



**Teton
Conservation
District
Est. 1946**

Sept 20, 2023 Board Meeting Table of Contents

The Teton Conservation District (TCD) Board Meeting at 1:00 p.m. will be preceded by the TCD-Flat Creek Water Improvement District (FCWID) Quarterly Meeting and Annual Field Trip from 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. at South Park Wildlife Habitat Management Area. A TCD board quorum is required.

Page 3	September 20, 2023 FCWID-TCD Joint Quarterly Meeting Agenda & Report
Page 7	June 21, 2023 FCWID-TCD Joint Quarterly Meeting Minutes
Page 11	September 20, 2023 TCD Meeting Agenda
Page 13	August 16, 2023 TCD Board Meeting Minutes
Page 17	August 2023 TCD Treasurer's Report

Staff Reports and Supplemental Materials:

Page 25	Holly Shuss Staff Report
Page 27	Robb Sgroi Staff Report Small Water Project Program Administrative Change Memo Wildfire Risk Reduction Program Burcher Road Progress Map
Page 31	Morgan Graham Staff Report
Page 33	Emily Smith Staff Report
Page 35	David Lee Staff Report
Page 36	USGS 5-year Agreement Amendment
Page 41	Liz Collins Staff Report
Page 42	Annual Report
Page 65	Carlin Girard Staff Report
Page 67	Annual Plan of Work
Page 77	Hoback Junction South Road Development Review Letter
Page 81	Area V Meeting Invitation and Agenda

TCD & FCWID JOINT QUARTERLY BOARD MEETING
Wednesday, September 20, 2023 @ 11:00 a.m.
South Park Wyoming Game and Fish Feed Grounds

Agenda

Meeting Members:

TCD BOARD OF SUPERVISORS: Roby Hurley (*Chair*), Dave Adams (*Vice-Chair and Treasurer*), Cate Watsabaugh (*Secretary*), Nate Fuller (*Supervisor*), and Bob Lucas (*Supervisor*). Associate Board Members: Elizabeth Barczynski, Bob Weiss, and Steve MacDonald.

FCWID BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND STAFF: Sandy Buckstaff (*Chair*), James Metcalf (*Secretary*), Mark Giger (*Treasurer*), Johnny Ziem (*Director*), and Christina McGuire (*Administrative Manager*).

TCD STAFF: Carlin Girard (*Executive Director*), Holly Shuss (*Administrative Manager*), Liz Collins (*Grants & Communications Specialist*), David Lee (*Water Resources Specialist*), and Emily Smith (*Natural Resources Technician*).

Agenda

- I. **Call to Order.**
- II. **Approval of Minutes.**
 - A. Approval of June 21, 2023, TCD & FCWID Joint Quarterly Board Meeting Minutes, *FCWID Chair Sandy Buckstaff*.
- III. **Introductions and Comments from the Public.**
- IV. **Board Reports.**
 - A. **FCWID Treasurer's Report – FCWID Treasurer, Mark Giger.**
 - B. **FCWID Secretary's Report – FCWID Secretary, James Metcalf.**
 - C. **FCWID Quarterly Progress Report (Projects) – FCWID Chairman, Sandy Buckstaff.**
- V. **Staff Reports.**
- VI. **New Business/Discussion Items.**
 - A. Update on Board of Director's Election.
- VII. **Old Business.**
- VIII. **Adjournment.**
- IX. **Tour of TOJ Wastewater Treatment Plant and Wetlands.**

FLAT CREEK WATERSHED IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

PO Box 2037 Jackson, WY 83001

www.fcwid.org

Flat Creek Watershed Improvement District (FCWID) Quarterly Progress Report (Projects) September 2023

Presented below is a roster of significant actions or activities of the WID in the most recent quarter:

1. FCWID Projects:

- a. Proposed 810 West Thaw Well.
The application submitted by the FCWID for funding the project through a hazard mitigation grant from the State of Wyoming Office of Homeland Security (WOHS) is currently under review by the WOHS and its partner in the grant process, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). A request for further information (to be submitted within 30 days) was issued by FEMA on September 7th.
- b. Proposed Elk Run Townhomes Thaw Well.
The application submitted by the FCWID for funding the project through a hazard mitigation grant from the State of Wyoming Office of Homeland Security (WOHS) is currently under review by the WOHS and its partner in the grant process, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). A request for further information (to be submitted within 30 days) was issued by FEMA on September 7th.
- c. Martin Lane Thaw Well.
Completion of the project by the Town of Jackson (including installation of pump, pitless adapter, outlet pipeline, and outlet structure, as well as connection to power) recommenced in August and should be complete prior to the winter of 2023-24.
- d. Flat Creek Condominiums Bank Stabilization.
This project has been put out to bid (in August). To date, no responsive bids have been received. Alder Environmental, on behalf of the FCWID, is managing the bid process and is now seeking such bids. The project is planned to be constructed beginning on or shortly after October 15th.
- e. Potential Bank Stabilization at Camenzind Property (480 Stacey Lane).
Sandy Buckstaff of the FCWID, Carlin Girard and David Lee of the TCD, and Brian Remlinger of Alder Environmental met with Franz Camenzind on July 18th at Mr. Camenzind's property at 480 Stacey Lane to observe and discuss approaches to addressing an eroding bank. There exists the potential to enhance the riparian corridor in the course of restoration, and there is a less ambitious approach of bank armoring. Alder Environmental is in the process of preparing cost and timeline estimates for the two different approaches.
- f. Potential Bank Restoration/Stabilization at Creekside Condominiums
Sandy Buckstaff of the FCWID, Carlin Girard and David Lee of the TCD, and Brian Remlinger of Alder Environmental met with Victoria and Charles Atwater, residents of

The mission of the Flat Creek Watershed Improvement District is to explore and implement ways to prevent damage to private property and public infrastructure due to winter flooding of Flat Creek while simultaneously respecting water rights, representing the best interests of the district's property owners and residents, and maintaining and improving water and habitat quality within the stream corridor.

the Creekside Condominiums, as well as Kat Bratz of the Creekside HOA and Tina Korpi of Grand Teton Property Management met onsite at the condominiums on Friday, September 8th, to observe and discuss approaches to addressing an eroding bank. No firm conclusions were reached, but a useful discussion was had. It appears that a simple solution of stabilizing the bank through the reintroduction of native vegetation.

Progress Report Submitted by: Sandy Buckstaff, Chairman of the FCWID Board of Directors

TCD & FCWID JOINT QUARTERLY BOARD MEETING
Wednesday, June 21, 2023 @ 12:00 p.m.
Teton Conservation District Office
420 West Pearl Avenue, Jackson, WY 83001

Minutes

Meeting Attendance:

TCD BOARD OF SUPERVISORS: Roby Hurley (*Chair*), Dave Adams (*Vice-Chair and Treasurer*), Cate Watsabaugh (*Secretary*)

FCWID BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND STAFF: Sandy Buckstaff (*Chair*), James Metcalf (*Secretary*), Johnny Ziem (*Director*) Staff: Christina McGuire (*Administrative Manager*) and Raylene McCalman (*former Administrative Manager*).

TCD STAFF: Carlin Girard (*Executive Director*), Holly Shuss (*Administrative Manager*), Liz Collins (*Grants & Communications Specialist*), David Lee (*Water Resources Specialist*), and Emily Smith (*Natural Resources Technician*).

I. Call to order. 12:02 p.m. by Roby Hurley.

II. Introductions and comments from the public. None.

III. Approval of Minutes. (Note: this item was taken out of order to allow Johnny Ziem to get to the meeting and participate in motions and votes.)

A. December 14, 2023, TCD & FCWID Joint Quarterly Board Meeting Minutes.

B. March 15, 2023, TCD & FCWID Joint Quarterly Board Meeting Minutes.

(Note: Quorum present for FCWID.)

MOTION BY (TCD): Dave Adams.

SECONDED (TCD): Cate Watsabaugh

MOTION BY (FCWID): Johnny Ziem

SECONDED (FCWID): Sandy Buckstaff

DISCUSSION: None.

RESULT: Minutes approved 3/0 by each board.

ACTION: None.

IV. Board Reports

A. FCWID Treasurer's Report—FCWID Chair, Sandy Buckstaff

1. **Bank Statements & Reconciliation Reports:** Sandy reports FCWID has been fired by its accountant and is currently searching for a new one. The Operating Account ending balance was \$8,539.88 and the Reserve Account balance is \$73,108.00.
2. **Expenses:** Expenses include \$19,000 on the FIMA grant application (which includes \$11,000 to Kurt Stout for an H & H study to document the threat of flooding, plus the cost of grant preparation by Raylene McCalman, Administrative Manager). FCWID also spent \$24,809.00 on ice removal (but only budgeted \$6,000). FCWID transferred \$10,000 from the Reserve Account to the Operating Account to cover these expenditures. Nonetheless, FCWID did not exceed the expenditures bottom line on the Fiscal Year 2023 Budget.
3. **Payments Received:** FCWID received \$6,125.82 from Teton County for district member tax assessments.
4. **P&L Budget vs. Actual:** Balance sheet shows both accounts are solvent.
5. **Accounts Receivable:** Billed \$3,800 to the Town of Jackson consistent with a clause in the TOJ-FCWID MOA that they will split the cost of ice removal. Sandy reported that this agreement was

written out of the TOJ's budget during COVID and now they are supportive again, yet there is a need to update the MOA. Sandy hopes that sending this bill, after not receiving one for several years, will be the catalyst for this action.

Approval of 6/21 report:

MOTION BY: Dave Adams

SECONDED: Cate Watsabaugh

DISCUSSION: None.

RESULT: Approved to accept the Treasurer's reports 3/0 by both boards.

B. Secretary's Report—FCWID Chair, Sandy Buckstaff

1. FY 2024 Budget:

- Budget was submitted to all entities (Teton County Commissioners, Teton County Clerk, Teton County Assessor, TCD, and the Department of Audit).
- Department of Audit noted two inconsistencies, FCWID corrected them and resubmitted on June 21, 2023.
- Board has not approved the budget yet.
- FY 2025 Budget Hearing advertisement needs to be placed by June 26, 2023.
- FCWID submitted a proposal to TOJ for town to pay 50% of ice removal costs over \$15,000.
- FCWID cannot spend money between July 1-13, 2023, until the budget is adopted. Once adopted at the July board meeting, FCWID will pay invoices in full.

2. Flat Creek Condos:

- Sandy attended condo board meeting. Reclamation of streambank was approved.
- FCWID will count the HOA's contribution of roughly \$4,500 in the budget.
- Sandy explained the state statues say that if FCWID expends money that benefits a single entity, the entity should absorb the cost. He explained to the Flat Creek HOA that the district won't pay 100% of costs but said FCWID is willing to take care of the planning and permitting costs and will split construction costs 50/50 with the HOA.
- Permits are obtained for the project. Currently waiting for the bond. The FCWID will go through with project permitting this fall.

3. Final Report for TCD on Expenditures of TCD Funds: Submitted on time. Funds allotted were for the improvements to Kaz Hashimoto's property access to the creek. The money was not used. Mr. Hashimoto wants to keep the access an informal handshake deal, as opposed to a formal easement.

4. Renewal request submitted to the Local Government Liability Pool

5. New Board Member Election: FCWID is down one board member, and another is up for election in November. FCWID must advertise the election in July. TCD will manage the advertisement process, and Carlin forwarded the advertisement deadline schedule to Sandy. TCD needs to publish the Election Proclamation per state statues. James Metcalf is standing for reelection.

C. Quarterly Progress Report/Old Business—FCWID Chair, Sandy Buckstaff

1. Office of Homeland Security COVID Mitigation Grant:

- FCWID is waiting on the outcome pending the FEMA review of the flood analysis.
- Infrastructure improvements are proposed for 2024.
- Sandy has been dealing with Shamika McDonald at the Office of Homeland Security. This is the department's first grant.

2. Sandy reported that a new thaw well, financed by SPET funds, is already being built near Martin Lane this summer by the Town of Jackson.

V. New Business—TCD Executive Director, Carlin Girard

1. High School Road new development parking lot: TCD is working with the Town to require a streambank

restoration plan be concurrent with the development. The project has received a setback variance to 18 feet. Reclamation efforts aim to transition to reed canary grass and add species diversity. Sandy mentioned his desire for an education outreach effort at the storm drain outlet next to the pathway at the north end of the property.

2. Garaman Park streambank damage from excavator:

- David Lee and Sandy and Dee Buckstaff completed some cleanup and reclamation work at the Wort Ditch diversion dam.
- There's still some work to be done clearing dead and down vegetation and willow rehabilitation.
- The hope is to partner with Parks and Rec to complete the job. Right now, reclamation efforts are all volunteer.
- David showed the before and after effect via slides and noted three to four impact sites. He also showed compost and seed reclamation efforts.

3. Stream frontage upstream from Garaman Park Bridge: Condo complexes are leaving an unmowed buffer.

VI. Executive Session. None.

IX. Adjournment. 12:48 pm.

MOTION BY: Dave Adams

SECONDED: Sandy Buckstaff

RESULT: None.

**Teton Conservation District (TCD) Sept 2023 Board Meeting
September 20, 2023 at 1:00 p.m. | Location: 420 W. Pearl Ave., Jackson**

The TCD meeting is preceded by the Flat Creek Watershed Improvement District meeting at 11:00 a.m.

TCD Board and the public are invited to join the meeting in-person at our office at 420 W. Pearl Ave. or online.

VIDEO CONFERENCE INVITATION

If joining the meeting by computer or tablet, go to: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89455197286>

If joining the meeting by phone, dial one of the following phone numbers: (669) 900-6833, (253) 215-8782

If calling by phone, you will be prompted to enter this Meeting ID: 894 5519 7286

MEETING MEMBERS:

TCD Board Members: Cate Watsabaugh, Dave Adams, Roby Hurley, Nate Fuller, Bob Lucas

TCD Associate Board Members: Steve McDonald, Elizabeth Barczynski, Bob Weiss

TCD Staff: Robb Sgroi, Morgan Graham, Emily Smith, David Lee, Carlin Girard, Liz Collins, Holly Shuss

Partners and Guests: Todd Stiles (Bridger-Teton National Forest), Jonathan Schechter and Tanya Anderson (Town of Jackson Town Council), Luther Propst (Teton County Board of County Commissioners), Chris Colligan (Teton County Public Works)

AGENDA:

11:00 a.m. TCD Flat Creek Watershed Improvement District Quarterly Meeting @ South Park 90 minutes

1:00 p.m. Agency Reports, Guests, and Public Comment 20 minutes

Minutes and Treasurer's Report 10 minutes

Board Reports 10 minutes

Roby Hurley – Housing, Recycling Building Materials, Idling, Sewer

Staff Reports and Action Items 90 minutes

Robb Sgroi – Small Water Projects Program Memo

David Lee – USGS 5-year Contract Amendment

Liz Collins – Annual Report

Carlin Girard – Annual Plan of Work

Carlin Girard – Hoback Junction South Comment Letter

Old and New Business 10 minutes

Executive Session: 30 minutes

(Move to enter into executive session under Wyoming State Statute 15-1-1-5 and 16-4-405 for the purpose of discussing one or more of the following: legal consultation and matters, appointment and personnel matters, national security, licensing or examinations, real estate transactions, donations, or other information classified as confidential by law.)

Teton Conservation District (TCD) August 2023 Board Meeting Minutes
August 16, 2023 | 420 W. Pearl Ave., Jackson, WY

Attendees:

TCD Board Supervisors: Dave Adams, Roby Hurley, Cate Watsabaugh (arrived at 1:08 p.m.), Bob Lucas (arrived at 1:17 p.m.)

Associate Board Members: Elizabeth Barczynski, Bob Weiss

TCD Staff: Robb Sgroi, Morgan Graham, Emily Smith, David Lee, Carlin Girard, Liz Collins, Holly Shuss

Guests: Tanya Anderson* (Town of Jackson), Chris Colligan (Teton County)

**Denotes online attendee*

Call to Order: Roby called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m.

Guest Reports and Public Comment:

Tanya Anderson (Town of Jackson) The Dark Sky Lighting Inventory preliminary report showed that the Town of Jackson is less than 25% compliant with street and building lighting, on 600+ Town owned lights. Tonight, there will be a community engagement session for the Sustainability Plan. Roby asked for clarification on an item in the July 2023 TCD Board Meeting Minutes, regarding the Town of Jackson sewer system. Roby expressed hope that between TCD, the Town of Jackson, and Teton County, there would be continued progress and conversation around streamlining the process to connect more lines to the sewer system.

Eric Watson (NRCS) Eric sent the following memo via email: “I will not be present Wednesday due to previously scheduled meetings. Please share that the DC position in Pinedale has closed and there are applicants that will be interviewed in the coming weeks to fill the position. We are continuing to work on several Teton applications and contracts. Between staffing shortages and heavy workload, we are all pushing to keep the boat afloat. Please let me know if anyone has any questions or if I need to follow up with anything. Thanks, Eric Watson, District Conservationist, Lander & Riverton Field Offices, Acting District Conservationist for Pinedale Field Office, NRCS, USDA.”

Chris Colligan (Teton County Public Works) Chris shared an update on bear resistant trash can compliance within Teton County. Wilson, Teton Village Road, Solitude, Golf and Tennis have over 95% compliance, which had had bear resistant trash can regulations in place prior to the newly implemented expansion. South of Town in areas like Hoback and Game Creek, where the new regulations expanded requirements, compliance is between 50-60%. The County has been placing notices of non-compliance on trash cans, which include information for purchasing bear compliant cans. Chris shared an update on the water quality master plan. Currently, the committee is reviewing water quality mitigation measures. The final draft of the water quality master plan will be presented to Teton County Commissioners in early 2024. Chris shared an update on wildlife crossing work. The County agreed to apply a local match on a National Elk Refuge project improving wildlife fencing from the hatchery to Town. Chris shared that there is a draft plan for wildlife crossings in that same area. Bob asked for more information on the planned wildlife crossings, where and how they would operate, Chris elaborated. Dave asked if there was still a shortage of inventory of bear resistant cans. Chris said there is currently a surplus of bear resistant cans owned by the hauling companies, ready for purchase. Regulations have been amended such that if a trash can was in compliance at the time of purchase, that trash can will remain within regulation. Roby asked about communities that have their own HOA restrictions. Chris shared that County regulations do allow trash cans to be stored inside a building to be in compliance. Chris shared that large bear resistant

dumpsters are a challenge to acquire because of the price tag. Roby asked Chris if the County has regulations on idling, Chris said that he did not believe so.

July 19, 2023 Meeting Minutes: Dave moved to approve the July 19, 2023 Board Meeting Minutes. Cate seconded. The motion was carried unanimously.

July 2023 Treasurer's Report: Dave reviewed the July 2023 Treasurer's Report:

- Checks numbering 21164-21200 dated 7/1/2023-7/31/2023: \$85,890.82
- Credit card charges: \$6,295.34
- Net credits for the month: \$29,263.26
- Operating Reserves Account Balance: \$502,951.64
- Committed Funds Savings Account: \$633,271.27
- Reconciled General Fund Checking Balance: \$544,212.13

Cate moved to approve the July 2023 Treasurer's Report. Dave seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Board Reports:

Roby Hurley 1) Roby shared that wildlife crossing approvals he has been working on are caught up in state and federal systems. 2) Roby and Dave put in volunteer time, alongside staff, removing non-native vegetation on the South Park supply ditch.

Staff Reports: *Please refer to the previous month's board packet to find information items included in written staff reports that were not discussed during the meeting.*

Holly Shuss (Administration Specialist): Action Items: 1) Annual Base Funding Requirements.

Dave moved to authorize the TCD Chairman to review and sign the required base funding forms; the Proof of Bonding, Risk Management Practices, Pursuing Local Funding and Education Functions for Elected Officials forms to satisfy the Fiscal Year 2023 base funding requirements. Cate seconded. The motion carried unanimously with Roby, Dave, Cate and Bob present.

Information Items: 1) Holly shared that she is working to streamline the payroll system and operate payroll through QuickBooks. 2) Carlin reminded everyone that the September TCD Board Meeting is also a Flat Creek Watershed Improvement District (Flat Creek WID) Quarterly Board Meeting and suggested that we take a field trip to the newly completed wetland project at South Park Wildlife Habitat Management Area.

Robb Sgroi (Land Resources Specialist): Information Items: 1) Robb noted an uptick in people requesting Wildfire Risk Overviews through the Wildfire Risk Reduction Program, with heightened wildfire awareness because of the Maui fires. Robb is working on increased messaging to the community about this program. 2) Dave asked about an information item in Robb's staff report regarding a grazing plan for agricultural lands in the Boyles Hill area. There was conversation around the system used by the Teton County Assessor for classifying agricultural land. The affidavit for agricultural land classification was projected on the screen. Dave suggested that it would be helpful to look at the statutes. 3) Roby asked about the fire cistern to be installed in the Hidden Hills subdivision and if we have an estimate of the grant request to come of TCD.

Morgan Graham (GIS & Wildlife Specialist): Information Items: 1) Morgan shared that he continues to work to educate the public on the importance of correctly identifying and eradicating non-native plants. 2) Bob Weiss asked about the aerial spraying of cheatgrass by Teton County Weed and Pest, and if TCD had supported this. Morgan shared that TCD did help fund this project and said that this technique has shown success in eliminating cheatgrass. 3) Morgan shared that he has been working with Liz and Carlin on a GIS project, compiling a list of property owners for the Flat Creek WID election. 4) There was discussion around infestations of non-native species on Forest Service or Park Service land, and the avenue for alerting the appropriate contacts.

Emily Smith (Natural Resources Technician): Information Items: 1) Roby asked if impervious surfaces would be included in the Fish Creek Watershed Management Plan on the vegetation and land use class maps. Emily shared the current classifications included are based on the Flat Creek Watershed Management Plan. Emily shared that impervious surfaces would be included in the urban/developed class.

David Lee (Water Resources Specialist): Information Items: 1) David highlighted that this Summer has been the season of Snake River discussions. David shared the Snake River ramp down report has been released and that he is currently working to share recommendations with the Bureau of Reclamation for future ramp down schedules. There was discussion on efforts to salvage fish left behind in disconnected side channels, David said that he communicates with Game and Fish on those efforts. There was discussion on the proposed ramp down schedule for this Fall. There was discussion on the Wilson bridge construction and how/if Snake River flows relate to construction. 2) There was discussion on an upcoming grant request from Jackson Hole Airport. 3) There was discussion on the project with the Bridger Teton National Forest to source woody material for the Lower Snake River Ranch restoration project, slated to start construction this fall. 4) David shared that TCD received a request from Protect Our Water Jackson Hole to collect surface water samples on a State Lands parcel on Moose-Wilson Road. There was consensus that TCD should move forward if State Lands and Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality (WDEQ) approved. Carlin said that he spoke with WDEQ staff, who didn't express much interest in surface water quality monitoring at the site because groundwater monitoring was already occurring. The Board provided direction to wait to see if groundwater data supported the assertion that establishing monitoring of surface water is needed. There was discussion about the implications for financing and the TCD budget.

Liz Collins (Grants and Communications Specialist): Information Items: None

Carlin Girard (Executive Director): Information Items: 1) Carlin asked the board for their approval of an internal budget adjustment, which they did. 2) There was discussion on whether the South Park supply ditch was running, and it was determined that it is not running because there is no need for the irrigation water at the current time. 3) David shared that Flat Creek turbidity data is now live on USGS website. 4) There was discussion on the process for drafting the Teton County Water Quality Master Plan. Chris Colligan (Teton County) shared that the committee has taken some extra time to address concerns of Protect our Water Jackson Hole board and extended the same offer to spend time with the TCD board, if so requested.

Adjournment: Dave moved to adjourn the meeting. Bob seconded. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 2:48 p.m.

Submitted by: _____

Liz Collins

Date

Supervisor: _____
Date

Supervisor: _____
Date

Supervisor: _____
Date

DRAFT

Teton Conservation District - Monthly Treasurer's Report

August 31, 2023

Debits for the month:Checks written between

August 1 and 31, 2023	\$89,967.32
August credit card charges	\$3,398.11

Total Debits for August	\$93,365.43
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Credits for the month:regular income sources

Mill Levy from Teton County	\$14,678.79
General Fund Checking Interest from Wells Fargo Bank	\$44.88
Committed Funds Savings Interest - Wells Fargo Bank	\$53.78
Operating Reserve Account Income from First Interstate	\$256.17
Well Test Kit Sales (8 sales)	\$399.49

other income sources

Total Credits for August	\$15,433.11
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Investments and Maturity Dates	Initial Invested	Income	% Return	
<u>Operating Reserves Account @ First Interstate Bank</u>				
Cash	\$0.00			\$0.00
Money Market	\$500,000.00	\$2,951.64	0.60%	\$502,951.64
total	\$500,000.00		total	\$502,951.64
<u>Committed Funds Saving Account @ Wells Fargo Bank</u>				
Previous Committed Balance				\$633,271.27
Transfers in or out	Transfer Committed Funds In			\$0.00
	Transfer Committed Funds Out			\$0.00
Interest Income			0.03%	\$53.78
			total	\$633,325.05
Total Funds in Investments				\$1,136,276.69

Ending Summary and Following Month's Information to Date		as of 8/31/23
General Fund Checking Account Balance	0.01%	\$499,816.88
Outstanding Checks		\$9,654.25
Deposits in Transit		\$0.00
Reconcilled QuickBooks Balance		\$490,162.63

FY24 Spent to Date & Income - 8/31/2023				
	Budget	Jul - Aug 23	Receivables	% of Budget
Income				
Regular Income				
Teton County Mill Levy	2,340,000.00	43,081.39	-2,296,918.61	1.84%
Interest Income	1,000.00	716.66	-283.34	71.67%
Well Test Kit Sales	7,800.00	898.51	-6,901.49	11.52%
WDA Annual Base Funding	8,823.50	8,823.50	0.00	100.0%
Unanticipated Income	7,500.00	0.00	-7,500.00	0.0%
Total Regular Income	2,365,123.50	53,520.06	-2,311,603.44	2.26%
Grants & Pass Through Income				
GTNP Gaging Stations	24,393.00	0.00	-24,393.00	0.0%
Hoback Gage-Snake River Fund	11,013.00	0.00	-11,013.00	0.0%
Snake River Gage-TU	5,000.00	0.00	-5,000.00	0.0%
Wyoming Water Development SWPP	268,500.00	0.00	-268,500.00	0.0%
WDEQ 319 - Fish Crk Wtrshd Plan	20,000.00	18,500.00	-1,500.00	92.5%
FCWID FEMA Thaw Well Grant	500,000.00	0.00	-500,000.00	0.0%
Total Grants & Pass Through Income	828,906.00	18,500.00	-810,406.00	2.23%
Total Income	3,194,029.50	72,020.06	-3,122,009.44	2.26%
Expense				
MOA Grants				
Water Program MOA	126,918.50	0.00	-126,918.50	0.0%
Land Program MOA	57,100.00	0.00	-57,100.00	0.0%
Vegetation Program MOA	70,000.00	0.00	-70,000.00	0.0%
Wildlife Program MOA	40,328.00	0.00	-40,328.00	0.0%
Sustainability Program MOA	81,000.00	0.00	-81,000.00	0.0%
Total MOA Grants	375,346.50	0.00	-375,346.50	0.0%
Program Expenses				
Administration Expenses	394,350.00	11,888.69	-382,461.31	3.02%
Communication Program Expenses	63,000.00	3,686.74	-59,313.26	5.85%
Water Program Expenses	882,349.00	8,300.88	-874,048.12	0.94%
Land Program Expenses	508,800.00	0.00	-508,800.00	0.0%
Vegetation Program Expenses	187,000.00	2,211.05	-184,788.95	1.18%
Wildlife Program Expenses	45,000.00	0.00	-45,000.00	0.0%
GIS Program Expenses	103,000.00	1.48	-102,998.52	0.0%
Sustainability Program Expenses	10,500.00	0.00	-10,500.00	0.0%
Total Program Expenses	2,193,999.00	26,088.84	-2,167,910.16	1.19%
Payroll Expenses	989,100.00	130,130.79	-858,969.21	13.16%
Total Expense	3,558,445.50	156,219.63	-3,402,225.87	4.39%

FY 2024 Budget (AUGUST 31, 2023)		Committed Funds Savings Account Items			
Grant Descripton		Budgeted	Paid Out	Check #	Remaining
Small Water Project Program Projects		Final Report Due			
Lower Snake R. Ranch Bank & Fish Imp.	10/23	\$5,000.00	\$0.00		\$5,000.00
Mill Creek Irrigation Project - Phase II	10/23	\$5,000.00	\$0.00		\$5,000.00
Owl Creek Subdivision - Fire Water Storage	10/23	\$5,000.00	\$0.00		\$5,000.00
Blue Mountain Bench SWPP Project	10/24	\$5,000.00	\$0.00		\$5,000.00
Surface Water Fire Pond - Julie Nettere	10/24	\$5,000.00	\$0.00		\$5,000.00
	<i>subtotal</i>	\$25,000.00	\$0.00		\$25,000.00
FY22 Budget Line Items					
WY Game & Fish - Moose Movements	2/24	\$5,000.00	\$0.00		\$5,000.00
Brian & Emily Hager - McCallister Pond Proj.	1/24	\$6,060.62	\$0.00		\$6,060.62
Hoback Clean Water Initiative (Lane Lamure)	6/24	\$60,000.00	\$0.00		\$60,000.00
	<i>subtotal</i>	\$71,060.62	\$0.00		\$71,060.62
FY22 PIC Grants					
Teton Bighorn Sheep Stewardship Campaign	6/24	\$9,000.00	\$0.00		\$9,000.00
	<i>subtotal</i>	\$9,000.00	\$0.00		\$9,000.00
FY24 MOA Grants					
Energy Conservation Works	6/24	\$24,000.00	\$0.00		\$24,000.00
Flat Creek Watershed Improvement Dist.	6/24	\$29,017.50	\$0.00		\$29,017.50
Friends of Teton River	6/24	\$17,401.00	\$0.00		\$17,401.00
Grand Teton National Park Foundation	6/24	\$10,000.00	\$0.00		\$10,000.00
Integrated Solid Waste & Recycling	6/24	\$29,000.00	\$0.00		\$29,000.00
JH Weed Mgmt Association	6/24	\$70,000.00	\$0.00		\$70,000.00
JH Wildlife Foundation	6/24	\$30,328.00	\$0.00		\$30,328.00
Mountain Roots Education	6/24	\$6,100.00	\$0.00		\$6,100.00
Slow Food in the Tetons	6/24	\$51,000.00	\$0.00		\$51,000.00
Town of Jackson	6/24	\$30,000.00	\$0.00		\$30,000.00
Trout Unlimited	6/24	\$50,500.00	\$0.00		\$50,500.00
Yellowstone-Teton Clean Cities	6/24	\$28,000.00	\$0.00		\$28,000.00
	<i>subtotal</i>	\$375,346.50	\$0.00		\$375,346.50
FY23 Budget Line Items					
Leave Liability and Deductibles for FY23	tcd	\$10,000.00	\$0.00		\$10,000.00
WY G&F South Flat Creek Restoration	2/24	\$15,000.00	\$0.00		\$15,000.00
TU GV Road Stabilization Project	6/24	\$15,000.00	\$0.00		\$15,000.00
Kauffman Pivot Irrigation Project	6/24	\$20,000.00	\$0.00		\$20,000.00
Teton Raptor Center - Native Plant Proj.	2/24	\$2,770.00	\$0.00		\$2,770.00
POW JH - Snake River Monitoring	2/24	\$10,000.00	\$0.00		\$10,000.00
National Park Service - Air Quality Project	6/24	\$2,088.00	\$0.00		\$2,088.00
	<i>subtotal</i>	\$74,858.00	\$0.00		\$74,858.00
FY23 PIC Grants					
Trout Unlimited - SRHWG Design	6/24	\$2,500.00	\$0.00		\$2,500.00
WY Wetland Society - Beaver Holding	2/24	\$10,000.00	\$0.00		\$10,000.00
Biodiversity Research Institute - Loon	2/24	\$10,000.00	\$0.00		\$10,000.00
Teton Raptor Center - Raptor Rehab	6/24	\$2,560.00	\$0.00		\$2,560.00
Northern Rockies Cons Coop - Symposium	2/24	\$2,000.00	\$0.00		\$2,000.00
Nature Conservancy - Phase 3 Fire Project	6/24	\$14,575.00	\$0.00		\$14,575.00
Astoria Park Conservancy - Camp Astoria	2/24	\$6,340.00	\$0.00		\$6,340.00
POW JH - E.Coli Bacteria Sampling	2/24	\$10,000.00	\$0.00		\$10,000.00
UW Fish & WL Coop - Moose Calf Project	6/24	\$20,000.00	\$0.00		\$20,000.00
	<i>subtotal</i>	\$77,975.00	\$0.00		\$77,975.00
Grand Total Grant Project Funds					\$633,240.12

Teton Conservation District

9/8/2023 3:44 PM

Register: Wells Fargo Checking

From 08/01/2023 through 08/31/2023

Sorted by: Date and Order Entered

Date	Number	Payee	Account	Memo	Payment	C	Deposit	Balance
08/01/2023			10000 · Income:11000 · Regular In...	Deposit		X	50.00	546,624.13
08/03/2023	21201	MasterCard	-split-	July Credit Card Charges	6,295.34	X		540,328.79
08/04/2023	21202	Roby Hurley	20000 · Administration Expenses:2...	Interagency Breakfast R...	18.16	X		540,310.63
08/04/2023	21203	Emily P Smith	20000 · Administration Expenses:2...	Mileage Reimbursement ...	41.27			540,269.36
08/04/2023	21204	Teton Media Works, Inc.	-split-	Invoice #355307, 355308	696.40	X		539,572.96
08/04/2023	21205	Wyoming Educators' Benefit Trust	6560 · Payroll Expenses:Employer ...	Sept 2023 Invoice ID 24...	8,316.36	X		531,256.60
08/04/2023	21206	Randy Foutch	60000 · Vegetation Program Expen...	Wildfire Risk Reductio...	2,000.00			529,256.60
08/04/2023	21207	Teton Media Works, Inc.	30000 · Communication Program E...	Invoice 355766	1,259.34	X		527,997.26
08/04/2023	21208	University of Wyoming - OSP	40000 · Water Program Expenses:4...	Macroinvertebrate Sam...	3,386.71	X		524,610.55
08/04/2023	21221	Wyoming Retirement System	WRS Retirement Liability	61 WRS 7/1-7/31/23	6,950.21	X		517,660.34
08/04/2023	21222	Lower Valley Energy	20000 · Administration Expenses:2...	CNG Fuel July 2023 Inv...	78.25	X		517,582.09
08/08/2023	FY24AJE#3		-split-	August direct deposit fees	23.50	X		517,558.59
08/09/2023			10000 · Income:11000 · Regular In...	Deposit		X	50.00	517,608.59
08/10/2023			10000 · Income:11000 · Regular In...	Deposit		X	50.00	517,658.59
08/14/2023			10000 · Income:11000 · Regular In...	Deposit		X	14,678.98	532,337.57
08/15/2023	21217	David Lee	-split-		2,824.20	X		529,513.37
08/15/2023	21210	Elizabeth A Collins	-split-		2,807.48	X		526,705.89
08/15/2023	21218	Emily E Hagedorn	-split-		432.20	X		526,273.69
08/15/2023	21211	Emily P Smith	-split-		2,421.06	X		523,852.63
08/15/2023	21212	Morgan W Graham	-split-		2,366.00	X		521,486.63
08/15/2023	21219	Robert M Sgroi	-split-		3,231.61	X		518,255.02
08/15/2023	21209	Carlin E Girard	-split-		3,877.07	X		514,377.95
08/15/2023	21220	Holly Shuss	-split-		3,027.92	X		511,350.03
08/15/2023	21223	Empower Retirement 457(b)	-split-	Empower Retirement 8/1...	1,050.00			510,300.03
08/15/2023	21224	Electronic Federal Tax Payments...	-split-	83-0247879 - 8/15/23 p...	6,992.01	X		503,308.02
08/15/2023	FY23AGE#57		6560 · Payroll Expenses:HSA Empl...	Morgan & Emily HSA ...	181.25	X		503,126.77
08/15/2023			-split-	Deposit		X	149.49	503,276.26
08/16/2023	21225	Jackson Curbside Inc.	20000 · Administration Expenses:2...	Recycling for Sept/Oct/...	210.00	X		503,066.26
08/16/2023	21226	Annie Goodman	20000 · Administration Expenses:2...	Invoice #100	500.00	X		502,566.26
08/16/2023	21227	Brilliantly Done, Inc.	20000 · Administration Expenses:2...	Invoice #25850 - July 2...	375.00	X		502,191.26
08/16/2023	21228	HUB International	20000 · Administration Expenses:2...	Invoice #3276443 & 32...	700.00	X		501,491.26
08/18/2023			10000 · Income:11000 · Regular In...	Deposit		X	50.00	501,541.26

Teton Conservation District

9/8/2023 3:44 PM

Register: Wells Fargo Checking

From 08/01/2023 through 08/31/2023

Sorted by: Date and Order Entered

Date	Number	Payee	Account	Memo	Payment	C	Deposit	Balance
08/22/2023			-split-	Deposit		X	18,550.00	520,091.26
08/23/2023	21229	Robert M Sgroi	20000 · Administration Expenses:2...	Mileage Reimbursement...	9.83	X		520,081.43
08/23/2023	21230	WACD	6560 · Payroll Expenses:Employer ...	Invoice 6280 - Dental In...	434.60			519,646.83
08/23/2023	21231	Teton Media Works, Inc.	-split-	Invoice #356330 & 356...	286.80			519,360.03
08/23/2023	21232	CNA Surety	20000 · Administration Expenses:2...	Roby Hurley Bond #64...	350.00			519,010.03
08/29/2023	AJE#15 FY23		First Interstate Bank	True-up FY23 Interest f...		X	2,695.47	521,705.50
08/29/2023	AJE#15 FY24		20000 · Administration Expenses:2...	Bank wire transfer fee	15.00	X		521,690.50
08/31/2023	21233	David Lee	-split-		2,824.20	X		518,866.30
08/31/2023	21234	Elizabeth A Collins	-split-		2,807.48	X		516,058.82
08/31/2023	21235	Emily E Hagedorn	-split-		432.20	X		515,626.62
08/31/2023	21236	Emily P Smith	-split-		2,421.06	X		513,205.56
08/31/2023	21237	Holly Shuss	-split-		3,027.92	X		510,177.64
08/31/2023	21238	Morgan W Graham	-split-		2,366.00	X		507,811.64
08/31/2023	21239	Robert M Sgroi	-split-		3,231.61	X		504,580.03
08/31/2023	21240	Carlin E Girard	-split-		3,877.07	X		500,702.96
08/31/2023	FY23AGE#57		6560 · Payroll Expenses:HSA Empl...	Morgan & Emily HSA ...	181.25	X		500,521.71
08/31/2023	21241	Electronic Federal Tax Payments...	-split-	83-0247879	6,991.96	X		493,529.75
08/31/2023	21242	Empower Retirement 457(b)	-split-	Payroll 8/31/23	1,050.00			492,479.75
08/31/2023			10000 · Income:11000 · Regular In...	Deposit		X	44.88	492,524.63

Total Checks: \$89,967.32

Credit Card Reporting for August 2023						
TCD Staff	Date	Item	Vendor	Account	Class	Amount
Holly	8/1/2023	Monthly Garbage	Westbank Sanitation	Office Utilities	Admin	\$ 47.55
Holly	8/2/2023	Office supplies	Smith's	Office Supplies	Admin	\$ 25.43
Holly	8/4/2023	Hard Drive Expense	Factory IT	Computer System Maint.	Admin	\$ 209.98
Holly	8/4/2023	Add HS&LC to plan	National Indemnity	Liability Insurance & Bonds	Admin	\$ 117.00
Holly	8/4/2023	Add HS&LC to plan	National Indemnity	Liability Insurance & Bonds	Admin	\$ 31.00
Holly	8/10/2023	Monthly IT	Factory IT	Computer System Maint.	Admin	\$ 1,720.00
Holly	8/20/2023	Monthly Landline	Silverstar Telephone	Office Utilities	Admin	\$ 272.06
Holly	8/21/2023	Monthly Electric	Lower Valley Energy	Office Utilities	Admin	\$ 109.21
Holly Total						\$ 2,532.23
Carlin						\$ -
Carlin Total						\$ -
Liz	7/25/2023	Online Adobe Course	Udemy	Employee Training	Comm	\$ 18.99
Liz	8/5/2023	WID Election Ballots	Teton County Clerk	Postage & Shipping	FCWID	\$ 102.55
Liz	8/13/2023	Monthly Design Software	Canva	Computer System Maint.	Comm	\$ 12.99
Liz	8/17/2023	WID Stamps	USPS	Postage & Shipping	FCWID	\$ 198.00
Liz Total						\$ 332.53
Morgan	7/26/2023	Thistle Day Drinks	Albertson's	Other Meetings	Veg	\$ 18.66
Morgan	7/27/2023	Contractor Bags	Big R Ranch & Home	Weed Warrior Program	Veg	\$ 23.31
Morgan	7/28/2023	Thistle Disposal	Teton Cty Transfer Station	Weed Warrior Program	Veg	\$ 18.00
Morgan	8/2/2023	Monthly Aerial Imagery	Amazon	Historical Aerial Imagery	GIS	\$ 0.74
Morgan	8/2/2023	Thistle Disposal	Teton Cty Transfer Station	Weed Warrior Program	Veg	\$ 16.00
Morgan	8/5/2023	Thistle Disposal	Teton Cty Transfer Station	Weed Warrior Program	Veg	\$ 20.00
Morgan	8/10/2023	Monthly Subscription	Adobe Creative Cloud	Computer System Maint.	Admin	\$ 58.29
Morgan	8/12/2023	Thistle Disposal	Teton Cty Transfer Station	Weed Warrior Program	Veg	\$ 12.00
Morgan	8/13/2023	Acrobat Pro	Adobe	Computer System Maint.	Admin	\$ 21.19
Morgan	8/15/2023	Thistle gloves	Ace Hardware	Weed Warrior Program	Veg	\$ 37.09
Morgan	8/18/2023	Book	Taylor & Francis Group	Weed Warrior Program	Veg	\$ 68.65
Morgan	8/19/2023	Thistle Disposal	Teton Cty Transfer Station	Weed Warrior Program	Veg	\$ 16.00
Morgan Total						\$ 309.93
David	8/16/2023	Board Meeting	Albertson's	TCD Regular Meetings	Admin	\$ 52.63
David	8/21/2023	Lab Supplies	Target	Standards & Lab	Water	\$ 4.55
David Total						\$ 57.18
Robb	7/25/2023	Truck Windshield Repair	Red's Auto Glass Inc	TCD Vehicles	Admin	\$ 93.69
Robb	8/10/2023	Ag Program Lunch	Juanita's Driggs	Other Meetings	Land	\$ 7.00
Robb	8/21/2023	Blue Truck Wiper Blade	Carquest	TCD Vehicles	Admin	\$ 65.55
Robb Total						\$ 166.24
TOTAL						\$ 3,398.11

BANK RECONCILIATION

Name of Client: Teton Conservation District Statement Date: 8.31.23 HS
 Bank: Wells Fargo Bank Account No: 000-0337175 9.8.23

Prior Month Reconciled Balance	\$ 554,183.71	Bank Statement Balance As of August 31, 2023	\$ 499,816.88
Add Credits	\$ 36,318.82	Add Deposits in Transit:	\$ -
Total Debits	\$ 36,318.82	Total Deposits	\$ -
Sub-Total	\$ 590,502.53	Sub-Total	\$ 499,816.88
Less Debits	90,685.65	Less Checks Outstanding:	
		(See List Below)	\$ 9,654.25
Total Credits	\$ 90,685.65	Bank Balance - Per Reconciliation	\$ 490,162.63
Bank Balance - Per General Ledger	\$ 499,816.88		

Checks Outstanding		
Number	Amount	Name
21096	\$79.58	ES (Mileage Reimbursement)
21107	\$2,000.00	GT Halpin Family (Wildfire Program)
21187	\$2,362.00	National Indemnity (truck insurance)
21203	\$41.27	ES (Mileage Reimbursement)
21206	\$2,000.00	Randy Foutch (Wildfire Risk Rmb)
21223	\$1,050.00	Empower Retirement (8/15 payroll)
21230	\$434.60	WACD (Monthly invoice)
21231	\$286.80	Teton Media Works
21232	\$350.00	CNA Surety (bonds)
21242	\$1,050.00	Empower Retirement (8/31 payroll)
	<u>\$ 9,654.25</u>	

QuickBooks Reconciliation	
\$ 490,162.63	Month End QB Register Balance
Adjustments to be posted in QuickBooks:	
\$ 490,162.63	Adjusted QB Register Balance
\$ 490,162.63	Reconciled Balance
\$ -	Difference

Holly Shuss, Administrative Manager

Action Items: None

Information Items:

Operations Area: Administration

- **Annual TCD Required Audit:** I have continued to work with representatives at Jones Simkins to wrap up the Fiscal Year 2023 audit. We are on schedule to complete the audit by the end of September and Jones Simkins will be presenting at the October 18th, 2023 TCD Board Meeting to address any inquiries.
- **Wyoming Association of Conservation District (WACD) Annual Dues:** WACD has requested confirmation of the funds TCD has allocated for annual dues. I've informed them that we have budgeted for \$17,500 which exceeds their requested amount of \$12,500. They will invoice us for \$17,500 and I will proceed to pay this invoice unless the Board of Supervisors tells me otherwise.
- **Accounting:** I have dedicated time to reorganizing QuickBooks to better optimize report functionality. My focus has been to recreate the Chart of Accounts to align with our budgetary framework. This will streamline spent-to-date tracking against budgeted amounts for more effective financial monitoring for each program area.
- **Sustainability Program:** I am working with Carlin to explore involvement in the Sustainability Program Area with the goal of gradually assuming responsibilities currently overseen by Carlin. I attended the Integrated Solid Waste & Recycling September board meeting to begin to familiarize myself with the organization and to introduce myself to their board and staff. I am committed to ongoing engagement in the Sustainability Program to build my knowledge and expertise in this area.
- **Wage & Compensation Study:** I am working with Carlin to discuss tentative plans for a wage & compensation study. We have been reviewing Requests for Proposals and inquiring into which contractors have been hired for The Town of Jackson, Teton County, and Teton County Weed & Pest in order to determine the best course of action for our own study.
- **Payroll:** Last month I explored using QuickBooks Direct Deposit for employee payroll. I determined that the fees will be significantly higher, so I will continue to process payroll through Wells Fargo.

Upcoming 2023 TCD Calendar of Events:

September 20	Quarterly Flat Creek WID Meeting	11am – at South Park
September 20	TCD Regular Board Meeting at TCD Office	1pm – via Zoom/Office
September 25	Dept. of Audit Board Training at TCD Office	9am – at TCD
September 26	Area V Regular Business Meeting	9am – at Raptor Center
October 18	TCD Regular Board Meeting at TCD Office	1pm – via Zoom/Office
November	No Regular Meeting This Month	

Robb Sgroi, Land Resources Specialist

Action Items: None

Information Items:

Program Area: Vegetation

- **Teton Area Wildfire Protection Coalition (TAWPC):** Review was provided for a paper nearing completion, authored by Hannah Spencer, graduate student, Portland State University, discussion human dimensions of cross boundary wildfire management in northwest Wyoming. Hannah generously listed me as coauthor.
- **Wildfire Risk Reduction Program:** 1) Thanks to Associate Supervisor Bob Weiss for his long term commitment to wildfire risk reduction in his neighborhood, and as a formal wildfire ambassador. See Supplemental Materials report, showing the progress along Burcher Lane that Bob deserves personal credit for. 2) I conducted six Wildfire Risk Overviews (WRO). 3) I'm leading an effort to have Team Rubicon consider Burcher Road as a project focusing on road corridor vegetation management. 4) I met with Teton County Road & Levee to understand how vegetation is managed on County roads through the lens of safe ingress and egress and fire behavior. They are in support of vegetation management where there is private landowner support.

Program Area: Land

- **Agriculture:** I reviewed and provided comment on NRCS' grazing plan for a cattleman on Boyles Hill Road. NRCS' work led to a site visit with the landowner to build a relationship and allow the landowner and TCD to consider what overlapping interests exist. The plan itself can be internally shared upon request but cannot be publicly released. Thanks to Supervisor Bob Lucas for his relationship with that landowner and advice to them on conservation and stocking rates.
- **Small Water Project Program (SWPP):** 1) A memorandum was developed (see Supplemental Materials) describing staff's recommendation for future administration of SWPP grants. The goal is to align our policies with the Wyoming Water Development Office (WWDO), and focus on projects with more certainty of implementation, while limiting temporal extensions. 2) Four SWPP grant applications were submitted to TCD this year. Two are for diversion improvements on Lava Creek, one is a resubmission for redevelopment of irrigation pipeline along Mill Creek (second resubmission), and one for a buried cistern in Butler Creek that has already been formally submitted to WWDO. Staff will bring recommendations to Supervisors at the October 2023 regular meeting for applications we recommend submitting to WWDO. 3) SWPP grant administration has been extensive, including assembly of pay requests for three completed projects, and documenting a project seeking a Notice to Proceed (meaning their planning is complete and future costs are reimbursable), and working with WWDO to determine if we can reapply for a cancelled project. 4) I reached out to ~15 conservation districts to ask if they created reporting on their district's SWPP projects. None had, some were interested in doing so and were provided TCD's reporting as a template.
- **Range Management & Monitoring:** 1) I supported two days of range monitoring in the Gros Ventre and Togwotee Pass areas, along with the Sublette County Conservation District (SCCD) and Forest Service. SCCD is leading the collaborative field data collection. 2) The group that TCD is formally a partner to, involved in developing

Ecological Site Descriptions (ESD), is moving ahead with the next step to start developing ESDs.

- **Other:** I fielded a call from a builder who was disturbed to see erosion across construction sites on Snow King. Chairman Hurley took up the subject with Snow King Resort and the Bridger-Teton National Forest. The resolution was erosion control practices will be implemented August/September 2023.



MEMORANDUM

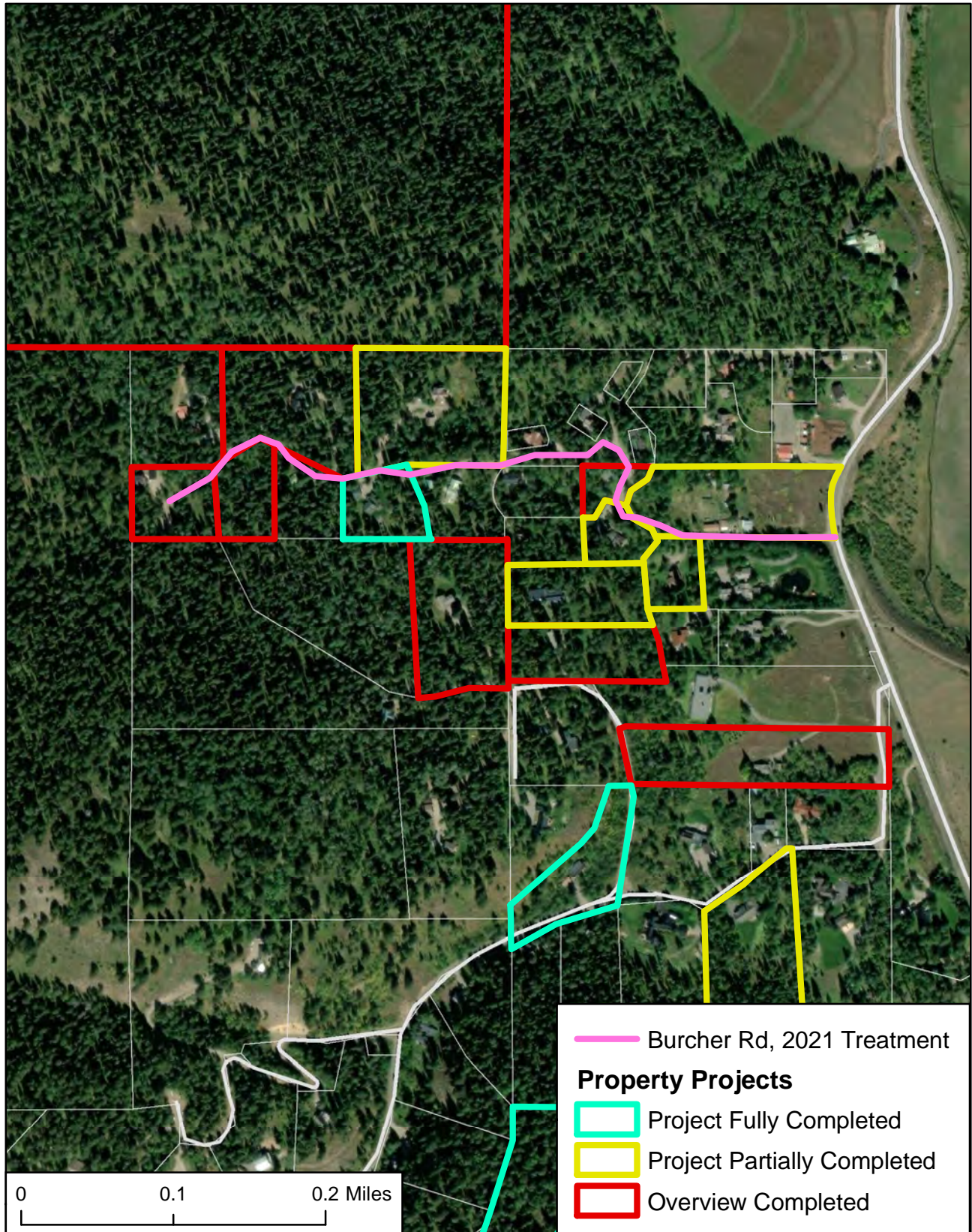
TO: TCD Board of Supervisors, File, Executive Director
FROM: Robert Sgroi
DATE: 09.06.2023
SUBJECT: Revised administration of Small Water Project Program (SWPP) grants and agreements

This memorandum serves to document the revised approach Teton Conservation District (TCD) staff will take from this timeframe forward on the administration of SWPP grants and agreements. The goals of this revised approach are to end temporal extensions and limit repeat applications, by focusing on projects with greater likelihood of successful implementation, thus, lessening workload on Wyoming Water Development Office (WWDO) and TCD. This change was prompted, in part, because WWDO has established a new policy ending extension requests and establishing higher requirements for the resubmission of SWPP applications. In addition, TCD has seen a high level of requests for extensions, and project cancellations, relative to the number of awarded SWPP grants.

The three changes are as follows:

1. TCD will not provide extensions for agreements, except under extenuating circumstances, as approved by the Executive Director. Normal project delays will not be provided an extension. Instead of extension, applications will need to be canceled and resubmitted, per the following conditions.
2. A resubmitted application will need to be resubmitted as a 'shovel ready' application. Based on WWDO guidance, TCD can only accept resubmitted applications from the proponent that are 'shovel ready'. 'Shovel ready' is defined by the SWPP grant guidelines, and TCD has inherited that definition, which generally means planning is completed and the project is ready for implementation.
3. Projects or partners with a history of cancellation or similar non-performance will be required to submit SWPP grant applications to TCD that meet 'shovel ready' criteria. Specifically, a partner with one awarded grant that is cancelled at their request will be required to submit all future SWPP grant requests as shovel ready grant requests.

Wildfire Risk Reduction Program Burcher Road Projects



Morgan Graham, GIS & Wildlife Habitat Specialist

Action Items: None

Information Items:

Program Area: Vegetation

- **Mechanical Weed Control:** I've continued coordinating Thistle Thursdays in Game Creek with a core group of volunteers. We've completed 7 total mornings of mechanical weed control and removed 620 pounds of musk thistle seedheads between the highway and 1.2 miles upstream of the trailhead. We continue to educate and receive positive feedback from the public each week. I also coordinated mechanical removal sessions with Jackson Hole Wildlife Foundation at Coburn Meadow and Teton Science Schools at their Kelly Campus and South Park Feedground.
- **Native Plant Resource Guide:** I provided comments on an updated Native Plant Resource Guide being published by Trevor Bloom and Charlotte Cadow of The Nature Conservancy (TNC). The booklet is a deliverable of TNC's FY2023 Partners in Conservation Grant. The first edition was well received by readers looking for an introduction to landscaping and restoration with native plants.
- **Native Seed:** I provided guidance to artist Suzanne Morlock to inform a native wildflower mix she sourced from Teton Rental and distributed at the Peoples' Market as part of her collaborative art project with Community Entry Services, Jackson Hole Public Art, and High Mountain Pollinators and Bees.
- **Residential Conservation Planting Program (RCPP):** I advised ten homeowners on weed control, native plant selection, and establishment.

Program Area: Geographic Information Systems/Information Technology

- **Teton County GIS Hub:** I worked with Carlin, Town of Jackson, and Teton County staff to package, document, and redeliver TCD Sewer Septic data to Dewberry for inclusion on the new County GIS App.
- **Flat Creek WID:** I worked with Liz and Carlin to internally generate a Flat Creek Watershed Improvement District mailing list for the upcoming election. The process confirmed additional areas in need of improvement.
- **Fish Creek Plan:** I've assisted Emily and David with data acquisition and cartographic recommendations for the Fish Creek Watershed Management Plan.
- **Bridger-Teton National Forest:** I responded to a request for several historical aspen datasets and reports to inform upcoming habitat treatments in the Greys River Ranger District.
- **Lidar:** I responded to four inquiries for Teton County lidar data.
- **Email Hacks:** We have received four or more hacking/phishing attempts over the past several weeks. It may be worth highlighting what these attempts look like and answering additional questions during the board meeting.

Emily Smith, Natural Resources Technician

Information Items:

Program Area: Water Resources

- **Flat Creek Monitoring:** On August 18th, David and I collected suspended sediment samples and turbidity at three locations on Flat Creek. The suspended sediment samples were processed in the lab, revealing Suspended Sediment Concentrations (SSC) ranging from 2.86 mg/L at the Wyoming Game & Fish Feedgrounds in South Park to 1.54 mg/L on the northern edge of Jackson. High School Rd recorded an SSC similar to South Park, at 2.79 mg/L. This is a significant decrease from the first samples collected in 2023. On May 16th, the SSC ranged from 29.62 mg/L to 4.32 mg/L, on June 16th it ranged from 16.19 mg/L to 3.86 mg/L, and on June 28th it ranged from 10.50 mg/L to 3.61 mg/L. For the three previous sampling events, South Park had the highest measurement while the northern edge had the lowest.
- **Fish Creek Watershed Management Plan:** As David and I continue to work with the Fish Creek data for the management plan, I have been working on creating drafts maps that illustrate the Fish Creek watershed's vegetation cover type, major land use, precipitation, elevation, and other metrics. Morgan has been helping.

Program Area: Wildfire

- **Wildfire Risk Reduction Program (WRRP):** I updated the WRRP spreadsheet, which tracks projects, their progress, and reimbursement. An updated version of the Project Properties shapefile and kmz file were created to illustrate the fully and partially completed projects and Wildfire Risk Overviews completed through August 2023. I created a map illustrating the work done on Burcher Road, thanks to Bob Weiss' leadership (see Robb's Supplemental Materials). Nine properties have participated in the program, with two projects fully completed and four partially completed. Additionally, the road corridor was treated in 2021.

David Lee, Water Resources Specialist

Action Items:

Program Area: Water

- **USGS Five-Year Agreement Amendment:** TCD’s current five-year agreement with the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) outlines costs to both organizations for the operation and maintenance of twelve streamgages in Teton County. I am presenting an amendment to this agreement that outlines three new water quality monitoring efforts, after significant discussion revealed strong interest with water quality partners including Teton County, Town of Jackson, Grand Teton National Park, Bridger-Teton National Forest, and non-profit organizations. There is interest from partners in providing cost-share for this effort in FY24. Those additions are: 1) a nine-month continuous turbidity record at Flat Creek at High School Road, 2) a six-month continuous record of dissolved oxygen, pH, temperature, and specific conductance at the Snake River at Swinging Bridge below the Flat Creek confluence, and 3) monthly grab samples at the Snake River upstream of Hoback Junction. These items are performed by USGS staff and TCD staff time is not required for this effort. The additional cost for these three items is \$33,175 in FY24 (See Supplemental Information). This amended agreement would be effective October 1, 2023.

Suggested Motion: *Authorize the TCD Board Chair to sign the USGS Agreement #23RSJFA001 Modification #1, amending the existing agreement to include new water quality monitoring.*

Information Items:

Program Area: Water

- **Snake River Macroinvertebrate Study:** TCD provided funds via a research agreement to the University of Wyoming to develop a pilot study to sample benthic macroinvertebrates from wadeable side channels in the Snake River. It is the interest of TCD staff, and partners including Wyoming Game and Fish, Trout Unlimited, and Grand Teton National Park, to collect long-term macroinvertebrate data in the Snake River to assess water quality trends. The sampling was performed in fall 2022, and recently the report was published by Lusha and Bryan Tronstad. [The report can be viewed here.](#) The results suggest that macroinvertebrate collection in the Snake River should be performed using a Hess sampler, with at least seven total samples collected, to capture the statistical variability in the macroinvertebrate community. This report will be sent out for peer-reviewed publication by the authors.
- **USGS Flat Creek Sediment Fingerprinting:** Carlin and I were contacted by USGS staff interested in developing a new study in Flat Creek. This “fingerprinting” study may be able to characterize the percent contribution of sediment from various target sources, which has not been attempted in previous studies. The Town of Jackson is interested in supporting this study. TCD may submit a grant application to Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality for funds for the study which may begin as early as spring 2024.
- **Lava Creek Diversion Project Support Letter:** The Lava Creek Diversion Project is led by Trout Unlimited to improve two diversion sites along Lava Creek, one on land owned by the Pinto Ranch and one on land managed by the Bridger-Teton National Forest. Improvements include “rock-ramp” control structures to allow for fish passage into the Lava Creek headwaters, while adjusting ditch gradients to deliver water through the diversions in low-flow periods. I provided a letter of support for Trout Unlimited’s grant application to Wyoming Wildlife and Natural Resource Trust.

- **Stakeholder Group Letter:** I participated in a letter delivery to the Bureau of Reclamation from the Snake River Headwaters Watershed Group members. This letter asked the Bureau for additional time and transparency between the announcement of proposed changes and the rampdown and a delayed maintenance schedule in future years. The proposed 2023 rampdown aims to decrease flows from Jackson Lake Dam from about 2,400 cfs to 280 cfs over the course of seven days, with the target winter flow of 280 cfs to be achieved by October 2nd.

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
MODIFICATION OF JOINT FUNDING AGREEMENT
FOR
Wyoming-Montana Water Science Center, Midcontinent Region**

This modification is for agreement **23RSJFA001**, dated **October 1, 2022**

1. The parties hereto agree that subject to the availability of appropriations and in accordance with their respective authorities there shall be maintained in cooperation Water Resource Investigations, herein called the program.

2. The agreement is hereby **X** increased / decreased by **\$227,783** to read as follows:

- (a) ~~\$296,207~~ by the party of the first part during the period
 \$378,215 **October 1, 2022 to September 30, 2027**
- (b) ~~\$495,284~~ by the party of the second part during the period
 \$641,059 **October 1, 2022 to September 30, 2027**

3. Billing documents are to be rendered **quarterly**. Payments of bills are due within 60 days after the billing date. If not paid by the due date, interest will be charged at the current Treasury rate for each 30 day period, or portion thereof, that the payment is delayed beyond the due date. (31 USC 3717; Comptroller General File B-212222, August 23, 1983).

**U.S. Geological Survey
United States
Department of Interior**

**Teton Conservation District
Wyoming**

Signature

Signature(s)

By _____ Date: _____
Name: John Kilpatrick
Title: Center Director

By _____ Date: _____
Name:
Title:

By _____ Date: _____
Name:
Title:

By _____ Date: _____
Name:
Title:

COOPERATIVE WATER RESOURCES PROGRAM
 Teton Conservation District, Wyoming
 USGS Wyoming-Montana Water Science Center
 Federal Fiscal Years 2023-27 (20221001 - 20270930)

All records in the TCD-USGS Cooperative Monitoring Program are consolidated into one JFA starting in 2023.

Station	Name	FY 2023		FY 2024		FY 2025		FY 2026		FY 2027		FY24 MOD
		TCD	USGS	TCD	USGS	TCD	USGS	TCD	USGS	TCD	USGS	
Annual Streamflow Monitoring												
- Collect, compute, review, and publish continuous annual streamflow record												
- Provide real-time data												
13013650	SNAKE RIVER AT MOOSE, WY	\$ 10,679	\$ 7,421	\$ 11,403	\$ 7,421	\$ 12,156	\$ 7,421	\$ 12,939	\$ 7,421	\$ 13,753	\$ 7,421	
13014500	GROS VENTRE RIVER AT KELLY, WY	\$ 7,123	\$ 4,950	\$ 7,606	\$ 4,950	\$ 8,108	\$ 4,950	\$ 8,631	\$ 4,950	\$ 9,174	\$ 4,950	
13016305	GRANITE C AB GRANITE C SUPPLEMENTAL, NR MOOSE, WY	\$ 10,679	\$ 7,421	\$ 11,403	\$ 7,421	\$ 12,156	\$ 7,421	\$ 12,939	\$ 7,421	\$ 13,753	\$ 7,421	
13016450	FISH CREEK AT WILSON, WY	\$ 10,679	\$ 7,421	\$ 11,403	\$ 7,421	\$ 12,156	\$ 7,421	\$ 12,939	\$ 7,421	\$ 13,753	\$ 7,421	
13018350	FLAT CREEK BELOW CACHE CREEK, NEAR JACKSON, WY	\$ 10,679	\$ 7,421	\$ 11,403	\$ 7,421	\$ 12,156	\$ 7,421	\$ 12,939	\$ 7,421	\$ 13,753	\$ 7,421	
13019500	HOBACK RIVER NEAR JACKSON, WY	\$ 10,679	\$ 7,421	\$ 11,403	\$ 7,421	\$ 12,156	\$ 7,421	\$ 12,939	\$ 7,421	\$ 13,753	\$ 7,421	
Streamflow monitoring SUBTOTAL		\$ 60,518	\$ 42,055	\$ 64,621	\$ 42,055	\$ 68,888	\$ 42,055	\$ 73,326	\$ 42,055	\$ 77,941	\$ 42,055	
Annual Water-Temperature Monitoring												
- Collect, compute, review, and publish continuous annual water-temperature record												
at station with funded discharge record												
- Provide real-time data												
13010065	SNAKE RIVER AB JACKSON LAKE AT FLAGG RANCH WY	\$ 1,736	\$ 1,205	\$ 1,854	\$ 1,205	\$ 1,976	\$ 1,205	\$ 2,103	\$ 1,205	\$ 2,236	\$ 1,205	
13011000	SNAKE RIVER NEAR MORAN, WY	\$ 1,735	\$ 1,205	\$ 1,854	\$ 1,205	\$ 1,976	\$ 1,205	\$ 2,103	\$ 1,205	\$ 2,236	\$ 1,205	
13011500	PACIFIC CREEK AT MORAN, WY*	\$ 2,266	\$ 1,574	\$ 1,854	\$ 1,205	\$ 1,976	\$ 1,205	\$ 2,103	\$ 1,205	\$ 2,236	\$ 1,205	
13011820	BLACKROCK CREEK BELOW SPLIT ROCK CREEK NEAR MORAN, WY*	\$ 2,266	\$ 1,574	\$ 1,854	\$ 1,205	\$ 1,976	\$ 1,205	\$ 2,103	\$ 1,205	\$ 2,236	\$ 1,205	
13011900	BUFFALO FORK AB LAVA CREEK NR MORAN WY	\$ 1,735	\$ 1,205	\$ 1,854	\$ 1,205	\$ 1,976	\$ 1,205	\$ 2,103	\$ 1,205	\$ 2,236	\$ 1,205	
13014500	GROS VENTRE RIVER AT KELLY, WY*	\$ 2,266	\$ 1,574	\$ 1,854	\$ 1,205	\$ 1,976	\$ 1,205	\$ 2,103	\$ 1,205	\$ 2,236	\$ 1,205	
13016450	FISH CREEK AT WILSON, WY	\$ 1,736	\$ 1,205	\$ 1,854	\$ 1,205	\$ 1,976	\$ 1,205	\$ 2,103	\$ 1,205	\$ 2,236	\$ 1,205	
13018350	FLAT CREEK BELOW CACHE CREEK, NEAR JACKSON, WY	\$ 1,736	\$ 1,205	\$ 1,854	\$ 1,205	\$ 1,976	\$ 1,205	\$ 2,103	\$ 1,205	\$ 2,236	\$ 1,205	
13018750	SNAKE RIVER BELOW FLAT CREEK, NEAR JACKSON, WY	\$ 1,736	\$ 1,205	\$ 1,854	\$ 1,205	\$ 1,976	\$ 1,205	\$ 2,103	\$ 1,205	\$ 2,236	\$ 1,205	
13019500	HOBACK RIVER NEAR JACKSON, WY	\$ 1,736	\$ 1,205	\$ 1,854	\$ 1,205	\$ 1,976	\$ 1,205	\$ 2,103	\$ 1,205	\$ 2,236	\$ 1,205	
Continuous Annual Water Temperature SUBTOTAL		\$ 18,947	\$ 13,157	\$ 18,536	\$ 12,050	\$ 19,760	\$ 12,050	\$ 21,032	\$ 12,050	\$ 22,356	\$ 12,050	
Seasonal Water-Quality Monitoring												
- Collect, compute, review, and publish continuous seasonal, continuous record												
of water quality parameters at stations with funded discharge record												
- Provide real-time data												
- Data collected April through September, except Flat Creek turbidity (Apr-Nov)												
13013650	SNAKE RIVER AT MOOSE, WY (specific conductance and water temp)	\$ 4,303	\$ 2,421	\$ 4,572	\$ 2,421	\$ 4,852	\$ 2,421	\$ 5,143	\$ 2,421	\$ 5,445	\$ 2,421	
13013650	SNAKE RIVER AT MOOSE, WY (dissolved oxygen)	\$ 2,216	\$ 1,247	\$ 2,355	\$ 1,247	\$ 2,499	\$ 1,247	\$ 2,648	\$ 1,247	\$ 2,804	\$ 1,247	
13013650	SNAKE RIVER AT MOOSE, WY (pH)	\$ 2,216	\$ 1,247	\$ 2,355	\$ 1,247	\$ 2,499	\$ 1,247	\$ 2,648	\$ 1,247	\$ 2,804	\$ 1,247	
13018350	FLAT CREEK BELOW CACHE CREEK, NEAR JACKSON, WY (turbidity)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 6,923	\$ 4,055	\$ 7,400	\$ 4,055	\$ 7,900	\$ 4,055	\$ 8,400	\$ 4,055	*
13018750	SNAKE RIVER BELOW FLAT CREEK, NEAR JACKSON, WY (SC, pH, and DO)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 10,542	\$ 4,518	\$ 11,100	\$ 4,518	\$ 11,700	\$ 4,518	\$ 12,300	\$ 4,518	*
Continuous Seasonal Water Quality SUBTOTAL		\$ 8,735	\$ 4,915	\$ 26,746	\$ 13,488	\$ 28,349	\$ 13,488	\$ 30,039	\$ 13,488	\$ 31,754	\$ 13,488	
Monthly Water-Quality Sampling												
- Collect, process, analyze, review, and publish periodic water-quality sample data												
- Parameters to be analyzed are listed below												
- Samples collected year-round (12 sampling events per year)												
- Quality assurance samples will be collected and analyzed with 10% of primary samples												
- Chain of Custody procedures will be followed to meet WY DEQ requirements												
13018750	SNAKE RIVER BELOW FLAT CREEK, NEAR JACKSON, WY	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 15,710	\$ 11,929	\$ 16,800	\$ 11,929	\$ 17,900	\$ 11,929	\$ 19,100	\$ 11,929	*
Continuous Seasonal Water Quality SUBTOTAL		\$ -	\$ -	\$ 15,710	\$ 11,929	\$ 16,800	\$ 11,929	\$ 17,900	\$ 11,929	\$ 19,100	\$ 11,929	
PROGRAM TOTAL PER YEAR		\$ 88,200	\$ 60,127	\$ 125,614	\$ 79,522	\$ 133,797	\$ 79,522	\$ 142,298	\$ 79,522	\$ 151,150	\$ 79,522	
PROGRAM TOTAL FOR THE 5-YEAR AGREEMENT		\$ 641,058	\$ 378,214									

Performance Period

Oct 1 2022 through Sep 30 2027 (data collection)

Funding Period

Oct 1 2022 through Sep 30 2027

Notes

13014500

TCD asked for a seasonal discharge record, but additional funding is provided by USGS Federal Priority Streamgange Program to make it annual
(3 sites) *Includes \$900 one-time water temp installation cost in FY23

The appropriation for USGS Cooperative Matching Funds (CMF) has been constant for many years, and is expected to continue that way. The amount of CMF applied to this agreement is therefor constant, except for in FY23 when \$1,107 extra is applied for the installation of 3 water temperature sensors.

Status

3/28/2022 Sent David Lee the initial SOW

3/29/2022 Updated to add 3 new WT records at David Lee's request

4/13/2022

Added FY24-27, assuming 4% inflationary increases, at David Lee's request.

9/5/2023 Added scope from FY24 MOD

Annual inflationary increase 4.00%

Water Quality sample parameters to be analyzed

Analyte	Reporting	
	Level	Units
PH (LABORATORY)		0.1 pH
Sp. Conductance Lab		5 uS/cm
Fluoride diss IC		0.02 mg/L
Calcium, Water, Filtered, ICP		0.04 mg/L
Magnesium, Water, Filtered, ICP		0.02 mg/L
Silica, Water, Filtered, ICP		0.1 mg/L
Sodium, Water, Filtered, ICP		0.8 mg/L
Chloride diss IC		0.04 mg/L
Sulfate diss IC		0.04 mg/L
ICP SETUP		unsp
Alkalinity, as CaCO ₃ , filtered, FET, Lab		8 mg/L
Potassium, Water, Filtered, ICP		0.6 mg/L
ROE at 105deg C		10 mg/L
Arsenic, WF		0.2 ug/L
Ammonia, Kone		0.04 mg/L
Nitrite, Kone		0.002 mg/L
ortho-PO ₄ , Kone		0.008 mg/L
NO ₂ + NO ₃ , as N, LL, Kone		0.02 mg/L

Liz Collins, Grants and Communications Specialist

Action Items:

Operations Area: Communications

Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 Annual Report: Much of my time has been spent working on the Annual Report, thanks to staff for their submissions and edits. Please see the draft in Supplemental Materials.

Recommended Motion: *Move to approve the Fiscal Year 2023 Annual Report, including any changes directed by the board and staff, with final approval by the TCD Board Secretary and submit the final report to the Wyoming Department of Agriculture and the Wyoming Association of Conservation Districts before October 1, 2023.*

Information Items:

Operations Area: Administration

- **Flat Creek Watershed Improvement District (FCWID):** I have been working with Sandy Buckstaff and TCD staff on the upcoming FCWID election. Two candidates have filed for two open director seats: James Metcalf and Jesse Rauch. Three Written Authorization Forms have been received from entities, naming an individual voter. Ballots will be mailed between October 13, 2023 and October 23, 2023.

Operations Area: Grants

- **FY 2024 MOA Grants:** All Fiscal Year 2024 Award Letters have been signed and returned to TCD.

Operations Area: Communications

- **Press Releases:** I worked with Robb to publish a Buckrail sponsored post. The article highlighted TCD's Wildlife Risk Reduction Program and the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality air quality monitoring station on High School Road. Read the article, here: <https://buckrail.com/teton-conservation-district-seeks-to-empower-community-health-and-safety/>
- **Public Notices:** The Wyoming Association of Conservation Districts Area V Meeting notice has been advertised on our website and in the News and Guide's public notices section.

Program Area: Vegetation

- **Wildfire Risk Reduction Program:** I joined Robb in the field on a Wildfire Risk Overview.

Program Area: Water

- **Jackson Hole Clean Water Coalition (JHCWC):** Facilitator Amy King (Legacy Works) could not find a common date for a majority of JHCWC members to convene, so the Fall meeting has been pushed back to a TBD future date. (Summer meeting did not take place).



**Teton
Conservation
District**
Est. 1946

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TETON CONSERVATION DISTRICT
ANNUAL REPORT

JULY 1, 2022 - JUNE 30, 2023

OUR MISSION

Teton Conservation District is a local government entity whose mission is to work with the community in the conservation of natural resources for the health and benefit of people and the environment.

OUR VISION

Teton Conservation District envisions a forward-looking community practicing natural resource stewardship.





TABLE OF CONTENTS

1	MISSION & VISION
3	LETTER FROM THE BOARD
4	ABOUT THE DISTRICT
5	YEAR IN REVIEW
7	MOUNTAIN NEIGHBOR HANDBOOK
9	WATER
11	LAND
13	VEGETATION
15	GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS
17	WILDLIFE
18	SUSTAINABILITY
19	ADMINISTRATION & FINANCIALS
20	GRANTS

Front Cover Photo: Gros Ventres Wilderness in Bridger-Teton National Forest

Left Photo: Teton Conservation District Staff and Board prepare to remove invasive species from a site within the National Elk Refuge

DEAR FRIENDS & NEIGHBORS

When Executive Director Carlin Girard asked me to pen the opening letter for this year's annual report, my initial thought was, "Wow - where do I start?" The past year was marked by transitions, reactive problem-solving, and great accomplishments.

Transitions: Our talented, hard-working staff has made my role as Teton Conservation District (TCD) Board Chair easy. Although we lost our Communication Specialist and Administrative Manager over the winter, we welcomed two outstanding new team members this spring – Holly Shuss and Elizabeth Collins. They have quickly proven to be valuable team members, despite drinking from the firehose.

Last fall's election brought changes to the board of supervisors. While we miss the leadership of TCD Board Chair Steve McDonald, we welcome Supervisor Cate Watsabaugh, who brings valuable business experience and a youthful perspective.

Problem-Solving: We faced two unfortunate incidents in our Water Program area last year. Water storage and release from the Jackson Lake dam has become less predictable as agricultural irrigation in Idaho has been prioritized over natural resource conservation. We are committed to supporting a productive dialogue on this issue by providing data and respecting diverse interests. Additionally, the South Park Supply Ditch in the National Elk Refuge experienced a blowout. Although the owners repaired the ditch promptly, ongoing efforts focus on vegetation reclamation. TCD has contributed significantly to these efforts, both financially and through personnel support.

Accomplishments: Our increased Water Program budget has addressed surface and groundwater issues. TCD has spearheaded projects, from stream and wetland restoration

at Dairy Queen to major undertakings like the Hoback Water and Sewer District establishment, the Teton County Water Quality Master Plan development, and the Fish Creek Water Management Plan development. We also oversee the Flat Creek Watershed Improvement District, mitigating winter flooding issues along Flat Creek through solutions like the two thaw wells that will be installed this year.

Perhaps last year's standout project was the launch of the Mountain Neighbor Handbook. Led by TCD staff in collaboration with 40+ local organizations, this publication offers place-based guidance into living and recreating in Teton County and the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. I encourage you to explore and share this valuable environmental stewardship resource.

Looking Ahead: TCD remains dedicated to ongoing efforts, executing short-range plans, and adapting to unforeseen circumstances. Projects outlined in this year's annual report include incentivizing wildfire risk reduction, promoting native vegetation, supporting local farms and ranches, monitoring water quality and wildlife, reducing human-wildlife conflicts, and upgrading GIS products. I hope you will take the time to read about and support the important work of your conservation district.

Sincerely,

ROBY HURLEY

BOARD CHAIR



46 ABOUT THE DISTRICT

Teton Conservation District operates as a local government entity and falls under the category of a special district, established in 1946. The District is one of 34 conservation districts in Wyoming and is part of a nationwide network of 3,000 such districts.

We are entrusted with stewarding the natural resources of Teton County – encompassing two national parks, state, county, town, federal, and private lands. We are dedicated to six main program areas: water, land, vegetation, wildlife, geographic information systems (GIS), and sustainability. We collaborate with local organizations, landowners, and government agencies to tackle current challenges, advocate for sustainable practices, and dive into impactful projects.

Teton Conservation District's funding comes from the Conservation District Tax, subject to voter approval every four years - 73% of voters approved the tax in fall 2022. While voters approve a 1.0 mill levy, we currently maintain a budget request of 0.6 of a mill. This financial support makes up roughly 1/100th of Teton County landowners' property taxes.

From left to right: Holly Shuss, Robb Sgroi, Liz Collins, Morgan Graham, Emily Smith, David Lee, Carlin Girard



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 INSTAGRAM
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 WEBSITE
www.tetonconservation.org

 CALL
307-733-2110

 EMAIL
info@tetonconservation.org

 VISIT
420 W. Pearl Ave., Jackson

BOARD

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Chair

Dave Adams
Vice-Chair & Treasurer

Cate Watsabaugh
Secretary

Bob Lucas
Supervisor

Nate Fuller
Supervisor

ASSOCIATE BOARD

Steve McDonald

Elizabeth Barczynski

Bob Weiss

STAFF

Carlin Girard
Executive Director

Robb Sgroi
Land Resources Specialist

Morgan Graham
GIS & Wildlife Habitat Specialist

David Lee
Water Resources Specialist

Liz Collins
Grants and Communications Specialist

Holly Shuss
Administration Manger

Emily Smith
Natural Resources Technician

2022



July

Staff conducted Wildfire Risk Overviews for Teton County homeowners and neighborhoods.

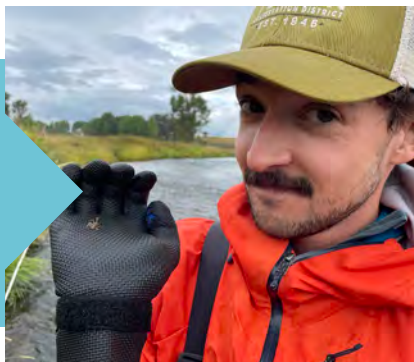


October

Staff collaborated with 40+ local organizations to publish the Mountain Neighbor Handbook, a book offering place-based guidance into living in Teton County and the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem.

August

In partnership with the University of Wyoming, staff developed a pilot program to study macroinvertebrates in the Snake River for better water quality insights.



November

We released the Teton County Septic System Effluent Monitoring Study, measuring wastewater treatment efficiency of residential septic systems and informing the construction and management of future systems.



September

Staff assisted Sophie Lamb, a past intern and local student, in establishing a native plant garden at Jackson Hole High School.



December

Staff presented to the National Association of Conservation Districts on our Wildfire Risk Reduction Program.

2023



January

In partnership with the Town of Jackson and the Flat Creek Watershed Improvement District, we removed ice from Flat Creek to prevent flooding.



Abby Prafrath

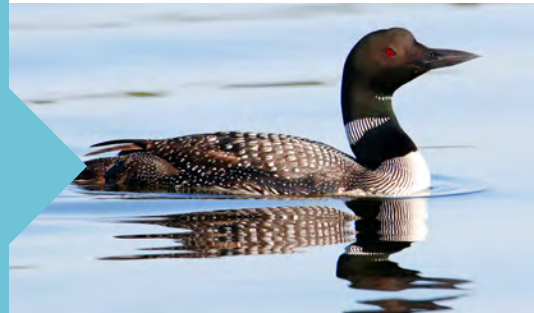
April

In partnership with Jackson Hole Clean Water Coalition, we certified local landscaping and lawn care businesses as Trout Friendly at our annual educational certification event.

February

The Board awarded \$74,475 to local conservation projects through our annual Partners in Conservation grant program.

Projects included place-based education, wildlife monitoring and research, water quality monitoring, sustainability initiatives, native plant research, and more.



May

We welcomed Liz Collins and Holly Shuss as our new Grants and Communications Specialist and Administration Manager, respectively.



March

Staff assisted the United States Geological Services with the Rocky Mountain Regional Snowpack Chemistry Monitoring Study, both financially and through personnel support.



June

Staff initiated a multiyear project to develop the Fish Creek Watershed Management Plan, commencing with the hosting of a public Stakeholder Engagement Meeting.

MOUNTAIN NEIGHBOR HANDBOOK

The Mountain Neighbor Handbook: A Local's Guide to Stewardship in the Tetons is a comprehensive 52-page book that serves as a "how-to" guide, inviting readers to become stewards of their environment.

The book was inspired by growing concerns from Teton County residents about population growth and a shift in culture. It is meant for new home and property owners, long-term renters, and established residents.

A great deal of effort produced a book that is aesthetic, positive, and action oriented – its reception has been overwhelming.

Content includes a historical overview of Teton County, living with wildlife, habitat and cultural landscapes, invasive species, water, responsible recreation, weather and natural disasters, living with wildfire, our local food system, waste management, and energy conservation.

Right photos: handbook excerpts.





THE MOUNTAIN NEIGHBOR HANDBOOK

A LOCAL'S GUIDE TO
STEWARDSHIP IN THE TETONS

RECEPTION

"I received my copies in the mail yesterday – WOW – what a gorgeous handbook! It felt like a coffee table book. Very inspiring & well done!"

- Sara Murrill, Program Manager - National Park Foundation

"This now gives us a tool to easily hand to folks and say... Here you go, here are more resources."

- Chip Jenkins, Superintendent - Grand Teton National Park

"This is a very helpful and concise breakdown of the guidelines."

- Erika Olde, Jackson homeowner

"Being able to provide the Mountain Neighbor Handbook as required reading for our incoming staff and interns has been a great way to introduce them to... the conservation ethic we hope all of our employees embody."

- Selena Humphreys, Operations Director - Teton Raptor Center

40+ CONTRIBUTORS COMPILED THE
MOUNTAIN NEIGHBOR HANDBOOK

DISTRIBUTED 4,000+ HARDCOPIES

RECEIVED 4,100+ VISITS TO
DIGITAL VERSION

VIEW THE DIGITAL VERSION BY
SCANNING THE QR CODE:





David Lee collects a water sample from Flat Creek

**PARTNERED WITH 60+ ORGANIZATIONS IN
STAKEHOLDER GROUPS AND PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMS**

DISTRIBUTED 169 WELL TEST KITS

PROVIDED BI-WEEKLY WATER NEWSLETTER TO 90 PEOPLE

**CERTIFIED 15 BUSINESSES AND 200 INDIVIDUALS
IN THE TROUT FRIENDLY LAWNS PROGRAM**

FUNDED 5 RESTORATION PROJECTS

WATER

The community's interest in drinking water quality, aquatic habitat degradation, and water and wastewater infrastructure improvements has never been higher than in 2023. Our Water Program continues to support water quality education and outreach, restoration projects, and has served as a leader for collecting water quality data in Teton County.

WATER QUALITY PLANNING

This year, we played a significant role in developing the Teton County Water Quality Master Plan. Using data collected by our staff and other organizations, we helped develop a model that assesses vulnerabilities to groundwater contamination. This allowed us to effectively prioritize wastewater infrastructure projects. We also provided insight into other measures that would improve water quality, including thoughtful implementation of snow storage, best management practices for stream habitats, identification of potential sewer connection initiatives, expansion of existing water quality monitoring programs, and recommendations for new RV dump station locations. We also funded an ongoing engineering study dedicated to developing a long-term drinking water infrastructure solution for residents in the Hoback Junction area.

DATA-BASED DECISION MAKING

We released a report summarizing the effects of a 2021 rampdown of flows from Jackson Lake Dam on the downstream fishery habitat in the Snake River. We presented the findings to the Bureau of Reclamation and other agency partners. This study serves as a foundation for understanding downstream impacts of fluctuating water levels below Jackson Lake Dam.

LOCAL VOLUNTARY ACTION

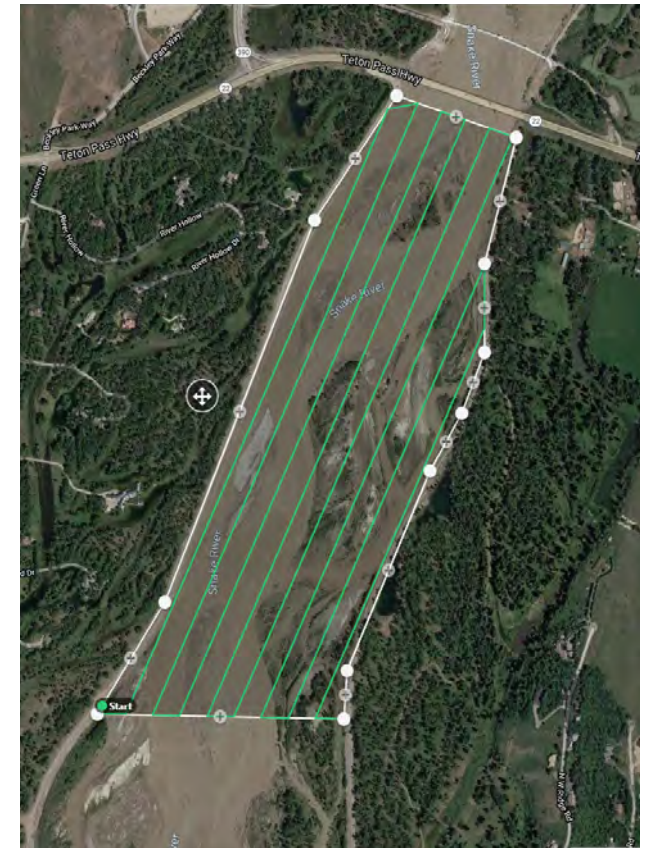
To date, we have enrolled hundreds of residents and businesses in our Trout Friendly Lawns program. The Trout Friendly Lawns Landscape & Business Certification Event held in April was the most well-attended event since the program's inception. This participation shows the continued interest of local businesses in adopting trout-friendly principles when providing landscaping services.

INCREASING WATER MONITORING

Long-term water quality monitoring has been the focus of our Water Program for decades. This year, we continued to be a primary funder of USGS stream gage operation and maintenance in Teton County, contributing over \$80,000 to discharge, temperature, and water quality monitoring. Seeing the increasing call for expanded water quality monitoring in 2023, we partnered with local entities to begin even more long-term water quality monitoring programs for Flat Creek and the Snake River. We will collect physical and chemical data to better inform recreators, land managers, and town/county staff on the effect of human development on stream and river health. New data will speak to nutrients, minerals, turbidity, temperature, and more.

LONG-TERM MACROINVERTEBRATE SAMPLING

This year, we identified the need to study macroinvertebrates in the Snake River for better water quality insights. Sampling these bugs in such a large river is difficult and therefore rare. To address this, we collaborated with the University of Wyoming to develop a pilot program. Testing rock baskets and Hess samplers, we determined what sampling method and quantity would provide accurate data. Hess samplers proved successful in Snake River side channels, capturing diverse taxa of macroinvertebrates. Our next steps involve ongoing site selection and implementation. Implementing this new study will provide an extremely valuable dataset for tracking Snake River health trends over time.



As part of the 2021 Snake River rampdown study, partner Matt Barney (Trout Unlimited) operates a drone (left) and the drone flight path is shown (right).

Our Land Program supports our livelihood in many ways. Soil serves as the foundation on which we build roads, homes, and offices and is the medium in which our food grows. Understanding and conserving land is necessary to sustain our ability to grow food and maintain our built environment.

SUPPORTING A LOCAL FOOD SYSTEM

We recognize the many ways that local agriculture benefits our community. Beyond offering scenic viewsheds in Jackson Hole, agricultural lands play a vital role in wildlife habitats and natural processes like flood mitigation. And recently, a growing desire for a community food system has emerged. At the same time, local farmers face very difficult challenges including high land costs, labor recruitment struggles, and constraints of a short growing season. We address these challenges by collaborating with local partners.

Two of these partnerships include Mountain Roots Education and Slow Food in the Tetons. Mountain Roots Education workshops, such as no-till gardening, growing flowers and microgreens, butchering and more, repeatedly sell out. Slow Food in the Tetons hosts a thriving People's Market, allowing farmers and ranchers to sell direct to consumers. Their outreach programs have engaged over 75 elementary school students in the process of growing, harvesting, preparing, and eating local food. Cooking classes have empowered 24 students to prepare weekly meals for their families, while their community gardens provided space for 175 households. Our dedication to nurturing the next generation of food system leaders remains unwavering and is rooted in these partnerships.

PARTNERING WITH LOCAL RANCHES

Elk Ranch, south of Moran Junction, stands as a local production example. This pasture, located on Grand Teton National Park (GTNP) land, hosts a cattle grazing operation permitted to the Pinto Ranch. With TCD's backing and GTNP oversight, Elk Ranch undertook a project to modernize its irrigation system. Decaying infrastructure, including century-old headgates, was replaced with 18 new ones. This upgrade enhances efficiency, requiring less manpower and optimizing water usage.

Elk Ranch's project was a part of a broader effort. This year, the final phase of the Spread Creek Fish Passage Project was completed. Over the past 10 years, we have proudly partnered with Trout Unlimited, Grand Teton National Park, Bridger-Teton National Forest, and Wyoming Game and Fish Department. The project's initial phase removed an irrigation dam, opening 50 miles of watershed for Snake River cutthroat trout. The subsequent phase involved a fish screen installation and diversion structure enhancement. During this final phase, we contributed funds, design expertise, and crucial input, ensuring reliable water delivery to downstream irrigators, including Elk Ranch.



A blownout South Park supply ditch in the National Elk Refuge



Placing fill at the new headwall at Elk Ranch



Robb Sgori collects vegetation data to monitor rangeland health



Completed high tunnel at Linn Ranch gardens

PROGRAMS TAILORED TO LANDOWNER NEEDS

We offer numerous ways for local agricultural operations and landowners to engage in conservation and best management practices. Our Small Water Project Program (SWPP) provides financial support for projects that improve agricultural infrastructure, fish habitat, and stream conditions. Our soil sampling and analysis services cater to a growing demand. Cost effective soils testing includes measuring nutrient levels, pH, soluble salts, and texture. Understanding soil health then helps solve problems such as decreased hay production, by informing management inputs such as need for fertilizer.

AWARDED 2 SMALL WATER PROJECT PROGRAM GRANTS

PURCHASED AND INSTALLED 2 RESIDENTIAL GREENHOUSES

REPAIRED 1 BREACHED DITCH

REPLACED 3 MILES OF FENCING WITH WILDLIFE-FRIENDLY FENCING

AWARDED GRANTS TO 9 FARMERS

55 VEGETATION

Our Vegetation Program has prioritized managing invasive species, restoring native habitats, and building community interest in sustainable landscaping. We carry out this work through cost-share incentives, demonstrations, and educational outreach. In this way we are helping to preserve our ecosystem's balance and empower residents to actively participate in environmental stewardship.

WILDFIRE RISK REDUCTION

Nationally, support for wildfire risk management is on the rise. Locally, residents are acutely aware of wildfire risks and willing to assess their situation and implement proactive risk reduction. Our Wildfire Risk Reduction Program meets these demands. We take a comprehensive approach that covers water supply, vegetation management on communal land and roadways, and addressing language in covenants that may constrain best practices. Staff engage with landowners, addressing their concerns ranging from costs, aesthetics, forest health, insurability, and emergency communications. Last year, Gros Ventre North showcased successful collaborative wildfire risk reduction with a voluntary strategy. A neighborhood organizer initiated conversations, leading to substantial vegetation management along the subdivision's roadways. The homeowners' association invested in enhancing the water supply system. The neighborhood earned the Firewise Communities USA designation, potentially leading to insurance discounts. This partnership among neighborhood leaders, landowners, the HOA, and agencies effectively addressed concerns and enhanced safety while adhering to resource management best practices.



Before: invasive musk thistle covers the landscape



After volunteer efforts: more space for native plants to thrive





Morgan Graham engages students in a lesson on invasive species

INVASIVE PLANTS

Staff have assumed a leadership role in the Jackson Hole Weed Management Association, coordinating partnerships and initiating a volunteer program. We participated in mechanical weed removal in the Game Creek area for the fourth consecutive year, successfully eliminating over 1,000 pounds of weed seed along with volunteer efforts. We also supported cheatgrass control in the Gros Ventre area to safeguard sage-grouse habitat. Our efforts extended to planning an Interagency Invasives Summit, which addressed the impact of invasive species on public lands and waterways, their management, and solutions within the Bridger-Teton National Forest. We remain committed to supporting early detection surveys for high-priority species, providing funding for this program coordinated by Teton County Weed and Pest and Working Dogs for Conservation.

NATIVE PLANTS

This year, we launched a Residential Conservation Planting Program to incentivize homeowners to plant native species, promoting native habitat that requires less water and maintenance. We advised over 70 property owners on plant selection and cost-share assistance. This outreach included advising individual homeowners, and supporting native garden installations at Jackson Hole High School, Teton Raptor Center, and Sage Living. We also collaborated with local retailers to design and stock an upgraded native grass mix. This year's outreach efforts included a 10th anniversary update of our Native Plant Pocket Guide, presenting on sustainable landscaping to over 20 local lawn care businesses, and a feature article in Jackson Hole magazine. Through grants, technical guidance, and community education, we continue to foster demand for native flora.

CONDUCTED **76 RESIDENTIAL CONSULTATIONS** FOR
NATIVE PLANT LANDSCAPING AND INVASIVE SPECIES MANAGEMENT

REMOVED **1,000+ POUNDS** OF NOXIOUS WEED SEED

ENGAGED **5 NEIGHBORHOODS** IN WILDFIRE RISK
MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

COMPLETED **65 WILDFIRE RISK OVERVIEWS**

GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS

ADMINISTERED ACQUISITION OF **200,000 ACRES** OF HIGH-ACCURACY ELEVATION DATA FOR INCLUSION IN THE USGS 3D ELEVATION PROGRAM

RESPONDED TO **12 REQUESTS** FOR LIDAR DATA

650 USES OF THE SURFACE WATER INVENTORY IMAGERY COMPARISON TOOL

Elk habitat near the Snake River was analyzed for new wildlife ramp sites (shown in red)



Our GIS Program utilized mapping and geospatial analysis to provide support for a variety of partners. These initiatives spanned projects to facilitate wildlife movement, inform stakeholder emergency response planning, vegetation management, recreation monitoring, and beyond. Our contributions played a pivotal role in guiding informed decisions on land use and resource management.

ENHANCING WILDLIFE CONNECTIVITY

We provided essential support to Jackson Hole Wildlife Foundation, facilitating the installation of three new wildlife ramps along the Snake River levee. By harnessing spatial data such as GPS elk collar information, habitat data, and insights from the Nature Mapping Database, we informed the permitting process required to install the new ramps.

EMPOWERING STAKEHOLDERS

Utilizing our reference data catalog, we shared decision-support information with key stakeholders, including Trout Unlimited, Jackson Hole Wildlife Foundation, Wyoming Game and Fish Department, Bridger-Teton National Forest, Grand Teton National Park, National Elk Refuge, and Teton County Emergency Management. By sharing vegetation, hydrology, boundaries, transportation, and other pertinent map layers, we ensured that our partners had the most accurate information at their disposal.

EFFICIENCY IN EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Our GIS Program commitment extended to supporting community safety and well-being. Leveraging the capabilities of GIS tools, we conducted comprehensive analyses of incident response times that will be used by emergency management personnel when responding to incidents.

GUIDING SUSTAINABLE GROWTH

We partnered with federal agencies to upgrade lidar elevation data for over 200,000 acres of Teton County. This newly acquired high-resolution terrain information will help our community, from emergency response planning and wildlife habitat preservation to flood risk assessment and land use planning. This becomes especially critical as our population continues to grow, balancing resource management and development patterns.

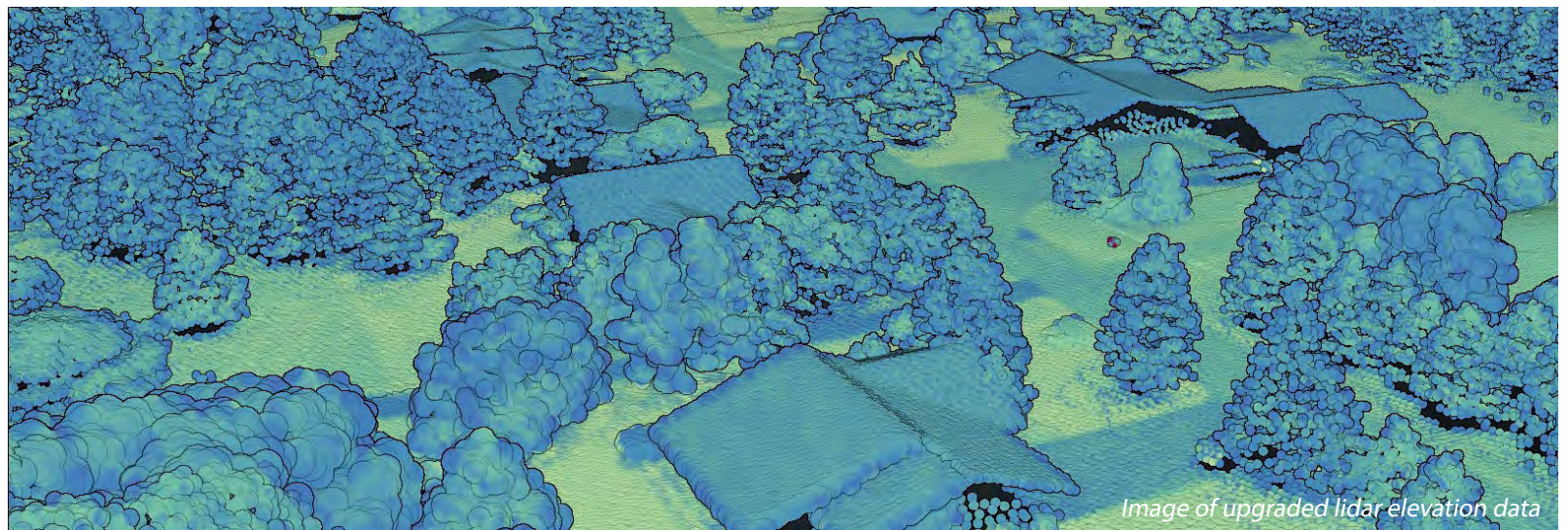
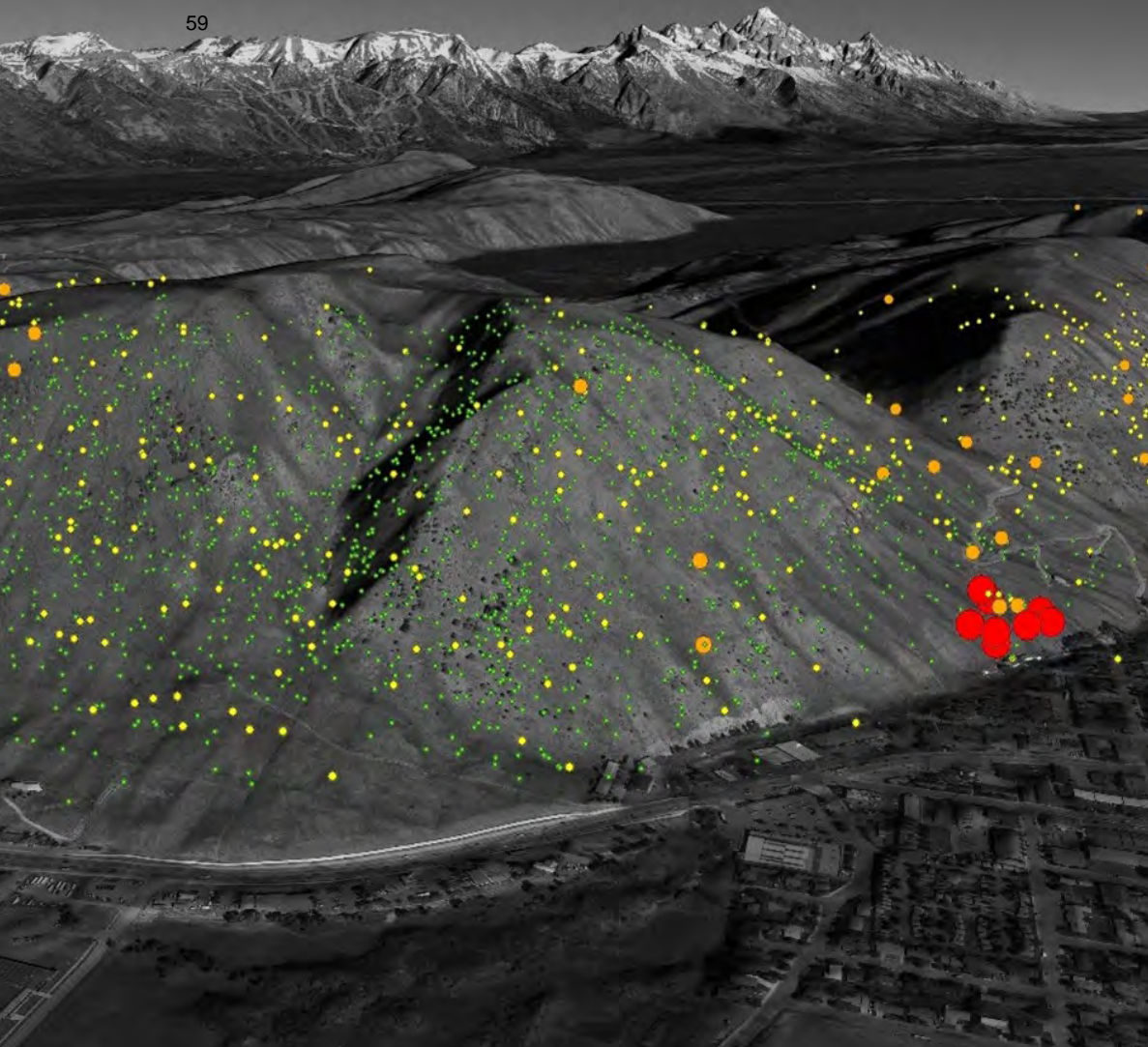


Image of upgraded lidar elevation data



GIS map showing mule deer winter range observations

DOCUMENTED 63 SPECIES AND 472 BIRDS ON THE MOOSE, WY BREEDING BIRD SURVEY ROUTE

OVER 16,000 VIEWS OF THE WINTER WILDLIFE CLOSURE MAP PAGE

66 MALE SAGE GROUSE DOCUMENTED ON LEKS IN TETON COUNTY

WILDLIFE

Our Wildlife Program has focused on protecting wildlife habitat, reducing human-wildlife conflict, and monitoring the impacts of increasing recreation and development. This approach aims at maintaining healthy wildlife populations while balancing human activity.

WILDLIFE MONITORING

Staff conducted sage-grouse lek counts, moose surveys, and the annual United States Geological Survey's Moose, WY Breeding Bird Survey route. We also supported external research on wolf genetics, loon nesting, and raptor monitoring across public and private lands.

RECREATION AND WILDLIFE

We helped quantify trail use statistics at popular Teton County trailheads. This work enables future analysis of recreational impacts on wildlife and allows land managers to make informed decisions aimed at protecting seasonal crucial wildlife habitat. We maintained publicly available interagency maps of winter closures that were accessed thousands of times.

HUMAN WILDLIFE CONFLICT

Collaborating with local agencies and organizations, we initiated education campaigns aimed at reducing unintended wildlife feeding by residents and visitors. This included producing social media videos on the negative impacts of feeding wild animals. We worked with Teton County to update land regulations related to wildlife attractants and wildlife-friendly fencing requirements. We also participated in the Elk Feedgrounds Public Collaborative.

SUSTAINABILITY

Sustainability is a fundamental philosophy that aligns with our core values. Our Sustainability Program leverages key partners to conserve natural resources for the health of people and our environment. We want to help create a community that is forward-looking.

AIR QUALITY MONITORING

Air resources are essential to human and environmental wellbeing. We support local air quality monitoring with funding and hands-on field work. The Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality, with our support, operates a station that tracks real-time particulate matter (PM) data, aiding the public in decision-making during events like wildfire smoke. In Grand Teton National Park, we support stations that monitor ammonia gas, ozone, and other constituents, contributing to a national network. With help from us, the United States Geological Survey leads the nation's longest running high elevation air quality study, analyzing snowpack for contaminants annually.

REDUCING SOLID WASTE

This year, we helped Integrated Solid Waste and Recycling tackle our community's solid waste, particularly focusing on food waste. Through funding support, they procured bear-safe compost bins and transported 564 buckets of food waste to the compost facility last year. This new initiative not only kept waste out of landfills and methane out of the atmosphere but also recycled nutrients back into local gardens and landscapes.

REDUCING ENERGY CONSUMPTION

We support Energy Conservation Works to enhance the efficiency of local homes and businesses. We provide funding for outreach that leads to our community sourcing 17% of its energy from sustainable sources. Hundreds of energy efficiency kits were distributed to households, cutting electricity and water use, and bills. Our collaboration with Yellowstone Teton Clean Cities allowed our community to lease an electric car, test-driven by 104 people last year. Additionally, our funding facilitated the installation of nine electric vehicle charging stations in the community. Behind the scenes, we contributed to the planning for the region's first community solar project.



Residential compost bins ready for distribution

POWERED 17% OF OUR COMMUNITY WITH
GREEN ENERGY

104 INDIVIDUALS EXPERIENCED ELECTRIC DRIVING

CONVERTED 564 BUCKETS OF FOOD INTO COMPOST

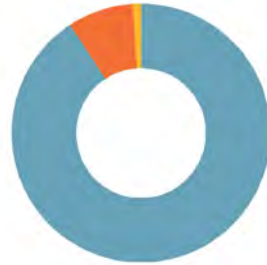
ELEVATED ENERGY EFFICIENCY IN 100+ HOMES

SUPPORTED 30 YEARS OF SNOW CHEMISTRY DATA

ADMINISTRATION & FINANCIALS

We apply for numerous grants but receive the majority of our funding from locally collected mill levy taxes. This tax is placed on the ballot every 4 years for renewal by the voters of Teton County. We can request up to 1 mill in tax funding from property and motor vehicle fees per fiscal year. In the upcoming Fiscal Year 2024, we have kept the same funding request as last year - .6 of 1 mill to fund our programs.

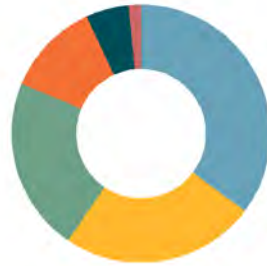
FISCAL YEAR 2023 REVENUE



Teton County Mill Levy	\$ 2,040,279.33
Project Grants & Pass Through Funds	\$ 185,210.57
Other Income	\$ 23,107.09
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 2,248,596.99

FISCAL YEAR 2023 PROGRAM & OPERATIONS EXPENSES

Program Areas:



Water	\$ 286,427.75
Land	\$ 197,832.37
Vegetation	\$ 176,933.69
GIS/Mapping	\$ 95,838.18
Wildlife	\$ 43,725.10
Sustainability	\$ 12,722.08
TOTAL PROGRAM EXPENSES*	\$ 813,479.17

Operations Areas:



Administrative Staff	\$ 147,539.07
Employee Housing Stipend	\$ 141,999.55
Communications	\$ 122,299.10
General Administration	\$ 108,360.00
Office Rent	\$ 72,396.90
TOTAL OPERATIONS EXPENSES	\$ 592,594.62

62 ADMINISTRATION & FINANCIALS

Our Board of Supervisors distributed \$718,105 in grants to support natural resource conservation projects in Fiscal Year 2023. Grant funds are awarded through 3 programs – Partners in Conservation (PIC) grants, Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) partnerships, and Program Area budget line item requests (LIR).

FISCAL YEAR 2023 GRANTS



Water	\$ 274,709.00
Land	\$ 170,203.00
Vegetation	\$ 117,345.00
Wildlife	\$ 79,810.00
Sustainability	\$ 76,038.00
GIS	\$0.00
TOTAL GRANTS	\$ 718,105.00

FISCAL YEAR 2023 GRANT PARTNERS

Mountain Roots Education, Slow Food in the Tetons, Integrated Solid Waste and Recycling, Energy Conservation Works, Yellowstone-Teton Clean Cities, Grand Teton National Park Foundation, Jackson Hole Weed Management Association, Friends of the Teton River, Trout Unlimited, Flat Creek Watershed Improvement District, Town of Jackson, Jackson Hole Wildlife Foundation, Wyoming Wilderness Association, Julie Kaufman, Linn Ranch Gardens, Food Terra, Bridger Teton National Forest, South Park Ditch Company, Hereford-Bally Ranch LLC, National Atmospheric Deposition Program of the National Park Service, Teton Lunch Counter LLC, United States Geological Society, Teton Raptor Center, Jackson Hole Fire/EMS, The Nature Conservancy, Astoria Park Conservancy, Protect Our Water Jackson Hole, Wyoming Wetlands Society, Trout Unlimited, Wyoming Game and Fish Department, Biodiversity Research Institute, Northern Rockies Conservation Cooperative, University of Wyoming, Sporting Lead Free

*The pie charts presented on these pages are a simplified version of our budget. To view our complete budget, go to tetonconservation.org.





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📞 (307) 733-2110



Carlin Girard, Executive Director

Action Items:

Operations Area: Administration

Fiscal Year 2024 (FY2024) TCD Plan of Work: Annually, TCD must create, approve, and submit a Plan of Work to the Wyoming Department of Agriculture and Wyoming Association of Conservation Districts. TCD staff have created an FY2024 POW for your review, edits, and approval (see Supplemental Materials).

Recommended Motion: *Move to approve the Fiscal Year 2024 Annual Plan of Work with suggested edits by the Board of Supervisor's and submit it to the Wyoming Department of Agriculture and the Wyoming Association of Conservation Districts before October 1, 2023.*

Program Area: Land

Hoback River Road Development Review: Teton County Planning and Building requested TCD's review of a proposed set of Variances (Link is found here: [VAR2023-0004](#)) for a residential development that is within the road and Hoback River setback. Staff completed a site visit and have given this considerable thought and our comments go beyond typical best practice recommendations. As such, we were hoping for Board review, edits, and approval (see Supplemental Materials).

Recommended Motion: *Move to authorize the Board Chair to sign and deliver the letter to Teton County Planning Department regarding Variance 2023-0004 and 2023-0005 with suggested changes.*

Information Items:

Operations Area: Administration

- **Wyoming Association of Conservation District (WACD) Area V Meeting:** 1) I created an agenda and email invitation for the Area V Meeting and sent it out (see Supplemental Materials). 2) I hate to even say it, but all TCD Board Supervisors should consider attending the full day Wyoming Department of Audit training on September 25th at the TCD office, unless you have already taken the training. 3) The business meeting will be held at the Teton Raptor Center on Sept 26th in Wilson, WY.
- **Annual Report:** I reviewed the narrative of the FY2023 Annual Report and contributed content for the Administration and Sustainability Sections.

Program Area: Water

- **Flat Creek Bank Stabilization Project (another one):** David and I attended a site visit to Creekside Condominiums with Sandy Buckstaff of the Flat Creek Watershed Improvement District. A small amount of erosion has occurred where landowners removed all riparian vegetation and mow to the stream edge. I am not particularly excited about TCD or Flat Creek Watershed Improvement District involvement, given that a vegetative treatment could suffice and avoid the need for hardened stabilization. No structures are at risk.
- **Water Quality Master Plan:** David and I attended the final stakeholder meeting of the Teton County Water Quality Master Plan. It was well attended and had a strong tone.
- **Hoback Water and Sewer District:** I attended the Hoback Water and Sewer District Board meeting. They are investigating grant funding sources for a water system.

Program Area: Wildlife

- **Elk Feedground Management Plan:** I attended the final stakeholders meeting of the Wyoming Game and Fish Department Elk Feedground Management Plan. The plan seeks to reduce elk's reliance on supplemental feed. I tried to emphasize the potential role Conservation Districts could provide given the private land, agriculture, and wildlife nexus, while also trying to assure that mitigation for addressing challenges to landowners is commensurate to reduction in elk feeding.

Teton Conservation District

Fiscal Year 2024 Plan of Work



INTRODUCTION:

The Teton Conservation District (TCD) Plan of Work builds upon the TCD 2020-2025 Strategic and Long-Range Plans. As authorized by Wyoming State Statute, TCD will work towards our established vision and mission through Board administration, staff time, and funding allocation.

Statutes: TCD operates under the authority and requirements of “Wyoming Conservation Districts Law” recorded in Title 11 - Chapter 16 – Sections 101 – 135 of the Wyoming State Statutes.

Vision: Teton Conservation District envisions a forward-looking community practicing natural resource stewardship.

Mission: Teton Conservation District is a local government entity whose mission is to work with the community in the conservation of natural resources for the health and benefit of people and the environment.

TCD Program Areas: TCD’s natural resource work is categorized into six Program Areas: Water, Land, Vegetation, Wildlife, Geographic Information Systems, and Sustainability.

TCD Operation Areas: Three overarching Operation Areas permeate all of TCD’s programmatic work: Administration, Communications, and Grants.

The TCD Plan of Work is structured to include each of our Program and Operation Areas and serves to guide Staff activities for the Fiscal Year (FY)2024. Subheadings are used to further breakout components within a Program Area.

PROGRAM AREA: Water

OVERVIEW: Rolling out Snake River monitoring and wrapping up collaborative planning efforts in Fish Creek and with Town and County will be hallmarks of FY2024. We will see growth in the realm of *E. coli* monitoring. The Water Program will become more outward facing through outreach and education of our work.

Water Quality

NEW:

- Support sampling for *Escherichia coli* by local partners and work with WDEQ to ensure that collected data is credible and available for use support determination in Flat and Fish Creek.
- Investigate the potential for transferring the 2021 Drinking Water Quality Mapping Project, and all additional well test kit and PWS data provided to TCD, to an interactive web-based mapping application.

ONGOING:

- Flat Creek water quality sampling will be completed by TCD staff and contractors.
- Fish Creek water quality sampling will be completed as recommended by Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality (WDEQ).
- Work with local partners to generate cost-share funding for USGS streamgage operation and maintenance, including new water quality monitoring on the Snake River and Flat Creek.

COMPLETE:

- Wyoming Natural Diversity Database partnership is established, resulting in the generation of methodology to sample for macroinvertebrates in the Snake River.
- Flat Creek Sampling & Analysis Plan revised to include discrete sampling for hydrocarbons and heavy metals.

Water Management

NEW:

- Complete the scope of work for Fish Creek Watershed Planning stakeholder facilitation and background narrative generation with our selected contractor.
- Work with the Teton County Water Quality Master Plan project team to provide aid in generating a sewer connection and septic replacement program for and with Teton County staff.

ONGOING:

- Support data acquisition and technical review of projects associated with the Water Quality Master Plan.
- Provide continued support for the Flat Creek South Channel Restoration Implementation and the Snake River Bank Stabilization Project on Sewell Ranch.
- Support the expansion of snow storage outreach, planning, and removal projects to mitigate delivery of sediment to Flat Creek, Fish Creek, and Edmiston Spring.
- Participate in and contribute to the WDEQ investigation of nitrate contamination in Hoback Junction.

COMPLETE:

- Grant funds have been received from WDEQ for Fish Creek Watershed Planning. A contractor to provide a scope of services to generate this plan has been selected.
- Continue to provide support for the newly formed Hoback Water and Sewer District by participating in outreach campaigns and public meetings as recommended by the Hoback Drinking Water Stakeholder Group.

- Hoback Level 1 Watershed Study has been completed and released to the public. Encourage landowners interested in Small Water Project Program (SWPP).

Watershed Protection Program

NEW:

- If awarded, TCD will administer the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) grant for thaw well establishment.

ONGOING:

- Expand the outreach campaign to promote the Trout Friendly Lawns Program and other programs with shared interest from TCD and the broader Jackson Hole Clean Water Coalition (JHCWC).
- Continue to respond in appropriate fashion during emergency issues, including flooding events in Flat Creek, stormwater and wastewater issues, fisheries impacts, and related issues.
- Provide relevant data summaries to partners and the public regarding drought, snowpack, and related public health and safety advisories.
- Incorporate classroom and field days to educate youth about water quality issues in Teton County. Partner with agencies that support this endeavor, including the US Forest Service, Wyoming Game & Fish Department, Trout Unlimited, and Grand Teton National Park.

COMPLETE:

- The Snake River Drone Imagery Technical Report assessing the impacts of the 2021 rampdown of releases from Jackson Lake Dam was completed and sent to interested partners and hosted on the TCD website for review by members of the public.

PROGRAM AREA: Land

OVERVIEW: Support of agriculture this year will occur through grants, programs, and planning activities. Distribution of grants will continue as the primary mechanism to support projects. Conservation related agricultural practices will be incentivized, such as regenerative farming and soils sampling. Finally, planning activities range from individual on the ground projects, to county scale programs that encourage growth of local agricultural production.

Agriculture

NEW:

- Facilitate transfer of SWPP Sponsor role, for 'Rural Community Fire Suppression' projects, to Teton County, WY.
- Plan and finance implementation of the expansion of Wayne May Park's community garden, as outlined in the existing master plan for the site.
- Communicate with BTNF to define range monitoring and management priorities.
- Identify the best method for supporting agriculture through amendment to the Jackson/Teton County Comprehensive Plan, building off UW Haub School's recommendations.

- Engage in the Teton County Fair.
- Develop inroads to support the Jackson Hole Farmers' Market.

ONGOING:

- Administer eight (8) existing Small Water Project Program (SWPP) grants.
- Submit up to four (4) new SWPP grants by November 2023, with focus in the Hoback watershed.
- Support NRCS programs and grants, through financial and staff support.
- Support Teton Water Users Association and Friends of the Teton River's expansion and management of the aquifer recharge program.
- Offer support in sampling and analysis of soils, primarily in areas of agricultural and garden/food production.
- Continue administration of the second year of the two-year pilot Agricultural Conservation Planting Program.
- Support planning and action that advances regenerative agriculture.
- Support planning and action that improves the local community food system.
- Support improvements to and maintenance of irrigation infrastructure.
- Support improvements to fence for livestock containment, and fence that supports wildfire friendlier guidelines.
- Increase capacity of community gardens.
- Advance the development and population of data management systems to store range data collected on BTNF lands.

COMPLETE:

- Served as Sponsor for three completed SWPP projects: Spread Creek Irrigation Rehabilitation and Fish Passage, South Park Wildlife Habitat Management Area Wetland Enhancement Project, and South Flat Creek Fish Passage & Channel Restoration.
- Supported one project that contributes to aquifer recharge in the Teton Creek watershed.
- Served as sponsor for the University of Wyoming Haub School project: 'Cultivating a Food Policy Council in the Tetons'.
- Provided technical and financial support for two agricultural and one residential landowner in sampling and analysis of soils.
- Supported one landowner in acquiring a residential greenhouse, and two landowners in acquiring commercial high tunnels.

PROGRAM AREA: Vegetation

OVERVIEW: TCD will continue to serve as a member of Teton Area Wildfire Protection Coalition, supporting long range planning and grants that address wildfire risk in our county. In addition, TCD will offer information and resources to private landowners through our Wildfire Risk Reduction Program, and will prioritize incentivizing best practices. Focus will be placed on use of recent studies to deliver evidence based programs.

Staff will continue to promote the management of invasive vegetation as well as the availability and use of native plants in public and residential settings. Staff time will be allocated towards delivering education and outreach to private landowners via plant identification and restoration guidance. TCD will also support additional education and outreach opportunities offered by volunteer, not-for-profit, and agency partners.

Wildfire Risk Reduction

NEW:

- Support the revision of the Community Wildfire Protection Plan, through data requests, public engagement, and subject matter contributions.
- Provide limited availability as a Wildfire Mitigation Specialist Team Member for wildfire events.

ONGOING:

- Serve as Teton Area Wildfire Protection Coalition (TAWPC) chairman through January 2024.
- Administer the Wildfire Risk Reduction Program. Provide up to fifty (50) parcel scale Wildfire Risk Overviews, and up to eight (8) neighborhood scale overviews.
- Provide technical support for Jackson Hole Fire/EMS' Wildfire Prevention Specialist position.

COMPLETE:

- TAWPC developed and released a Request for Qualifications to revise the Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP), and awarded a contract to revise the CWPP.
- 52 Wildfire Risk Overviews were completed. Parcel scale landowners fully completed nine (9) and partially completed nine (9) wildfire risk reduction projects.
- Six (6) neighborhood wildfire risk overviews were completed, five (5) neighborhoods completed wildfire risk reduction projects.

Plants

NEW:

- Generate public facing native plant lists and web resources (lists by habitat/soil type) for availability in spring of FY2024.
- Work with TCD Communications Specialist to author seasonally relevant posts and videos highlighting what landowners can do to control invasive species and improve habitat.

ONGOING:

- Assist private landowners with development and implementation of Conservation Planting Program projects.
- Administer MOA between TCD and Jackson Hole Weed Management Association (JHWMA). The GIS & Wildlife Specialist (GISWS) will serve as the JHWMA Secretary in FY2023, including two annual meetings and light grant admin year-round.
- Coordinate volunteers in spring and fall to mechanically remove invasive species from Game Creek, Schwabacher Landing, and other public sites for the fourth consecutive season.

- Over the course of the growing season, offer plant identification and recommendation services to private landowners as requested.

COMPLETE:

- Responded to 36x landowner requests for vegetation expertise.
- Established seven native seed test plots across a variety of soil, light, water, and habitat regimes.
- Edited and reprinted A Pocket Guide to the Native Plants of Teton County, WY.
- Development of Conservation Planting Program Guidelines and Applications.
- Facilitated the promotion, sale, and delivery of 1,800 native plant plugs to 32 private landowners via the Perennial Pollinator Program.
- Teton County School District Pollinator Garden (225 plugs), Teton Pines (3,200 plugs), National Elk Refuge (140 plugs).

PROGRAM AREA: Wildlife

OVERVIEW: TCD will partner with state and federal agencies, non-profits, universities, and private landowners to support wildlife research that informs land management decisions. TCD will consider a broad range of projects including those that focus on nongame species, migration, disease, connectivity, and human impacts.

ONGOING:

- Assist local agencies with avian monitoring projects: Sage-grouse, United States Geological Survey's Breeding Bird Survey, harlequin ducks, etc.
- Serve as Chairman of the Upper Snake River Basin Sage-grouse Local Working Group. Coordinate communications between local group members and Wyoming Game and Fish Department and the State Sage-grouse Implementation Team.
- Work with TCD Grants and Communications Specialist to author seasonally relevant social media posts and videos.

COMPLETE:

- Installation of signage on South Highway 89 exclusionary wildlife fencing gates to keep animals from getting trapped on the road.
- Served on selection committee for engineering design plans for three Teton County wildlife crossings.

PROGRAM AREA: Geographic Information Systems (GIS)

OVERVIEW: The GIS & Wildlife Specialist will maintain, update, and interpret the TCD internal spatial data repository for use by TCD staff. Offer geospatial analysis and mapping support to local natural resource planning efforts.

NEW:

- This winter, incorporate Buffalo Valley and Gros Ventre private lands into the TCD Surface Water Inventory.

- This winter, develop publicly accessible maps and spatial data for landowners to understand soil suitability rankings currently residing within the United States Department of Agriculture Web Soil Survey.
- Collaborate with Town of Jackson and Teton County to facilitate replication of countywide vegetation cover type mapping.

ONGOING:

- This summer, generate lidar derived contours and digital surface models in house or via contractor. Serve as technical point of contact for lidar requests in Teton County.
- Assist TCD Executive Director in representing TCD interest during Teton County GIS Policy Committee meetings (aerial imagery acquisition/distribution and planning for update of vegetation mapping).
- This fall, maintain and update the TCD Interagency Winter Wildlife Closure Layer. Pursue opportunities to increase its usage through education and outreach to government partners and the general public.

COMPLETE:

- Provided spatial data management and mapping support to Jackson Hole Wildlife Foundation's siting, permitting, and construction of wildlife ramps along the Snake River Levee system.
- Facilitated acquisition of 2022 Teton County 6-inch resolution true color and color infrared aerial imagery.

PROGRAM AREA: Sustainability

OVERVIEW: TCD will continue support of collection and dissemination of air quality data through numerous partnerships. TCD staff will provide on the ground support with data collection and instrument operation, while also looking for opportunities to leverage new instruments, and consider ways to retain existing instruments at risk of decommissioning. TCD will continue to rely heavily upon our partners to implement our waste and energy reduction goals.

Air Quality and Emissions

NEW:

- Analyze and distribute Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality's results from the Jackson Mobile Air Quality Monitoring Station.

ONGOING:

- Provide financial and staff support to USGS's snowpack chemistry monitoring study.
- Serve as emergency site operator at Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality's State and Local Air Monitoring Station (SLAMS) that monitors particulate matter.
- Serve as a member of the Greater Yellowstone Coordinating Committee's Clean Air Partnership.
- Provide financial support to the operation of the Kelly, WY air quality station, a National Atmospheric Deposition Program site.

COMPLETE:

- Provided financial support for monitoring of five snowpack chemistry sites, personnel support for monitoring two snowpack chemistry sites, and funding for air quality monitoring in Grand Teton National Park.
- Conducted six site visits to WY DEQ's SLAMS site to resolve problems with site operations.

Waste Reduction and Energy Conservation

ONGOING:

- Through our MOA's, TCD will provide funding and partner on outreach to encourage waste reduction, composting and energy conservation.

COMPLETE:

- Residential food waste programs are now available for anyone interested in participating.
- Special Purpose Excise Tax funding is now approved for community scale solar.

OPERATIONS AREA: Administration

OVERVIEW: TCD's Administrative functions are performed in accordance with the Statutes that govern Conservation Districts, Wyoming Department of Audit guidelines, as well as other laws that TCD must adhere to. The TCD Board of Supervisors provide programmatic direction, approval of the spending public funds, and guidance in shaping TCD Policies.

NEW:

- TCD Executive Director will review each employee's performance annually to determine salary increase/COLA based on the TCD Board's discretion, and complete a wage assessment for TCD positions in FY2024.
- TCD Executive Director will further efforts to implement policies that assist in maintaining employee's work life balance.
- The Administrative Manager will optimize the bookkeeping chart of accounts to improve reporting output.
- The Administrative Manager will assist the Executive Director in developing onboarding materials for both TCD Board Members and Staff Members to facilitate a better understanding of TCD and Conservation Districts in general (including history and contemporary functions).
- The Administrative Manager will implement a records retention policy for TCD, once the Wyoming Association of Conservation Districts produces and distributes a consistent policy of record requirements.
- TCD will support its Board of Supervisors and the Directors of the Flat Creek Watershed Improvement District in receiving the new Department of Audit Board Training.
- The Administrative Manager will make a calendar of administrative requirements.
- The Wyoming Association of Conservation Districts Area V meeting will be hosted by TCD in FY2024.

ONGOING:

- TCD will continue to maintain its high standards for recordkeeping, accountability, and transparency through performing an annual audit, and consistent accounting practices.
- The Wyoming Open Meetings act requirements will be adhered to and met at every public meeting. The public is encouraged to attend and engage in public comment.
- TCD Staff are encouraged to seek out meaningful ongoing educational opportunities that will enrich their knowledge of aspects of their specific duties, or regarding general conservation issues.
- TCD Staff and Board Members are encouraged to attend local and regional meetings that are of importance to conservation issues. Establishing and maintaining TCD's role in community and regional conservation discussions is of great importance.
- Board Members are urged to participate in Wyoming Association of Conservation District Area and State meetings, National Association of Conservation District Regional and National meetings, and take on leadership roles if they feel so inclined.

OPERATIONS AREA: Communications

OVERVIEW: Priorities for FY2024 will be utilizing the Mountain Neighbor Handbook to promote natural resource stewardship, updating and improving the Grants Map to showcase those partnerships and build the Grant Program, and continuing to grow a conservation mindset in the community through social media, website, newsletters, and in-person programs, such as partner events and trainings like Trout Friendly Lawn practices.

NEW:

- Market the Conservation Planting Program.
- Produce a Well Test Kit Instructional Video in English with the Water Resources Specialist. Partner with Voices JH to do a Spanish version of the video or at least Spanish subtitles.
- Create a Spanish version of the Mountain Neighbor Handbook (MNH).
- Organize the Flat Creek Watershed Improvement District (FCWID) Fall 2023 Election. Initial planning should begin around May 1, 2023. See this document for help: <P:\Administration\Admin Partners\Flat Crk WID\Flat Creek Water Improvement District\2021 FCWID Election\FCWID Election 2021 Timeline 071221.docx>
- Consideration and possible implementation of new logo/branding to reflect new district boundary. Subsequent design and printing of new event banner and other outreach materials as needed.

ONGOING:

- Maintain and grow general outreach activities including social media, newsletter, blog, media relations, and events.
- Continue promotion of the MNH and expanding the MNH website to include ambassadors and blog posts.

- Continue additions to the Grants Map. Much of the work will be assigned to the Technician, with direction provided by the Communications and GIS Specialists.
- Attend Farm to Fork Festival, Wildlife Expo, EcoFair, Rendezvous River Days, People's Market, Jackson hole Wildlife Symposium, and other events.
- Continue educational video opportunities, such as but not limited to Morgan's Nature Notebook.
- Continue outreach through our Voices JH partnership. The FY2024 partnership will shift from a "partial membership" to a "a la carte membership" to allow for more flexibility and cost reduction.
- Manage the residential and business Trout Friendly Lawns (TFL) programs.
- Create the FY2023 Annual Report in close collaboration with Executive Director and all other staff.
- Produce meeting minutes and board packets monthly. Submit regular meetings ads to legal/public notices monthly and submit annual display ad in December 2023. Submit special meeting ads as necessary.
- Manage the Teton Conservation Vision Award.

COMPLETE:

- Outreach associated with the 2022 General Election is complete.
- The production of the MNH is complete.

OPERATIONS AREA: Grants

OVERVIEW: In FY2024, the grant system will be maintained at a similar level that is functioning now. Improvement to systems will be addressed as needed. Improvements to tracking of Conservation Planting Program (CPP), Small Water Project Program (SWPP), Wildfire Risk Reduction Program (WRRP), and other TCD grant funding mechanisms may be considered.

NEW:

- Consider if/how to provide the board with improved tools for grant decision making.
- Consider if/how to improve internal and external grant guidelines.
- Consider if/how to improve tracking of CPP, SWPP, WRRP, and other TCD grant funding mechanisms.

ONGOING:

- Maintain Partners in Conservation, Line-Items, and Memorandum of Agreement grant tracking systems.
- Update templates, guidelines, etc. for the Partners in Conservation Grant as needed, create social media content, and submit newspaper ads.

COMPLETE:

- Implemented an Arc-Online mapping product to showcase completed grant projects.



**Teton
Conservation
District
Est. 1946**

Grace Kelley, Associate Planner
Teton County Planning and Building
PO Box 1727
200 South Willow Street
Jackson, WY 83001

September 21, 2023

RE: VAR2023-0004, VAR2023-0005

Dear Grace,

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on VAR2023-0004 and VAR2023-0005 regarding the residential development on Hoback Junction South Road PIDN 22-43-15-29-2-00-001. The Teton Conservation District (TCD) is reviewing these applications to provide natural resource information and suggest opportunities to reduce potential impacts. TCD staff did conduct a site visit to visually observe the property from the roadway.

The proposed residential development presents serious concerns regarding potential natural resource impacts, and the long-term viability of the housing site is questionable given its proximity to the Hoback River and being positioned on a steep slope. In an ideal scenario, this land would be purchased by Teton County using Land Conservation Opportunities SPET dollars at an equitable price to carry forward the vision set forth on the Comprehensive Plan and codified in the Land Development Regulations (LDRs) to protect waterways.

The following comments present some of the concerns at this site, and where possible, opportunities to mitigate them.

Flooding and Erosion Potential

The proposed development is within Flood Zone A. FEMA described this zone as, “areas with a 1% annual chance of flooding and a 26% chance of flooding over the life of a 30-year mortgage. Because detailed analyses are not performed for such areas; no depths or base flood elevations are shown within these zones.” The current examination of flood risk, flood elevations, and proposed infrastructure risks is lacking. What is without question, however, is that this site’s slopes and proximity to the Hoback River, and the confluence of the Snake River, puts it in direct contact with strong erosive forces and the potential for severe flooding and hillslope failure. Flooding in and adjacent to Yellowstone in 2022 demonstrated the power our region’s rivers can have, and this site has very little buffer from these types of events. Limiting development according to our LDRs protects homeowners as well as natural resources, because riverside developments can quickly become flood fighting hotspots where regular instream activity is required to save structures.

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Jackson, Wyoming 83001	robby@tetonconservation.org



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Under a development scenario, retaining and routing stormwater on this site is essential. The steep slopes of unconsolidated material are erodible and runoff should be managed with heightened control. These actions are important to retain the integrity of a building site and to limit direct runoff to the Hoback River.

Wastewater

Hoback Junction has quickly become our community's example of how poor wastewater planning can affect human health and degrade water quality. It is believed that this is both due to historical land use planning – undersized lots and high concentrations of septic systems – and also geologic limitations; this area's soils do not appear to adequately treat wastewater effluent and groundwater dilution cannot overcome the contaminated inputs. Given the extent of exceedances of nitrate concentrations in public and private water systems, this region does require a creative approach, but a conservative one, which this proposal is not. Advanced treatment has benefits but cannot overcome the extreme limitations of the slopes on this site. This property offers virtually no site for the proposed leachfields, and even less opportunity for replacement if a failure occurs in the slope or the system itself. This immediate vicinity showcases the difficulty of simply keeping septic systems attached to homes that are on steep slopes. The potential for one of the leachfield beds to become exposed and discharge effluent along the cliff in the river below is a real possibility.

Drinking Water

Drinking water wells in this vicinity have elevated nitrate concentrations, including the two existing interim sources of water that were identified. Developing a shallow well, the third option presented, with the proximity to upgradient septic systems and known contamination is a poor option.

River Setbacks

The Hoback River is a federally designated Wild and Scenic River for its Recreational values. While this might not preclude private land development, it does perhaps warrant consideration for upholding the LDR for River Setbacks of 150 ft. The application uses the Stream Setback distances, whereas the River Setbacks appear to apply.

Soils

The Natural Resources Conservation Service Web Soil Survey does not have data for this site. Based on knowledge of the area and a brief visual inspection, it appears that superficially, the proposed development site is composed of alluvial fill material that was likely brought in from off site. Given the adjacent outcrops that are visible downstream and across the Hoback River, the site is likely underlain by shale bedrock.

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In the application, the stability of the surficial alluvial fill material was compared to the clays found in Hoback that regularly slide in saturated conditions. The alluvial fill may be more stable from a weight bearing perspective, but being unconsolidated, it is also highly prone to erosion. Based on investigation into Hoback Junction groundwater contamination by state and local experts, it is speculated that the underlying bedrock can produce preferential flow paths for wastewater, which may result in hard to predict flow directions, allowing wastewater to move towards drinking water sources, or even daylight at cliff faces adjacent to the river.

Plant Community

The plant community at this site is relatively intact. If development occurs, limiting the extent of disturbance with silt fencing, and assuring that non-native species are managed will have a long-term benefit for this and adjacent riparian vegetation.

Conclusion

The development of this site is less than ideal. Proximity to two large and powerful rivers that have large watersheds with steep, high elevation drainage areas put structures at risk and could easily require instream activity to protect. While developments like the one proposed have been approved in the past, our current regulations have incorporated the lessons learned from those experiences and require a more cautious approach.

The historical subdivision and zoning in Hoback Junction have resulted in water quality impairment from wastewater systems that have serious health implications and are costing landowners time and money to fix. Proceeding with the existing template for development in Hoback Junction, based on this flawed vision for development seems inappropriate.

Being that this lot is platted, finding an approach that addresses the site's issues and provides the property owner fair compensation could alleviate the multitude of problems development at this site presents.

Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions.

Roby Hurley

Chairman
Teton Conservation District

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August 28, 2023

To: Wyoming Association of Conservation District Area V Members and Partners

RE: 2023 Area V Meeting hosted by Teton Conservation District

Dear Area V Members and Partners,

Teton Conservation District will be hosting a two-part Area V Meeting this year, with September 25th being dedicated to the Department of Audit Board Training Certification and September 26th being the regular Area V Business Meeting. The training day will be at the Teton Conservation District office in Jackson, and the regular meeting will be held at the Teton Raptor Center in Wilson, WY. The Teton Raptor Center recently remodeled its facility to include a meeting room in Hardeman Barn, just east of Wilson and should be a nice venue for us to meet in. We will get to tour their facility and meet some birds.

If you need hotel accommodation while you are here, there should be good availability, given the time of year. But don't hesitate to reach out if you need help.

I also want to remind everyone to consider any new Resolutions to be brought before the Area V Meeting for future consideration. Any district proposing Resolutions needs to share them with Area V members two weeks before the meeting (Sept 12) and bring 50 hard copies to the meeting.

An RSVP by September 18th with the number of people and the days they are attending would be greatly appreciated. We plan to provide lunch for the Business Meeting.

On the following pages you will find an Agenda, Maps to the meeting facilities, and the minutes from the 2022 Area V meeting for your review and approval at the upcoming meeting.

Please don't hesitate to reach out with questions or comments.

Sincerely,

Carlin Girard
Executive Director

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Jackson, Wyoming 83001 Carlin@tetonconservation.org



**Wyoming Association of Conservation Districts (WACD)
Area V Meeting - September 25, 26, 2023
Hosted by Teton Conservation District**

**Please RSVP by Sept 18th to Carlin Girard (carlin@tetonconservation.org)
No Registration Fee Required**

Day 1 – (Sept 25) Elected Official Audit Certification Training

Location: Teton Conservation District Office (420 West Pearl Avenue, Jackson WY, 83001)

9:00 am	Employment Law (60 min)
10:00 am	Break
10:10 am	Records Archive Requirements (51 Min)
11:00 am	Break
11:10 am	Uniform Municipal Procedures Act (73 Min)
12:30 pm	Lunch on your own
1:30 pm	Elections/Special District Elections (29 min)
2:00 pm	District Boundary Reporting (17 min)
2:30 pm	Administrative Procedures Act (23 min)
3:00 pm	Break
3:10 pm	Open Meetings Act (54 min)
4:05 pm	Public Officials Ethics Act (12 min)
4:20 pm	Public Records Act (34 min)
4:50 pm	Training Complete

Day 2 – (Sept 26) WACD Area V Annual Meeting

Location: **Teton Raptor Center (5450 Highway 22, Wilson WY 83014)**

9:00 a.m.	Call to Order Dave Adams, Area V Director Pledge of Allegiance Welcome from Host District Introductions of attendees
9:15 a.m.	Host County Agenda Bridger Teton National Forest, Forest Plan Revision (30 min) WY Game and Fish Dept., Elk Feedground Management Plan (30 min) Sublette CD, Tall Forb Ecological Site Description Update (30 min)
10:45 a.m.	Break
10:55 a.m.	NRCS Update
11:25 p.m.	WDA Update
11:55 p.m.	Teton Raptor Center, Raptor Encounter

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12:10 p.m. **Lunch – A free lunch will be provided**

Tours of the Raptor Rehabilitation Clinic will be taken during lunch in small groups

1:30 p.m. **Business Meeting – Coke Landers Chairperson, Area V Director**

- a. Roll Call of voting delegates
- b. Review and approval of 2022 Minutes
- c. President’s Report – Todd Heward
- d. Elections
 - i. Area V Director Position – currently Dave Adams
 - ii. Area V Alternate Position – currently Rollin Gardner
 - iii. Area V Councilman Position – currently David Pape
- e. WACD office update and introduction to WACD Executive Director, Holly Kennedy
- f. WACD Legislative Issues
- g. Resolutions (please bring 50 printed copies for the group)
- h. WACD Convention 2023 – November 15-17, 2023, National Museum of Military Vehicles Poolaw Building and Headwaters Arts and Conference Center, Dubois, Wyoming
 - i. Area V Meeting 2024 will be hosted by Sweetwater County CD
 - j. Any other business

3:30 p.m. **Wyoming Conservation District Employee Association Area V Meeting**

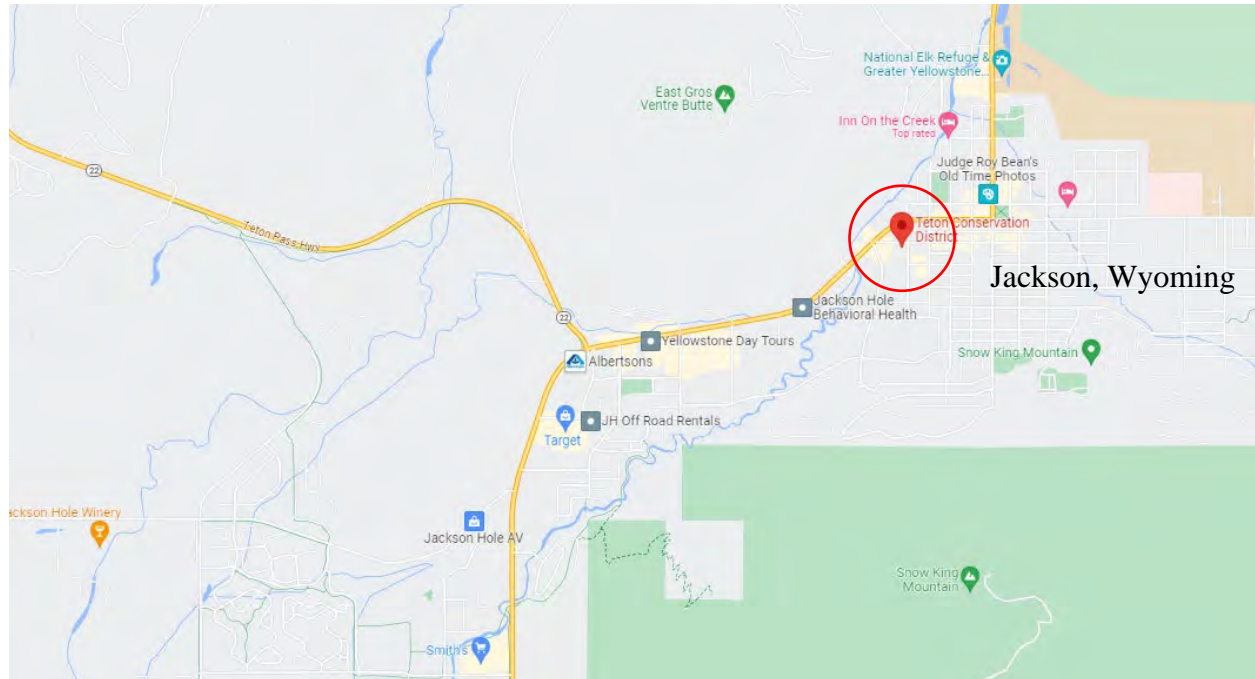
Led by Area V Representatives Melanie Purcell and Kay Lynn Nield

4:00 p.m. Adjourn

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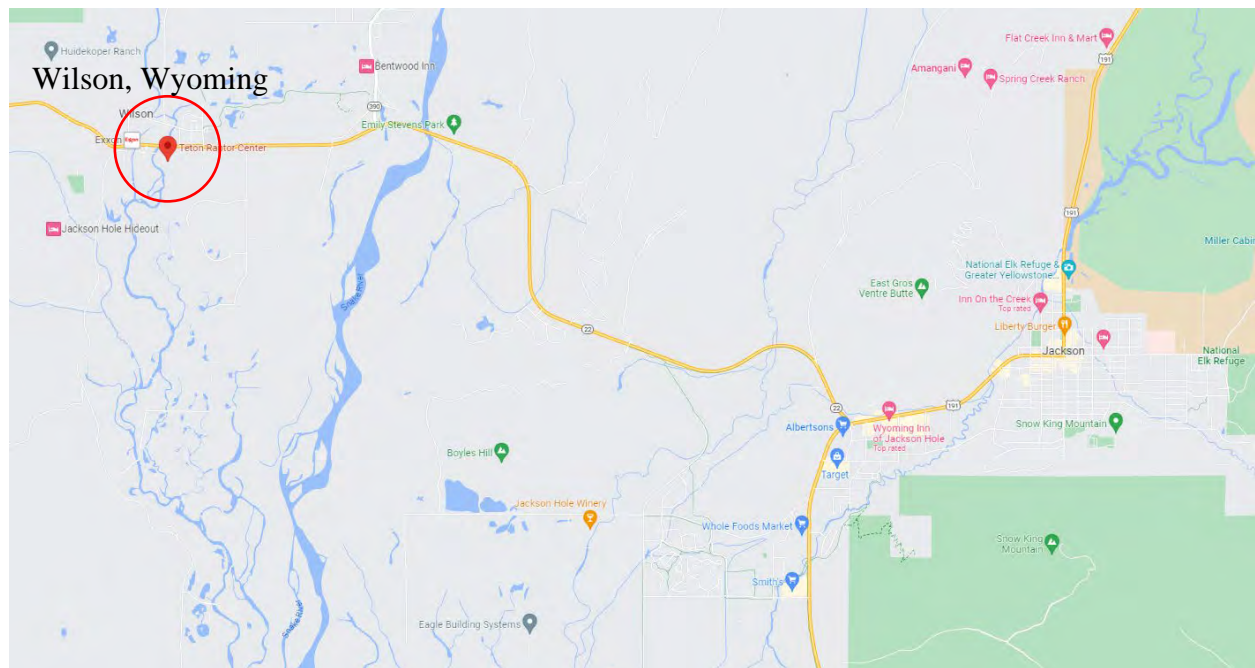
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Day 1 – September 25, Board Training at Teton Conservation District (420 W. Pearl Ave, Jackson)



Teton Conservation District is on the south side of West Pearl Ave, a few buildings east of the intersection with Broadway. It is a two-story gray building.

Day 2- September 26, Area V Meeting at Teton Raptor Center (5450 Hwy 22, Wilson, WY)



Teton Raptor Center is on the south side of Highway 22, just east of Wilson and Fish Creek.

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Wyoming Association of Conservation Districts
Area V Meeting Minutes
September 13, 2022

Best Western Fossil Country Inn & Suites, Kemmerer, Wyoming

Attendees:

Wyoming Association of Conservation Districts: Kelli Little, Executive Director, Helen Silver, Wyoming Collaborative for Healthy Soil (Via Zoom.)

Lincoln Conservation CD: Paula Bowling, Paul Clark, DeMont Grandy, Brenda Lazcanotegui

Little Snake River CD: Trent Arnell, Dawn Arnell, Meghan Lally

Sublette County CD: Darrell Walker, Milford Lockwood, Coke Landers, Michael Henn, Traci Berg

Star Valley CD: Jeff Johnson, KayLynn Nield

Sweetwater County CD:

Teton CD: Dave Adams, Steve McDonald, Carlin Girard

Uinta County CD: Kerri Sabey

Natural Resources Conservation Service: Andi Neugebauer, Acting NRCS State Conservationist (Via Zoom)

Wyoming Department of Agriculture: Justin Caudill, Chris Wichmann

Special Guests: WY State Senator Dan Dockstader, WY State Representative Scott Heiner, Kent Connelly (Consultant, Coalition of Local Governments (CLG) & current candidate for Lincoln County Commissioner), Dave Kimble (US Fish & Wildlife Service)

The Area V meeting was called to order by Coke Landers, Area V Director, at 9:00 a.m. The meeting was held in person in Kemmerer, Wyoming, and via Zoom.

Paul Clark, Lincoln Conservation District Board Members, welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked the WACD for the assistance they provide to the local conservation districts. Paul then called for an introduction of all attendees to the meeting.

Wyoming State Senator Dan Dockstader and Wyoming State Representative Scott Heiner addressed the state process for assessing and distributing property tax. Due to a substantial increase in property taxes, Senator Dockstader is currently working on several pieces of legislature to address property tax relief for increasing property taxes that will be introduced during state legislature this coming year. They also addressed coal power energy, the Exxon Gas Plant, carbon sequestration, and trying to find ways to protect Wyoming mineral rights. Dan is working closely with US Senator Cynthia Lummis and US Representative Candidate Hageman on the Colorado River Compact issues.

Kent Connelly gave an update on the proposed TerraPower Sodium advanced nuclear project South of the coal plant near Kemmerer, WY. TerraPower is a leading nuclear Innovation company that strives to improve the world through nuclear energy and science. He also addressed PacificCorp current services. Kent introduced Tri-site, a byproduct of coal, one product is Humate that has the ability to be used like a fertilizer, although not a fertilizer, by fluffing up soil, with no environmental impact and cuts fertilizer costs to zero. He also demonstrated how Tri-site is a

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carbon fiber product and can be used with gas and oil polymers to make clothing, cosmetics, and may be used as a medicinal treatment for arthritis etc.

Dave Kimble, US Fish and Wildlife (USFWS) Partners for Wildlife Coordinator gave a power point presentation on current Bear River Wetland Restoration Projects near Cokeville, Wyoming.

NRCS Update:

Astrid Martinez, current Wyoming NRCS State Conservationist, has accepted a new position in Washington, D. C. Andi Neugebauer, Acting WY State NRCS Conservationist, gave the NRCS report via Zoom to update current budget issues, state staffing, programs and activities that included five million dollars for Big Game Coordination; conservation planning strategy and certification; the Greater Sage-Grouse Initiative; and the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA).

Wyoming Collaborative for Health Soil Introduction by Helen Silver. The program is sponsored by the University of Wyoming to conserve soil with five principles of implementation. Following a listening session, there was an opportunity to have audience participation through a telephone service where five questions were presented, and feedback provided by those participating via telephone. This same presentation will be provided to all area meetings attendees so that the answers can be combined and documented as needed to address soil health concerns throughout the state.

Wyoming Department of Agriculture (WDA):

Chris Wichmann, Manager, Natural Resources and Policy, gave the WDA update noting current projects such as the Good Neighbor Authority with Forest Service; the Bighorn sheep introduction onto the Sweetwater Rocks area in Lander; Sage Grouse Amendments; continuing to find ways to reopen/use vacant allotments across the Bridger-Teton National Forest; and the Thunder Basin National Grasslands/Prairie Dog Implementation Amendment.

Chris also covered current WDA Mediation Programs and services provided by Lucy Pauley, Mediation Program Coordinator, noting free financial counseling for ag producers dealing with estate planning and management transition. The AgriStress Helpline is also available to help Wyoming producers, and anyone involved in agriculture seeking assistance for a variety of issues. Call or text 833-897-2474.

Justin Williams, Senior Policy Analyst, presented current projects for Resource Management Plans and Land Use Plans; Environmental Impact Statements/Environmental Assessments for ongoing projects; Bighorn Sheep and other livestock issues; and intra-agencies handbooks for grazing regulations and US Forest Service Handbook updates etc. Justin also provided information as Ag Program Coordinator on current Wy Landscape Conservation Initiative issues as well as information from Michelle MacDonald, Office Support Specialist, on district requirements for Base Funding, Lab Funds, and the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program.

BUSINESS MEETING:

Dave Adams, Area V Director, called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

Roll call of voting delegates:

Lincoln Conservation District: Paul Clark

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Little Snake River Conservation District: Megan Lally
 Sublette County Conservation District: Darrell Walker
 Star Valley Conservation District: Jeff Johnson
 Sweetwater County Conservation District: None
 Teton Conservation District: Dave Adams
 Uinta County Conservation District: None

Minutes:

Review and approval of the 2021 WACD Area V Meeting hosted by the Star Valley Conservation District on September 2, 2021. Coke Landers made a motion to approve the minutes as written, seconded by Paul Clark. Motion carried.

WACD President's Report:

Coke Landers, and gave the WACD President's report noting that WACD President Todd Heward was unable to attend due to having Covid-19.

Election: The Area V Director Position – Meghan Lally nominated Coke Landers; motion was seconded. Having no further nominations, Landers was voted in as Area V Director.

WACD Office Update:

Kelli Little, WACD Executive Director, gave the annual WACD report via zoom. Kelli addressed upcoming legislative issues and policy advocacy; projects and implementation; education and outreach programs; and provided guidelines and support for mill levy proposition, and regulations on public funds.

Resolutions:

One resolution was presented by the Teton Conservation District to address “Control of Landscaping Ponds”. After discussion, Coke Landers made a motion to table the resolutions until it could be rewritten to avoid misinterpretation until state convention. Motion was seconded. Motion passed.

Convention:

Will be held in Casper, Wyoming, at the Ramkota Inn, December 5th – 8th, 2023, and will be held in conjunction with the Stockgrowers and Woolgrowers Convention.

The 2023 WACD Area V Meeting:

To be hosted by the Teton Conservation District in Jackson, WY.

Other Business:

Reminder: Employees Awards are due by October 1st.

Meeting adjourned at 2:51 p.m.

Minutes submitted by:

Brenda Lazcanotegui, Lincoln Conservation District

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