

**OFFICIAL SUMMARY PROCEEDINGS
OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, TETON COUNTY, WYOMING**

The Teton County Board of Commissioners met in a special session on **October 9, 2018** in the Commissioners Chambers located at 200 S. Willow in Jackson. The meeting was called to order at 8:55am.

ROLL CALL

County Commission: Mark Newcomb Chair, Natalia Macker Vice-Chair, Paul Vogelheim, and Greg Epstein were present. Smokey Rhea arrived at 8:59am.

ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Consideration of Approval of WPLI Advisory Stake Holders Group Final Recommendation.

The meeting began with Commissioner Newcomb giving a brief history of the WPLI Advisory Stake Holder Group and its process.

Dan Smitherman, National Conservation Representative on the committee & Lisa McGee, Wyoming Outdoor Council and a member of the advisory committee, addressed the Board regarding the WPLI Advisory Stake Holders Group's new middle ground proposal which is as follows:

New Middle Ground Proposal

1. Countywide Management Direction (from MAWG):

- No mineral or oil & gas development (mineral withdrawal)
- Prohibition on commercial timber harvesting
- Mechanism to acquire state inholdings

2. New wilderness (all from MAWG, with Shoal south added):

- All wilderness to be managed in accordance with the Wilderness Act and Wyoming Wilderness Act, without exception.
- Proposed wilderness totals 173,000 acres (increase of 6,000 acres from MAWG)
 - Proposed wilderness includes: o **Teton Wilderness additions** - Pacific-Angle - 11,238 Acres
 - Breccia - 1,190

o **Gros Ventre Wilderness additions**

- Grizzly Lake - 1,805
- Camp Creek - 3,019
- Boulder Creek - 4,883
- Shoal – 11,589

o **Jedediah Wilderness additions** (west slope of Tetons)

- Game Creek North Fork - 1,289
- Beard Beaver - 1,377
- Jackpine North-Boone - 13,499

o **New wilderness areas**

- Burnt Bacon - 49,815
- Green Fish - 39,302
- Mt. Leidy - 29,274
- Beaver Mountain - 5,619

3. Jackson Hole Conservation Areas (from MAWG, minus Palisades and south Shoal):

- Proposed JHCAs total 154,000 acres (decrease of 79,000 acres from MAWG1)
- Proposed JHCAs include: o Pacific Blackrock - 13,286 acres
 - o Camp Creek – 2,541 acres
 - o Munger - 9,638 acres
 - o Phillips Ridge - 9,946 acres
 - o Willow Creek–Grayback – 19,272 acres
 - o Mt Leidy / Spread Creek - Approx 100,000 acres
- Management per the JHCA language below.

4. Palisades WSA – continue to be managed as a WSA under the Wyoming Wilderness Act.

The MAWG proposal inadvertently excluded the Willow Creek-Grayback JHCA, which has been included here.

Jackson Hole Conservation Area Prescriptions

We recommend the designation of Jackson Hole Conservation Areas (JHCA) totaling approximately 154,000 acres. JHCA designation recognizes the outstanding wildlife, conservation, recreation, and other values of proposed JHCA lands. JHCAs should be managed according to the following prescriptions:

1. Purpose and management

• The purpose of the JHCAs are to conserve, protect, and enhance for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations the ecological, scenic, wildlife, recreational, cultural, historical, natural, educational, roadless and scientific resources of the JHCAs.

• The areas shall be managed to protect, conserve, and enhance the resources of the JHCAs, consistent with existing law and this legislation.

- Management shall be consistent with the JHCA purposes and only such uses as are consistent with the purposes are permitted.

- Forest Service shall be directed to establish new management plan within three years.

2.Habitat and resource conservation

- Commercial timber harvest shall be prohibited within JHCAs.

- Complete mineral withdrawal—oil and gas leasing or development and mineral extraction shall be prohibited within JHCAs.

- Dams, reservoirs, and transmission lines shall be prohibited within JHCAs.

- Nothing in the legislation shall alter the jurisdiction of the state with regards to managing fish and wildlife within the JHCAs.

3.Transportation system management

- No motorized vehicle roads or trails shall be constructed within JHCAs.

- Except as necessary for administration of the area or to protect health and safety, there shall be no temporary road constructed within JHCAs.

4. Recreation management

- Motorized and mechanized vehicles permitted on designated routes established by the management plan. Exceptions for snowmobiles (below), administration of the area, and to protect public health and safety.

- Snowmobiles permitted off designated routes, as authorized by the management plan.

- Existing heli-skiing may continue, consistent with the purposes of the JHCAs.

5. Commercial activities

- Commercial guiding services may be performed within JHCAs as necessary for realizing the purposes of the areas.

- Existing commercial heli-skiing may continue, consistent with the purposes of the JHCAs.

- Existing livestock grazing activities shall be permitted to continue in accordance with existing law and the purposes of the JHCAs.

- Grazing permits may be retired. The USFS shall accept the donation of valid existing leases or permits authorizing grazing activities within the JHCA and shall terminate the grazing permit or lease. The USFS shall ensure a permanent end to grazing on the lands covered by such permit or lease. If the land covered by the donated lease or permit is also covered by an existing valid lease or permit that is not donated, USFS shall reduce the authorized level of use to reflect the donation and to ensure a permanent reduction in the level of grazing authorized on that land.

6. JHCA boundaries, inholdings, and land exchanges

- JHCA boundaries should be established 100 feet from the edge of established roads and 1/2 mile from privately-owned lands.

- The USFS may acquire land or interests in land within or adjacent to JHCAs by donation, exchange or purchase from a willing seller.

- The USFS shall seek to complete an exchange of two parcels owned by the State of Wyoming located within the Bridger-Teton National Forest within two years after the legislation passes.

- Any lands acquired by the USFS within a JHCA shall be included in the JHCA.

Discussion between the Board and Lisa McGee & Dan Smitherman included outreach to Bonneville and Teton County Idaho Commissioners, differences between the original Mountain Athletes Working Group (MAWG) and modified MAWG, shift in votes for both MAWGs.

Discussion among the Board included Wilderness Study Areas have been stuck for 34 years, clarity of uses, move forward with legislative action, local influence of the management of Federal public lands, alternatives would be to take no action, consider the recommendation given in September, consider the recommendation presented today or to remand, to WPLI proposal, understanding and interpretation of WCCA guidelines & WPLI Charter, two part proposal, (1) exclude permanently oil and mineral withdrawal, timber withdrawal and permanent road construction, (2) alternatives from commissioner Vogelheim.

A motion was made by Paul Vogelheim and seconded by Greg Epstein to recognize as a resolution or as part of our WPLI recommendation, that all members of WPLI advisory committee unanimously agree that the Teton County public lands protection of wildlife is a priority and that there would be no new roads, no new timber harvesting, no new mineral extraction excepting gravel, no oil and gas exploration or development.

Public comment was given by Len Carlman-in support, , Mike Mielke-opposed, Kevin Meagher-opposed, Leslie Petersen-in support, Greg Buchko-opposed, Rob Hoff-opposed, Rob Kincade-opposed, John Resick-opposed, Stefan Fodor-opposed, Donna Clark-opposed, Jadian Pfaff-opposed, Danielle Raver-opposed, Scott Anderson-opposed, Leah Zemesnik-in support, Olivia Mielke-opposed, Ross Crandall-in support, John Toll-opposed, Kyle Petersen-opposed, Steve Disento-opposed, Tucker Offutt-opposed, Peggy diPasquale-in support, Travis McGill-opposed, Wade Kaufman-opposed, Joe Martinez-opposed, Kyle Stinson-opposed, John Flordo-opposed, Elizabeth Hale-in support, Andy Salter-in support, Kevin Kavanaugh-opposed, Georgie Stanley-in support, Bobby Griffith-in support, Franz Camezind-in support, Norris Brown-opposed, Taylor Jones-opposed, Paul Smith-opposed, Jesse Combs-opposed,

Douglas Sobey-in support, Tony Ferlisi-opposed, Scott Carpenter-opposed, Anne Harvey-in support, Freedom Lennon-opposed, Marcia Kunstel-in support, Jeremy Larson-opposed, Syllas Shrager-opposed, Hank Phibbs-in support, Wes Gardner-opposed, Dan Adams-opposed, Jay Mentaberry-opposed, Duncan McLaughlin-in support, Ross Ramage-opposed, Sarah Sturges-in support, Jonathan Schick-opposed, Brian Selmer-opposed, Rob Ott-opposed Donald singer-in support, Hal Wheeler-opposed, Andrew Whiteford-opposed, Jesse Freitag-opposed.

The meeting recessed at 11:30am and reconvened at 11:37am.

Commissioner Vogelheim moved to amend the existing motion and Commissioner Epstein seconded to add no new commercial harvesting (allow for healthy forest initiatives).

Discussion among the Board included amend the motion to include no new commercial timber harvesting, sustainable or strategic fuels mitigation

A motion was made by Paul Vogelheim and seconded by Greg Epstein to recognize as a resolution or as part of our WPLI recommendation, that all members of WPLI advisory committee unanimously agree that the Teton County public lands protection of wildlife is a priority and that there would be no new roads, no new commercial timber harvesting (allow for healthy forest initiative), no new mineral extraction excepting gravel, no oil and gas exploration and or development. Chair Newcomb called for a vote. The vote showed all in favor and the motion carried.

Discussion among the Board included the process and the 2/3 majority vote, recognizing the privilege and importance of a decision like this, striving for consensus, in support of the process, provide clarity for these two wilderness study areas in our community, process produced two separate outcomes include the previous MAWG and the New Middle Ground Proposal, potential remand-(a) is there energy within the WPLI committee to continue & (b) how would we come up something unanimous, look at a modified MAWG to try and gather more people in support, preference would be to stick with a full consensus process, Shoal Creek and the JHCA designation, work with the user groups, creating a super committee, timeline submitting the WPLI proposal, the reality of moving something forward is very important to consider, coexisting together and coexisting with our lands, WCCA guidelines, put forward the previous motion as Teton County's proposal.

A motion was made by Commissioner Macker and seconded by Commissioner Rhea to continue this item to next Tuesday October 16, 2018 Regular Meeting Vice-Chair Macker called for a vote. The vote showed all in favor and the motion carried. Epstein and Newcomb opposed

ADJOURN

A motion was made by Commissioner Macker and seconded by Commissioner Epstein to adjourn. Vice-Chair Macker called for the vote. The vote showed all in favor and the motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 12:20pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kassie Hansen
Deputy County Clerk

TETON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Mark Newcomb, Chair

Natalia D Macker, Vice-Chair

Greg Epstein

Paul Vogelheim

ATTEST:

Kathleen "Smokey" Rhea

Sherry L. Daigle, County Clerk