

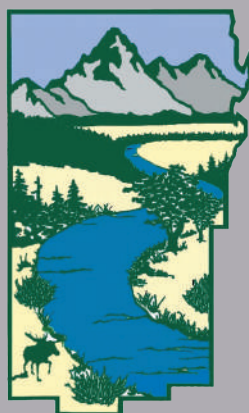
TETON CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Land Management & Resource Plan Long Range Plan

Fiscal Year 2016 to Fiscal Year 2021



Flat Creek Headwaters. Photo: Carlin Girard



**Teton
Conservation
District
Est. 1946**

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Resolution of Adoption

Whereas, the Teton Conservation District is empowered by Wyoming State Statute 11-16-122 (b) et seq. to adopt and implement water and soil conservation management policies;

Whereas, the Teton Conservation District has sought out and received public involvement and input regarding the role of the Teton Conservation District in the conservation and management of the District's natural resources and the plans and programs are carried out utilizing an open and collaborative planning process;

Therefore, be it hereby resolved by the Board of Supervisors of the Teton Conservation District this 16th day of June, 2015, that the Board of Supervisors adopts the Teton Conservation District's Land Management and Resource / Long Range Plan for Fiscal Year 2016 to Fiscal Year 2021.

Tom Segerstrom, Vice-Chairman

Bob Lucas, Member

Thomas Campbell III, Treasurer

Dave Adams, Member

Tom Breen, Assoc. Member

Boyd Bowles, Assoc. Member

Sandy Shuptrine, Chairman

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Teton Conservation District Board of Supervisors

Sandy Shuptrine, Chairman: Sandy graduated from Northwestern University with a B.S., and has resided in Teton County with her husband and family since 1971. She served as a County Commissioner for 12 years and has remained a participant in community planning. She also has volunteered as a BLM river ranger, was a member of the Wyoming Industrial Siting Council and has worked as a small business manager. Her husband grows produce organically in their small acreage setting.

Tom Segerstrom, Vice-Chair: MS in Fish & Wildlife Management. Small Business owner 15+ years. Past employment with WY Game & Fish, and has been active in numerous boards over the years. Currently Staff Biologist/Land Steward for JH Land Trust.

Tom Campbell, Treasurer: Tom Campbell is a principal at and founder of Biota Research and Consulting, an environmental consulting company based in Jackson Hole since 1980. He holds Bachelors and Masters of Science degrees in wildlife and fisheries biology from Colorado State University.

Bob Lucas, Member: Owner/Manager of the U Lazy U Ranch in the southern end of Jackson Hole. Bob has been on the Teton Conservation District Board since 1997.

Dave Adams, Member: Owner /Contractor of construction business, degrees in biology and geology. Dave has been a board member since 2003.

Tom Breen, Associate Member: Long time Ranch Hand at the Walton Ranch (working cattle ranch west of Jackson). Tom is born and raised in Jackson Hole and has been on the TCD Board since 2000.

Boyd Bowles, Associate Member: Farms near Alta, WY. Active in the Hi-Country Resource Conservation and Development (Vice-Chairman / Board of Directors). Associate member of TCD for over 20 years.

Teton Conservation District Staff

Randy Williams, Executive Director: Randy Williams was selected for the position of Executive Director for Teton Conservation District and began work on September 9, 2000. His 34 year career includes serving as an environmental specialist, county planner, planning and economic development director, and conservation district director. He has an extensive natural resource background that includes fisheries and water quality monitoring, forest management evaluation and coordination with 12 national forests, county comprehensive plan and associated ordinance authoring, stream and wetland assessment and mitigation design, waste organics processing and utilization, carbon sequestration programs, alternative vehicle fuels programs, agriculture technical assistance, and numerous fish and wildlife enhancement and restoration projects. He spends his free time with his wife and family and has a passion for hunting and exploring the outdoors.

Emily Hagedorn, Administrative Manager: Emily has worked as the Administrative Manager for the Teton Conservation District since July 1, 1999. She attended Black Hills State University in Spearfish, South Dakota, receiving a Bachelor's degree in Environmental Physical Science with a minor in Earth Science and a second major in Fine Art with an emphasis in Design. In 2005 she was accepted into the University of Montana's Masters in Public Administration program and she graduated summa cum laude with an MPA degree in December of 2008. She is originally from Broadus, Montana where most of her family ranches. Emily has been visiting Jackson since 1993 and became a permanent resident in 1998. She enjoys the many amenities of the area including hiking, horseback riding, and gardening. Her husband Matt is a hockey devotee and their baby daughter Evelyn enjoys animals and story time.

Robb Sgroi, Conservation Programs Coordinator/ Fuels Mitigation Coordinator: Robb has lived in Teton County since 2001, and joined TCD in 2007. He has enjoyed a career in natural resources starting with volunteering with the Student Conservation Association, leading resource protection work with the Appalachian Mountain Club, then supporting trails, wilderness, and recreation programs with the Forest Service, as well as planning and public affairs. He supports several TCD programs, including rangeland management, wildland urban interface improvements, and noxious weed management. Robb is a graduate of the University of Richmond, with a BS in Biology, and has a Masters Certificate in Natural Resource Management from Virginia Tech. He enjoys alpine touring, cycling, hunting, and volunteering for Teton County Search and Rescue, as well as the Snake River Fund.

Carlin Girard, Water Resources Specialist: Carlin joined the Teton Conservation District team in 2014, but has lived and worked in WY since 2006. He wants to share his appreciation for the intact ecology of the Snake River Watershed. Coming from a diverse background in natural resource management and research, his experience working for the Wyoming Game and Fish Department in Jackson led him to a Master's degree in Aquatic Resource Management at the University of Wyoming. Graduate school helped develop his technical skills such as database management, statistics, and GIS mapping and analysis. His aquatic work experience has focused on native fisheries, aquatic and riparian habitat, and water quality. Also, he has worked with ungulates, waterfowl, passerines, raptors and a wide range of vegetation communities. After traveling and working throughout the West, Jackson has continued to inspire Carlin to explore the region's mountains and rivers, while hiking, skiing, floating, biking, hunting and fishing.

Long-Range Plan

Forward

The purpose of this document is to set forth the Land Management & Resource Plans and Long Range policies and objectives of the Teton Conservation District. Obtaining and compiling public comment and opinion is an integral part of the Long Range Planning process. Not only does it provide the tools necessary to establish natural resource priorities and goals that the citizens in Teton County want, but it also provides an opportunity to reflect and determine if the District has been on the right track.

Much has changed in Teton County over the years, and the Board of Supervisors has had to meet the challenge of adapting with that change in order to remain effective steward of our natural resources. Initially, an agriculturally oriented District, our scope of activities has broadened dramatically to include water quality, natural resource education and land use planning, and other topics.

Within our District, there exists a broad group of agencies, organizations, agricultural operations and non-profit groups. All of these entities maintain special interest in one or more of our area's abundant and diverse natural resources. New resource management techniques, habitat conservation and restoration techniques and ecosystem management principles provide new information that affects the way decisions on natural resource management uses are made. These concepts have advanced tremendously since our last long range plan was written.

Today, natural resource issues are more complex than ever due to the fact that within the boundaries of our District exist numerous and varied interests. As the only locally governed natural resource public agency with a locally elected board, this District will be a local voice for the management and enhancement of our area's natural resources since this is our main charge.

This document will act as a benchmark document for more flexible short term planning and monitoring of our progress. With these goals and principles in place, we can live up to our management mission and change when change is called for, but change carefully with the long term goals firmly in sight. This document also provides an inventory of the basic natural resources in Teton County, each of which is an integral part of the economy.

The small amount of privately owned land in Teton County emphasizes the continuing need for proper land use for the preservation of the tax base. Important as well is the preservation of the aesthetic value of our county, which is very important because of its impact on tourism. The Board of Supervisors of the Teton Conservation District has taken the initiative to direct and contribute their time, effort and expertise toward the goals set forth in this document.

TCD approved a new Strategic Plan in March 2015. The Plan is intended to inform program work for the next five years. Specifically, it provides guidance to be used for FY 2016 budget preparation and to create a basis for financial estimates through FY 2021. The Plan identifies highest priorities amongst wildlife, water resources, and agricultural programs.

State Statute Authority & Primary Elements

Authority: Teton Conservation District is a legally organized Wyoming Conservation District by Wyoming State Statutes (W.S. 11-16-101 through 11-16-134) as a legal subdivision of the State of Wyoming, Department of Agriculture. Teton Conservation District was originally formed in 1946 and is the only locally elected government board charged with natural resource conservation.

Statute Excerpt & Primary Elements: W.S. 11-16-103.

Legislative Declarations and Policy:

(a) It is hereby declared that the farm and grazing lands of Wyoming are among the basic assets of the state; that improper land use practices cause and contribute to serious erosion of these lands by wind and water; that among the consequences which would result from such conditions are the deterioration of soil and its fertility and the silting and sedimentation of stream channels, reservoirs, dams and ditches; that to conserve soil, and soil and water resources, and prevent and control soil erosion, it is necessary that land use practices contributing to soil erosion be discouraged and that appropriate soil conserving land use practices be adopted.

(b) It is hereby declared to be the policy of the legislature to provide for the conservation of the soil, and soil and water resources of this state, and for the control and prevention of soil erosion and for flood prevention or the conservation, development, utilization, and disposal of water, and thereby to stabilize ranching and farming operations, to preserve natural resources, protect the tax base, control floods, prevent impairment of dams and reservoirs, preserve wildlife, protect public lands, and protect and promote the health, safety and general welfare of the people of this state.

Primary Elements:

- 1....conservation of the soil and control and ...prevention of soil erosion
- 2....conservation of the ...water resources and the ...conservation, development, utilization, and disposal of water
- 3....flood prevention and to ... control floods, prevent impairment of dams and reservoirs
- 4.... stabilize ranching and farming operations
- 5.... preserve wildlife
- 6.... protect public lands
- 7.... preserve natural resources, protect the tax base
- 8.... protect and promote the health, safety and general welfare of the people

Mission Statement, Function and Principals

Mission: The mission of the Teton Conservation District is to promote conservation and management of natural resources -- air, land, water, vegetation, and wildlife -- through watershed-based research, education, conservation practices, cooperative projects, and on-the-ground actions to ensure the health, safety and general welfare of the people and resources of this area.

Function: It is the function of the Teton Conservation District to provide locally led leadership, to encourage, promote and inform through education, the conservation of natural resources. The Teton Conservation District is also charged with assisting landowners and land managers in practicing good natural resources stewardship and conservation for the long term benefit of the people by using monitoring, partnerships, staffing resources and the taxpayer's money as efficiently and effectively as possible.

Principles: The principles guiding the Teton Conservation District are: to hold the sacred trust of the public, respect conflict civilly pursued and to be non-politically based. Projects are pursued and completed in an accountable manner, using the most economical methods. Partnerships between the Teton Conservation District and individuals and organizations are formed. Technical support is provided using the best methods available. The Teton Conservation District stays current with development that assists in its ongoing commitment to its mission.

Within the Teton Conservation District's mission, agriculture, water resources, and wildlife are emphasized. In addition, the District believes that information about conservation issues is vital to the well-being of the community and its resources. It is implicitly recognized that information and education are support activities that are elemental to the successful attainment of our goals.

The role of the Board of Supervisors of the Teton Conservation District is to manage the fiscal and legal aspects of the District, to be responsible for the staffing and personnel employed at the Teton Conservation District, to facilitate the development of the policies governing the District and to determine the goals and mission of the Teton Conservation District. The Board of Supervisors is also responsible for the public relations within the District, the facilities and equipment used and gives direction to the Director and staff. Locally elected District Supervisors address local needs through a responsible conservation ethic and are supported by the State of Wyoming. Conservation Districts are charged with these responsibilities under several Wyoming state laws.



Photo: Rachel Daluge

History of the Teton Conservation District

During the Dust Bowl days, it became very apparent that there was a need to conserve our soil and water resources in rural America. The President requested that all states pass legislation authorizing local conservation districts to be formed. Congress passed the Soil Conservation Act in 1935. As local units of state government, the Districts were designed to direct programs aimed at protecting local resources. The first district was formed in 1937. Today, there are about 3,000 districts working across America.



Jackson Lake. Photo: Carlin Girard

Wyoming passed the Soil Conservation Act in 1941. Districts started forming later that year. There are now 34 Districts throughout Wyoming. Each of these districts has specific boundaries and is governed by elected people who live within those boundaries, as the Legislature felt conservation should be led by local citizens. Their responsibility is to conserve our soil, water and other natural resources.

The Teton Conservation District was legally organized on March 15, 1946 at the request of Teton County citizens, under Sections 11-234 to 11-250 of the Wyoming Statutes known as the “Wyoming Soil and Water Conservation Districts Law.” The District was organized to provide for the conservation of soil and water resources, assist in watershed protection, protect public lands, preserve tax base and to protect and promote the health, safety and general welfare of the people. The District was originally divided into two Districts – the Teton Soil Conservation District and the Jackson Hole Soil Conservation District. The latter included lands in Lincoln and Sublette Counties. The Jackson Hole District was dissolved in 1967, leaving what is now called the Teton Conservation District. In 1974, our District boundaries were expanded to include the Wyoming portion of Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks as well as all lands lying within Teton County. This decision was approved by Wyoming Secretary of State Thyra Thompson. Conservation District Boards are the only locally elected Boards that are charged with the proper management of Wyoming’s natural resources.

As a legal subdivision of Wyoming State government, the District Board of Supervisors constitutes a policy-making group elected by the people on the general election ballot. Five Supervisors, each serving a four-year term, perform their duties without monetary compensation. The Supervisors work with all individuals, groups and agencies interested in soil and water conservation, land use planning, watershed protection, flood prevention and other related interests and endeavors.

Conservation Districts develop and implement programs to protect and conserve soil, water, prime & unique farmland, rangeland, woodland, wildlife and other renewable resources. Districts also stabilize local economies and resolve conflicts in land use.

General District Information

The following information is an abridged cultural and natural history of Teton County, from the Jackson Hole Chamber of Commerce web site:

“Wildlife has played an important role in the history of Jackson Hole. The abundant wildlife lured early explorers to the valley. The Native Americans came to hunt buffalo and other large game, and the first European and American visitors came to collect beaver pelts.

Before 1800, the only people who traveled into Jackson Hole were the Native American tribes who spent the summer months hunting the wildlife in the valley and the area surrounding it. Among the tribes that trailed through the valley were the Shoshoni, Crow, Blackfeet, Bannock, and Gros Ventre. In 1803, Thomas Jefferson organized the Lewis and Clark Corps of Discovery expedition to explore the unknown territory of the Louisiana Purchase. The expedition traveled up the Missouri River and crossed the Rocky Mountains far to the north of Wyoming, in Montana, on their trip to the Pacific Ocean. During the return journey in 1806, John Colter, one of the members of the Expedition, headed back into the mountains to scout for a fur trading company. On a trip to the Crow, Colter probably entered Jackson Hole in the winter of 1807-8.

When other trappers followed Colter's example, Jackson Hole became one of the prime areas of interest. Most of the famous mountain men that trapped in the West in the early 1800's traveled the trails that crossed the valley: Jim Bridger, Jedediah Smith, William Sublette, and David Jackson were among them. But it was David Jackson who gave his name to the valley when he supposedly spent the winter of 1829 on the shores of Jackson Lake. For the mountain men, a “hole” indicated a high valley that was surrounded by mountains, and William Sublette, who was Jackson's partner in an early fur company, referred to the mountain valley along the Snake River as Jackson's Hole.

By 1845 the fur trade had drawn to a close because the silk hat had replaced the one made of beaver felt. Then, Jackson Hole reverted to the summer habitation of various Indian tribes and an occasional government expedition. The Hayden Surveys of 1871, 1872, and 1878 officially named many of the important landmarks. As a part of the Hayden Expedition of 1871 and 1872, William Henry Jackson took the first photographs of the Teton Mountains and Yellowstone. His photographs were important evidence to help convince the federal government, in 1872, to protect the Yellowstone area as the world's first national park. After the creation of Yellowstone, big game hunters and the first “dudes,” including foreign royalty, visited the area. Again the abundant wildlife brought people and helped to spread the fame of beautiful Jackson Hole.

Since wildlife flourished in the valley, settlers hoped that domestic animals would flourish as well. By the late 1880's, they began to trail into the “Hole.” Some of them followed the Gros Ventre River into the valley, and a brave few cleared a wagon route over Teton Pass, following the trail of Indians and mountain men. By the 1890's, the villages of Kelly, Wilson, and Moran had been born.

In the 1890's, cattle ranching became the major focus of the area, and with cattle ranching came a larger and more permanent settlement. The town of Jackson was named in 1894 and acquired a plan for streets and major buildings in 1900. Some of the buildings and houses of that early era remain a part of Jackson today. Concern for wintering elk began early in Jackson Hole. The severe

winter of 1908-9 brought the concern to a head; thousands of elk were starving in the valley. The townspeople, with the help of the state of Wyoming, bought hay to help the animals through the winter, but the following winter was no better. Through the crusading efforts of Stephen Leek and his photographs, the U.S. Biological Survey Elk Refuge was established in 1912 with an allotment of one thousand acres. Today the National Elk Refuge, the direct descendant of the original refuge, contains nearly 25,000 acres and feeds over 7,000 elk every winter.

*As the fame of Jackson Hole
with its beautiful scenery and
fascinating wildlife grew, more
and more visitors found their way
into the valley.*

Women in Wyoming have been voting since 1869, when the legislature of Wyoming Territory met for the first time, the first government in the world to grant women full voting rights. But in 1920, the year the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution gave women across the nation the right to vote, Jackson added to its legendary history by electing an all-female city council, the first anywhere in the United States.

In 1929, Grand Teton National Park was created and dedicated. The park at that time included the mountains in the Teton Range and a narrow strip of land that contained the major lakes at the base of the peaks. But that was enough to develop the tourism industry, which has now replaced cattle ranching as the primary economic base of Jackson Hole. In 1950, the park was enlarged to include the Jackson Hole National Monument, established in 1943. The rededicated park contains 52 square miles, acquired by John D. Rockefeller, Jr., during the 1930's and 40's. Grand Teton National Park now totals 485 square miles.

Flat Creek. Photo: Carlin Girard.



As the fame of Jackson Hole with its beautiful scenery and fascinating wildlife grew, more and more visitors found their way into the valley. The mild summers added river rafting and hiking and horseback riding to the allure of hunting and fishing in the valley. In 1937, valley residents built a ski tow at Teton Pass and winter sports were added to the valley's charm for visitors. In 1939, Snow King Resort, on the mountain above the town of Jackson, was the first ski facility in the state of Wyoming. Today three major ski areas have made Jackson Hole world famous for excellent skiing and winter sports."

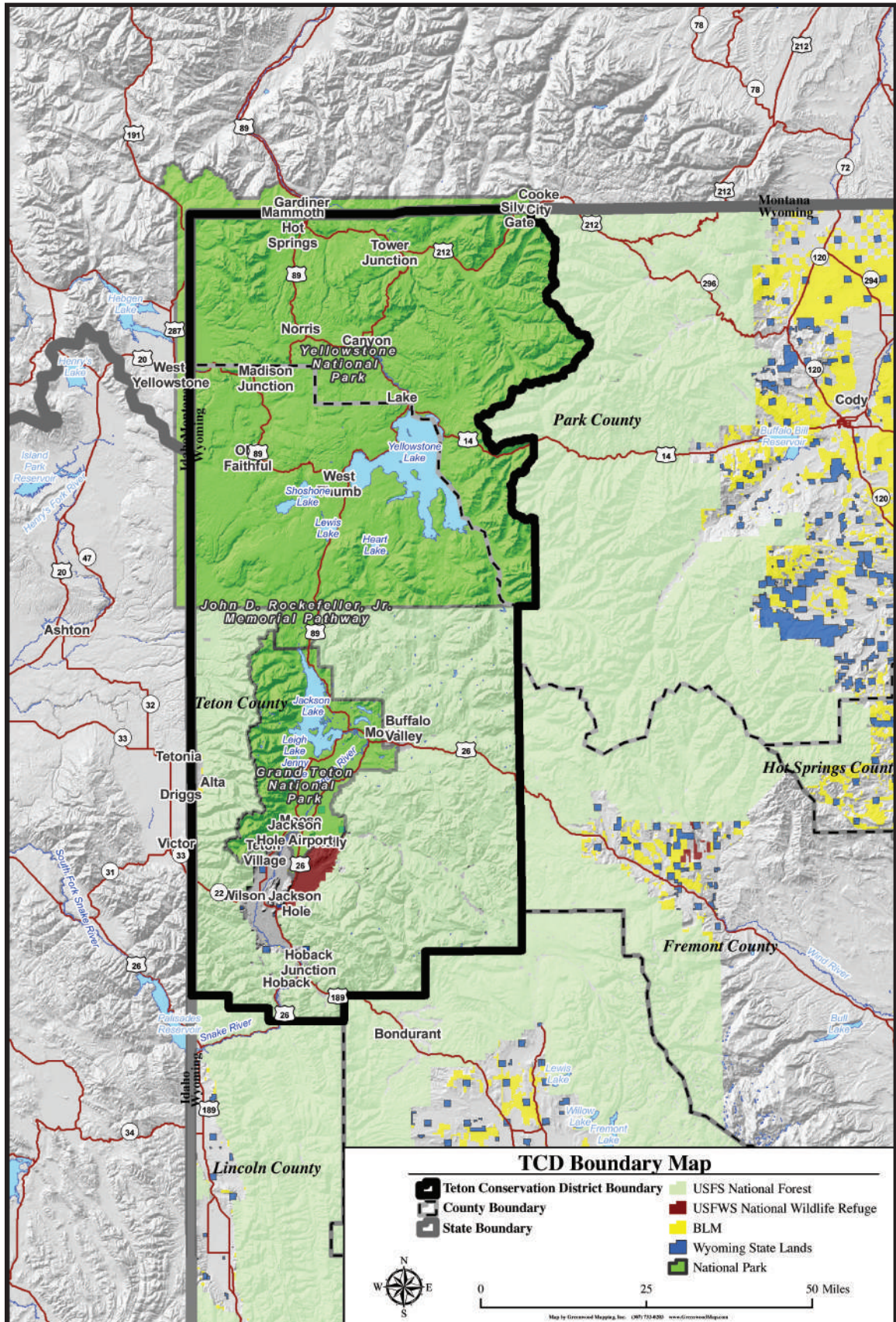
Teton County is the headwaters for several rivers, including the Snake River, Green River, and Yellowstone River. These rivers are subsequently major tributaries to the following major western rivers; respectively the Columbia River, Colorado River, and Missouri River. Mountain ranges in Teton County include the Gros Ventre, Teton, Absorokas, and Wyoming Ranges. Elevations at the valley floor range from approximately 6,100 to 6,300 feet, and the highest elevation is the Grand Teton, at 13,550 feet. Vegetation varies from alpine zones, to conifer forests, to sagebrush.



Upper Snake River. Photo: Rachel Daluge

Jackson is characterized by long, cold winters, and a short growing season. January has an average mean temperature of 16.5 degrees F, July has an average mean temperature of 61.3 degrees F. The record high temperature was 98 degrees F on 8/19/1981, while the record low temperature was -50 degrees F on 1/1/1979. There are approximately 60 frost free days per year in Teton County. In terms of precipitation, the average annual precipitation is 15.9 inches. Average annual snowfall is 74.7 inches. This data is from National Climatic Data Center from 1949 through 2005, courtesy of www.mountainweather.com.

Teton Conservation District Boundary Map



Land Ownership within the Teton Conservation District

Real property ownership within the District is divided among many different private owners, organizations and/or controlling agencies. This table indicated percentages of total acreage for the classifications of ownership.

Note the land ownership table below comprises information for Teton County, WY; Teton Conservation District's borders extend further into the Yellowstone National Park portion of Park County.

Land Ownership, Teton County	Square Miles
United States Government	
United State Forest Service	2134.1
National Park Service	1907.7
Bureau of Land Management	4.1
United States Fish & Wildlife Service	38.6
Wyoming	
State of Wyoming	7.4
Wyoming Game & Fish Commission	1.3
Local Government	
Teton County School District #1	0.1
Teton County, Wyoming	0.5
Town of Jackson	0.5
Private	116.6
Other	5.6
TOTAL	4216.5

The natural systems so prominent in and important to our District do not conform to boundaries separating public from private land. Private lands provide crucial habitat for endangered or threatened species and are an integral part of a healthy and biologically diverse ecosystem. For this reason, TCD will continue to actively promote open lines of communication between Federal and State agencies, non-profit organizations, and private landowners/managers for the benefit of the variety of resources located within our District.

Teton Conservation District Programs

Agricultural Assistance Projects

Wyoming State Statutes authorize a broad array of involvement by Conservation Districts in agricultural support. Statutes reference the capacity for involvement with management, demonstration projects, and research on rangelands and croplands. The development and implementation of resource use and management plans for range improvements, and control and prevention of soil erosion, is also identified.



A Forest Service Range Con, stockgrower, and TCD assess range conditions on Munger Mountain. Photo: Robb Sgroi.

Based on these statutes, TCD's vision is to improve and maintain fencing infrastructure and water developments, support the collection of vegetation and soil data on rangelands, address wildlife and livestock conflict issues, rehabilitate damaged range, and enhance and conserve native soils. In addition, TCD will support specific irrigation improvements for water conservation, erosion control, and other natural resource benefits. The support of small acreage agriculture and indoor agriculture, as well as collaborative research to improve natural resources and production on range, are planned.

Finally, TCD will continue support of the control of noxious weeds through the Noxious Weed Program for private landowners, as well as by support of the Jackson Hole Weed Management Association.

Information Collection, Management and Analysis

TCD will develop and maintain GIS resources to meet internal and external needs. This includes cooperating with Teton County Planning and Development to continually improve vegetation layers and Environmental Assessment layers, consider public requests for assistance, and develop a robust reference data set for internal and external use.

Restoration and Sustainability Projects

Recycling, Household Hazardous & E-Waste – TCD provides technical support and funding assistance to Teton County Integrated Solid Waste & Recycling for the Household and Electronic (E) Waste, Battery Recycling, and other programs to assist our community and to protect our natural environment.

Organics – TCD has long provided both local and regional technical and funding assistance and has led facilitation efforts for woody biomass diversion and product use for compost blends, erosion control materials, soil reclamation, and hog fuel for steam production and heating needs. TCD will continue to assist in these efforts that also include use of compost for greenhouse heat and nutrient source, general agricultural lands sustainment, and landscaping management. TCD will assist the development and implementation of a food waste diversion, processing, and compost product use program in Teton County.

Alternative Energy – TCD supports the sustainable use and conservation of energy resources from all sources. Solar, wind, and hydro power alternatives for farm, ranch, residential, commercial, and public facilities and infrastructure including irrigation are assisted in a partnership with Energy Conservation Works, University of Wyoming Cooperative Extension E3A education program, and other partners. TCD participates as a member of the Wyoming Natural Gas Vehicle & Infrastructure Coalition to encourage the use of clean natural gas fuels for vehicles and the fueling station infrastructure that is being developed. TCD works with Yellowstone-Teton Clean Energy Coalition and a number of other partners in promoting alternative energy fueled vehicles and transportation efficiency and conservation measures. TCD supports environmental responsibility, use of sound science, social and economic sustainability, and best management practices in the development and use of all energy sources.

Teton Area Wildfire Protection Coalition & Wildland Urban Interface - TCD will continue efforts to support the protection of life and property, relative to wildland fire. This will take place through ongoing participation in the TAWPC meetings and business, delivery of a Western States Wildland Urban Interface grant, providing wildland fire assessments to private landowners, soliciting grant funding opportunities, as well as supporting conversion of waste wood into usable products.



Pruning trees, and tree removal, to create defensible space adjacent to a residence. Fuel piles (biomass) were put to practical use. Photo: Robb Sgroi

Land Development Regulations

The goal of TCD is to continually cooperate with Teton County Planning & Development in the analysis and update of natural resource components of the County's Land Development Regulations (LDRs). The approach is to provide science based recommendations to further describe and enhance LDRs.

Water Resources

Water Resources within TCD boundaries provide significant importance for agriculture, fish, wildlife and other ecological services, recreation, aesthetic purposes and human domestic use. TCD shall promote the TCD mission through technical and educational support for all aspects of water resources within the District boundaries working with private landowners, as well as cooperating local, state and federal agencies.

Water Quality Monitoring - TCD shall continue water quality monitoring programs on Fish and Flat Creek, meeting the expectations of the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality's 305(b) Report and Wyoming's Credible Data Legislation. TCD will address all water quality issues by initiating and supporting voluntary Best-Management-Practices.

Monitoring Well Network - TCD will maintain groundwater monitoring wells, as directed by supervisor oversight and Wyoming's Credible Data Legislation, which includes the deployment of water level loggers at the Jackson Hole Airport and along and west of the Snake River. This data will be stored at the TCD office, and be distributed in accordance with landowner permission for private and public uses.

Stormwater and Erosion Control - TCD shall continue its effort to improve storm water quality in the District through the use of Best Management Practices, including: construction site mitigation, snow storage, street sweeping, use of sediment sceptors in the storm drain system, and support of vegetative buffers. TCD will promote its Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) Guide, and address stormwater pollution and erosion prevention within development application comments.



*TCD's Robb Sgroi monitors groundwater.
Photo: Carlin Girard.*



Flat Creek bank rehabilitation behind Ace Hardware. Photos: Carlin Girard

Fish Creek Projects - TCD shall use best available science to direct funding and outreach to address nutrient contamination in Fish Creek. TCD will work with the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality to address designated use support, and Wyoming Game and Fish to research potential avenues of fisheries impairment.

Flat Creek Projects & Flat Creek WID - TCD shall work with the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality to improve Flat Creek's ability to support its designated use, through implementation of water quality and aquatic habitat best management practices. TCD will coordinate with the Town of Jackson on these efforts, and work to comply with FEMA floodplain requirements. TCD will oversee and support the Flat Creek Water Improvement District, to protect private property from wintertime flooding, and improve ecological conditions in Flat Creek.

Cooperative Stream Enhancement Projects - TCD shall continue to partner with private landowners, not-for-profits and government agencies to enhance stream habitat form and function, to support native fisheries health, agricultural practices, and the Snake River ecosystem.

Snake River Restoration Project - TCD shall partner with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Teton County to mitigate the effects of the Snake River Levees on the Snake River's alluvial floodplain ecosystem. This effort will involve private landowners as well as the Wyoming Game and Fish Department.

Wildlife

Wildlife is a resource that distinguishes Teton County, WY, due to the presence of a nearly intact ecosystem of wildlife, presence of ungulates, large predators, as well as threatened, endangered, and sensitive species.

It is the vision of TCD to support the management of wildlife through several approaches. TCD will develop a Wildlife Program Plan, to guide our support of the wildlife resource. TCD envisions analysis and reduction of Human-Wildlife Conflict through incentive-based programs, supporting research of wildlife viability and other characteristics in cooperation with other agencies, and building upon efforts from the Safe Wildlife Crossings Collaborative. TCD also plans to continue planned conservation efforts with the Greater Sage-Grouse Local Working Group, cooperation and integration with the Natural Resources Technical Advisory Board, and identifying and mitigating impacts of wildlife on other resources.



Wyoming Game and Fish conducting research on bighorn sheep, including placing radio collars on sheep, with TCD support. Photo: Mark Gocke

Administration

The Teton Conservation District will coordinate available staff and resources to accomplish natural resource priorities in Teton County. This will be accomplished through programs and the accountable administration of these programs. The TCD staff will carry out these programs under the direction of the Teton Conservation District's Board of Supervisors. TCD will continue to preserve its fiscally responsible financial procedures and records in order to maintain accountability for the public funding it manages.

TCD will produce an accurate and legal district budget for each fiscal year, monthly cash reconciliation as well as a spent to date report, an annual audit, bi-monthly, quarterly IRS reports and quarterly Worker's Compensation and Unemployment Insurance reports as well as all reports required by the Wyoming Association of Conservation Districts and the Wyoming Department of Agriculture. This provides the Board of Supervisors with accurate financial information for decision making and program prioritization.

The District Staff and Board will collaborate to produce an Annual Budget, Plan of Work, and Annual Report. Each fiscal year's budget and budget hearing notices will be advertised in the local papers. All of these reports will be available upon request by mail, or on the TCD website, and are mailed to our fellow Wyoming Conservation Districts, Wyoming Association of Conservation Districts (WACD) and Wyoming Department of Agriculture (WDA), members of the public and other interested parties. These reports will be furnished to the proper agencies prior to the deadlines established.

Teton Conservation District Income

Teton County Mill Levy Income – TCD receives a 1 mill levy from the taxpayers of Teton County annually. TCD has received this funding since July of 1999. The most recent reauthorization of the mill levy was approved on the November, 2014 General Ballot which initiates the mill beginning on July 1, 2015 for a period of 4 years. The District remains accountable for the funding provided by the Teton County taxpayers and ensures that all Teton Conservation District programs are carried out in a fiscally responsible and professional manner.

Interest Income – Each month, TCD receive interest income from its checking account at Wells Fargo Bank and its reserve account at First Interstate Bank (both are interest bearing accounts and have pledged collateral to insure their value). The income generated is used for projects.

Wyoming Department of Agriculture Annual Conservation District Base Funding - Upon meeting the list of annual requirements for both the Wyoming Association of Conservation Districts and WDA, TCD will receive a base funding stipend of \$8,823.50 each fiscal year.

Wyoming Association of Conservation Districts – Through a biennium grant from the State of Wyoming, WACD secured funding so that each Wyoming Conservation District is entitled to \$4,264 to be used for Water Quality work in the area of lab analysis, training and equipment. TCD submits reimbursement requests to the Wyoming Department of Agriculture for reimbursement each fiscal year.

Grants to the Teton Conservation District – TCD seeks out grant funding opportunities whenever available to augment the funding TCD receives to carry out projects. This grant funding makes it possible for TCD to develop beneficial partnerships and to undertake natural resource projects that it would not otherwise be able to accomplish independently.

Teton Conservation District Partnerships

Natural Resources Conservation Service – The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is a Federal agency that works in partnership with the Teton Conservation District to conserve and sustain our natural resources. NRCS services can include such items as direct assistance to urban landowners, technical assistance to local units of government, as well as technical and cost-sharing assistance to ranchers and agricultural producers in the county.

NRCS provides assistance to design, layout and install conservation practices that fit both the resource needs and the producer's objectives for the land. Practices may range from simple management activities such as planting cover crops to complex structural practices such as animal waste management systems or innovative irrigation devices

Teton County Weed & Pest District – The Teton Conservation District works closely with the Teton County Weed & Pest District to assist in educating the public about noxious weeds and providing funding to eradicate infestations in Teton County. TCWP manages the operational portion of TCD's Noxious Weed Cost Share program, providing technical assistance and site visits to develop management plans. TCWP also coordinates the Jackson Hole Weed Management Association's activities.

The purpose of the JHWMA is to establish common long and short term management policies, goals, and objectives necessary for cooperatively managing and funding noxious weed activities across jurisdictional boundaries in the local area

United States Geological Survey – Teton Conservation District's partnership with the United States Geological Survey (USGS) continues through project oriented and research based collaboration. Science can play a key role in managing natural resources. The USGS provides expertise in the geological and biological sciences. They facilitate effective management of water, biological, energy, and mineral resources. The USGS places a high value on the communication and dissemination of credible, timely, and relevant science so that most recent and available knowledge about water resources can be applied in management and policy decisions. Teton Conservation District partners with the USGS to operate flow gaging stations, monitor the snow chemistry network, and to conduct surface water and groundwater studies in Teton County.

United States Forest Service – Teton Conservation District's partnership with the United States Forest Service (USFS) will continue at a local level within District boundaries. USFS lands and private property are intertwined within the Teton Conservation District. These federal lands are an important economic and natural resource for the area. Many of our natural, social and cultural resources from ranching to forestry to recreation are continuous throughout political boundaries. TCD strives to improve partnerships and management of our forest/urban interfaces and the growing demands put on these lands. Teton Conservation District is recognized as having Cooperating Agency Authority as a local government agency under the federal Council of Environmental Quality guidelines in the context of federal land management consideration and the National Environmental Policy Act process.

TCD supports balanced multiple use of public lands that considers economic, ecological, cultural and social, and other values in a sustainable fashion. Teton County ranches are often dependent upon federal grazing permits to operate their private lands which produce food, contain open space, and substantially provide fish and wildlife habitat. TCD encourages federal and local government formal cooperation, collaboration of technical and financial resources, and the use of long term agreements to assist in this process.

Teton County Planning and Development Department –

Teton Conservation District's partnership with Teton County, Wyoming continues through work on land development reviews, comprehensive plan updates, and land development regulation modifications. Although significant development has and is continuing to occur in this area natural resource protection is still important. Teton County and Conservation District will continue to develop plans to balance natural resource conservation

and development. Teton Conservation District is directed by state statute to provide comments pertaining to natural resources on county subdivision development permit applications.

Town of Jackson – Teton Conservation District's partnership with the Town of Jackson, Wyoming, continues through cost-share projects and natural resource management. The urban environment in the Town of Jackson provides for special natural resource management challenges. Combining social and economic pressures with natural resource management has created a need for collaboration within the Town. Preserving the natural resource integrity of water features and riparian zones within town, while enhancing wildlife habitat has been a priority of this partnership. The Town and Conservation District will continue to address water resource concerns related to Flat Creek and storm water runoff while ensuring the integrity of our drinking water and fisheries resources.



*Top: Chipping equipment used for fuels mitigation in Game Creek. Photo: Robb Sgroi
Bottom: Hydroseeding at the START bus barn. Photo: Carlin Girard*

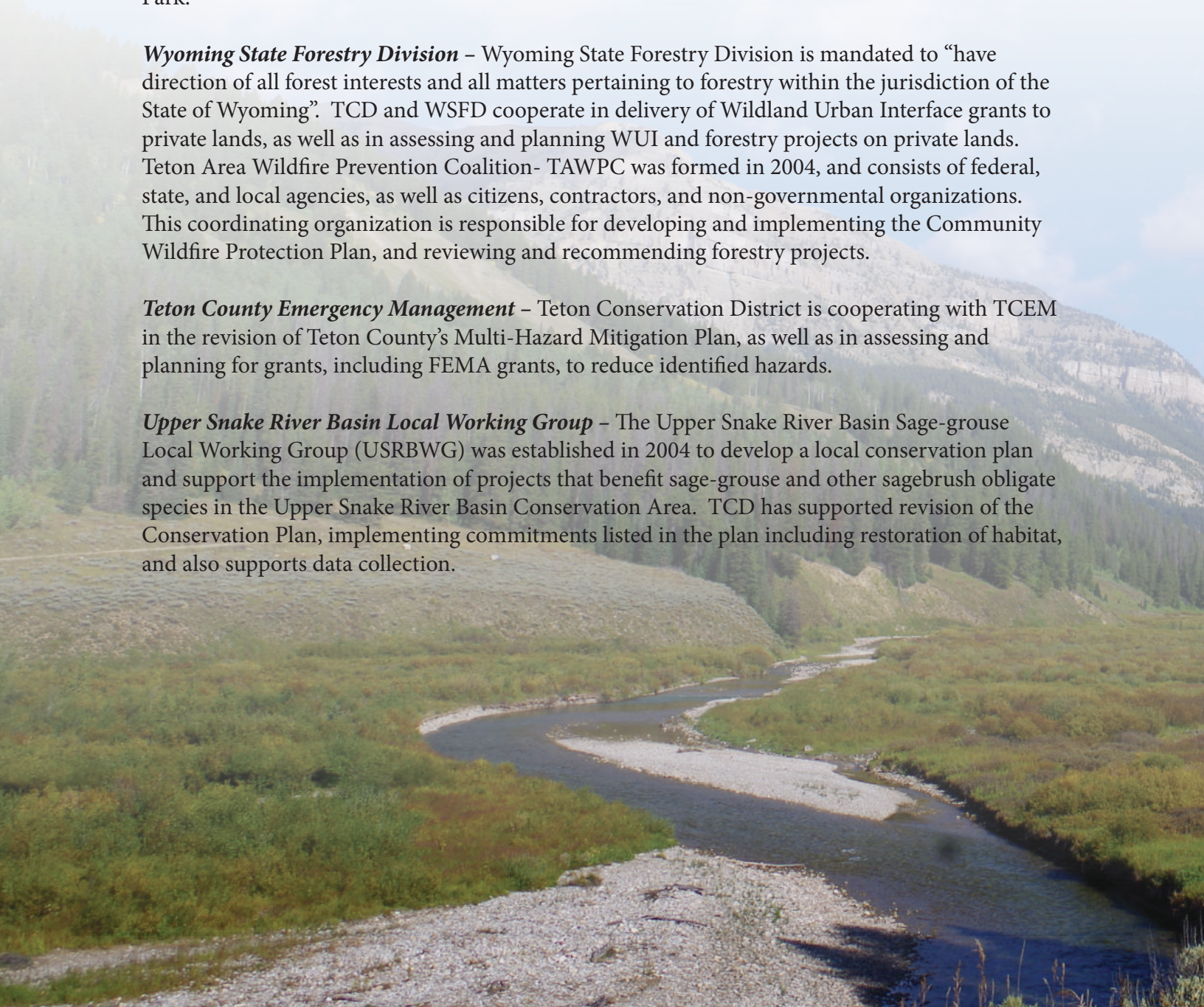
Fish and Wildlife Service, National Elk Refuge – Teton Conservation District (TCD) has partnered with the National Elk Refuge (NER) for a number of years in conducting water quality monitoring on stations in Flat Creek and in Nowlin Creek. TCD has also assisted with NRCS in irrigation designs that are utilized on the Refuge. Additionally over the past two years TCD has contributed funding toward weed management control along the NER riparian area of the Gros Ventre River and has completed fencing and stock watering improvements at the corrals to protect Nowlin Creek water quality and also protect adjacent wetlands. TCD looks forward to continued cooperative projects with the NER that will benefit the public.

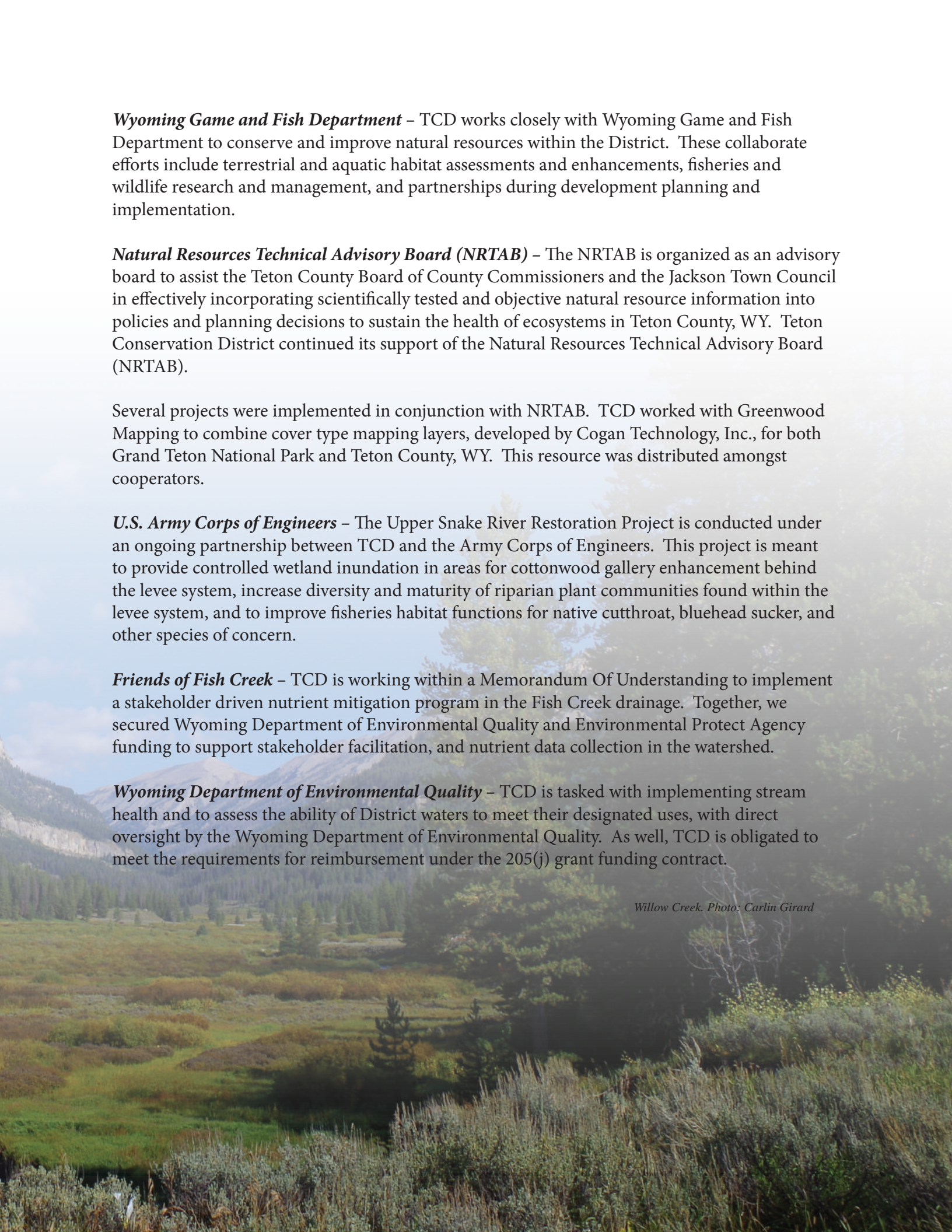
Grand Teton National Park – TCD works with Grand Teton National Park to assist in educating the public about native plant species and providing educational opportunities for community members. On the ground programs such as native plant seed collection and plant salvages help to increase the awareness and availability of native plant species within the district. TCD has also contributed funding support for noxious weed control efforts and cheat grass reduction in the Park.

Wyoming State Forestry Division – Wyoming State Forestry Division is mandated to “have direction of all forest interests and all matters pertaining to forestry within the jurisdiction of the State of Wyoming”. TCD and WSFD cooperate in delivery of Wildland Urban Interface grants to private lands, as well as in assessing and planning WUI and forestry projects on private lands. Teton Area Wildfire Prevention Coalition- TAWPC was formed in 2004, and consists of federal, state, and local agencies, as well as citizens, contractors, and non-governmental organizations. This coordinating organization is responsible for developing and implementing the Community Wildfire Protection Plan, and reviewing and recommending forestry projects.

Teton County Emergency Management – Teton Conservation District is cooperating with TCEM in the revision of Teton County’s Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan, as well as in assessing and planning for grants, including FEMA grants, to reduce identified hazards.

Upper Snake River Basin Local Working Group – The Upper Snake River Basin Sage-grouse Local Working Group (USRBWG) was established in 2004 to develop a local conservation plan and support the implementation of projects that benefit sage-grouse and other sagebrush obligate species in the Upper Snake River Basin Conservation Area. TCD has supported revision of the Conservation Plan, implementing commitments listed in the plan including restoration of habitat, and also supports data collection.





Wyoming Game and Fish Department – TCD works closely with Wyoming Game and Fish Department to conserve and improve natural resources within the District. These collaborate efforts include terrestrial and aquatic habitat assessments and enhancements, fisheries and wildlife research and management, and partnerships during development planning and implementation.

Natural Resources Technical Advisory Board (NRTAB) – The NRTAB is organized as an advisory board to assist the Teton County Board of County Commissioners and the Jackson Town Council in effectively incorporating scientifically tested and objective natural resource information into policies and planning decisions to sustain the health of ecosystems in Teton County, WY. Teton Conservation District continued its support of the Natural Resources Technical Advisory Board (NRTAB).

Several projects were implemented in conjunction with NRTAB. TCD worked with Greenwood Mapping to combine cover type mapping layers, developed by Cogan Technology, Inc., for both Grand Teton National Park and Teton County, WY. This resource was distributed amongst cooperators.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – The Upper Snake River Restoration Project is conducted under an ongoing partnership between TCD and the Army Corps of Engineers. This project is meant to provide controlled wetland inundation in areas for cottonwood gallery enhancement behind the levee system, increase diversity and maturity of riparian plant communities found within the levee system, and to improve fisheries habitat functions for native cutthroat, bluehead sucker, and other species of concern.

Friends of Fish Creek – TCD is working within a Memorandum Of Understanding to implement a stakeholder driven nutrient mitigation program in the Fish Creek drainage. Together, we secured Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality and Environmental Protect Agency funding to support stakeholder facilitation, and nutrient data collection in the watershed.

Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality – TCD is tasked with implementing stream health and to assess the ability of District waters to meet their designated uses, with direct oversight by the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality. As well, TCD is obligated to meet the requirements for reimbursement under the 205(j) grant funding contract.

Willow Creek. Photo: Carlin Girard

