, water quality, and ecosystem health.
- Use applicable information from “Wildlife Overlay and Wildlife Conservation Measures Technical Support Document Teton County, Idaho.”

SUMMARY

The scenic and natural environment of Tetonía requires special consideration and attention by citizens and leaders of the community. The City of Tetonía will encourage preservation of the surrounding ecological and scenic area by establishing regulatory measures, forming partnerships with county, state and federal officials and engaging in cooperative efforts with property owners.



TETON BASIN WILDLIFE OVERLAY

Amended by TRLT January 14, 2008

- WATERBIRD BREEDING, MIGRATION, FORAGING AND WINTERING HABITAT
- WATERBIRD MIGRATION-FORAGING HABITAT
- COLUMBIAN SHARP-TAIL GROUSE BREEDING HABITAT
- SONGBIRD/RAPTOR BREEDING AND WINTERING HABITAT
- RAPTOR BREEDING AND WINTERING HABITAT
- BIG GAME MIGRATION CORRIDORS AND SEASONAL RANGES
- PRIORITY WETLAND HABITAT
- PERENNIAL AND SEASONAL TROUT HABITAT



SCALE: 1:250,000
 DATA SOURCES:
 IDAHO DEPT. FISH & GAME (2003, 2006)
 TRLT SURVEYS (2002-2007)
 USFWS NATIONAL WETLANDS INVENTORY (1993)
 GREGORY AQUATICS AND HENRY'S FORK FOUNDATION (2005)
 USGS TOPOGRAPHIC MAP 1:100,000 REXBURG, ID AND WY 1982 QUAD

Attachment A