Montana Association of Planners Conference
Missoula, Montana
September 2010

Integrating Wildlife into Land Use Planning

CONSERVATION PRACTICES
Landscape Scale Planning

Priority Linkage Assessment

CROWN OF THE CONTINENT

American Wildlands - Spring 2009
Vs. County Level Planning

**BLACKFOOT - CLEARWATER**

**Geographic Boundary**

The Blackfoot Clearwater linkage area is located at the crossroads of many rivers, mountain ranges and highways. The Garnet Range is in the south and the Seeley-Swan valley and its chain of lakes is to the north. The Gold Creek area and Rattlesnake Mountains are in the west and the southern end of the Bob Marshall Wilderness is to the east. The linkage spans from the Greenough area and Blanchard Creek in the east to Monture Hill and Monture Creek in the west. Highways 200 and 83 cross through the linkage area and meet at Clearwater Junction. The Blackfoot and Clearwater rivers also meet at Clearwater Junction.

**Importance of Linkage Area**

The Blackfoot-Clearwater linkage offers regional connectivity between several mountain ranges: the Garnets, Rattlesnakes, Missoula, and Bob Marshall Wilderness. There are major riparian connections between the Blackfoot and Clearwater rivers, as well as numerous streams. The linkage area contains the Blackfoot-Clearwater Wildlife Management Area, which is an important link for wildlife movement. The linkage area offers opportunities for grizzly expansion to the south. Biologists gave the Blackfoot-Clearwater linkage area a high priority rating.

**Ecological Setting**

This linkage includes the middle Blackfoot River and its confluence with the Clearwater River. Highways 83 and 200 pass through the linkage. Scattered residential development occurs along both highways, along with the small communities of Greenough, Sunset, and Clearwater. Large areas of irrigated agricultural fields occur in the lower Clearwater and Blackfoot valleys. A unique area of pothole wetlands and small lakes occupy glacial outwash at the mouth of Monture Creek above Clearwater. Forested areas outside of river valleys have sustained wide-wid timber harvest, and roads are common throughout the linkage. South-facing slopes at lower elevations are sparcely forested. Douglas-fir (Pseudotsuga menziesii) and ponderosa pine (Pinus ponderosa) are the dominant species with scattered patches of lodgepole (P. contorta). Elevation in this link ranges from 3,800 feet to 6,000 feet.

**Wildlife**

There is good cover for wildlife movement between Greenough and Clearwater Junction. Riparian areas provide habitat for resident, migratory, and seasonal movement by mule deer and elk. The area north of Clearwater Junction contains unique habitat. Elk and deer move east-west across Highway 83 north of Clearwater Junction. There is a topographic funnel for ungulate movement from Lost Horse and Vau Creeks to the Game Range. Grizzly bear cubs from Greenough area have been observed in the linkage. There are areas of concentrated grizzly bears, black bears, mountain wolves, and lynx between Clearwater Junction and Seeley Lake.

**Conservation Threats**

The Blackfoot-Clearwater area is grand subdivisions threaten wildlife connectivity in the linkage area. It is a large subdivision proposal being...
Site vs. Cumulative Impacts
5 Land Use Planning

Inclusion Points for Wildlife

1. Long Range Vision
2. Plan Making
3. Regulations
4. Development Project Review
5. Public Investments
Point 1: Long Range Vision

Answers:

• What do we treasure about where we live?

• What concerns do we have for the future?

• What do we want to change about where we live?

• What do we want our community to be like in 20 years?
2. Plan Making.....The Minimum

Preserve and enhance critical wildlife habitat and river and stream corridors throughout the county.
Point 2: Plan Making...Better

The County’s wildlife and scenic resources are a local and national treasure, and, therefore, the community recognizes a stewardship responsibility for their protection. Future development in Teton County will take place in this context. Therefore the County will:

– Preserve and protect wildlife habitat, including continuous migration corridors.
– Protect environmentally sensitive and physically unsafe areas from development.
– Encourage restoration of environmentally degraded areas.
Point 2: Plan Making
Teton County, WY Wildlife Goals

1. Crucial winter range for elk, moose, and mule deer.

2. Migration routes and corridors for ungulates.

3. Nesting areas for bald eagles and endangered raptors.

4. Spawning areas for Snake River cutthroat trout.

5. Major riparian corridors such as the Snake & Gros Venture which contain a multitude of habitat variables.
Point 3: Regulatory Framework
Wildlife Development Standards

- Vegetation Protection
- Avoidance
- Use limitations
- Pet restrictions
- Lighting (dark sky)
- Timing restrictions
- Fencing types
- Clustering
- Conflict avoidance
3. Regulatory Framework: Teton County, WY N.R.O

- EA before application
- Pre application meetings
- Habitat definitions
- Habitat priority rankings
- Species habitat priorities
- Avoidance mitigation
- Habitat enhancement (on and off site) 2 to 1 ratio for acreage
# Point 3: Regulatory Framework

Teton County, WY N.R.O
3. Regulations: Teton County NRO

b. **Elk migrate between summer range and winter range.** Elk are known as grazers and rely primarily on grasses and some shrubs for forage. Because of their diet and the climate in Teton County, elk are migratory animals, moving between summer ranges and winter habitat.

B. Elk

1. **Crucial elk migration routes.** No development shall occur within crucial elk migration routes, unless the developer can demonstrate that the development can be located in such a way that it will not detrimentally effect the ability of elk to migrate from their summer ranges to their crucial winter ranges.
Point 3: Regulatory Framework:
Bozeman Pass
Wildlife Corridor Overlay Zone
1. Development of BZP Working Group (AWL)
2. Identification of probable wildlife corridors on the pass (BZPWG)
3. Launch of Major Land Conservation Project (TPL & GVLT)
4. Trail Creek Private Land Protection (PCEC)

1. Identification of High Roadkill Areas (CERI)
2. Funds from Congress for the BZP Wildlife Channelization Project (MDT)
3. Remote Camera Monitoring of Culverts (CERI)

Completion of the Regional Corridors of Life Model (AWL)
Private Conservation Easement (Gertrude Baker, GVLT)
BZP Wildlife Linkage and Highway Safety Study (CERI)

BZP Wildlife Corridor Identification Project (AWL & CERI)

Wildlife Fencing Evaluation Study (CERI, WTI, MDT)

Public Lands Activity (AWL, GNF, GYC, TPL)

Roadkill Hotspot GIS Analysis (CERI)

Donation of Land Easement for Education (GVLT, MOSS)

Three-year Post-fencing Monitoring Project (WTI, MDT, CERI)

Initiation of BZP Safe Passages Campaign
1. Land Purchase (TPL)
2. Protection of Rock Climbing Areas (Southwest Montana Climber's Coalition)

1. Citizen-based Zoning Passed for BZP Area (Private Citizens, Sonoran, GYC)
2. Initiation of Bear Canyon Fencing Construction (MDT)
3. Conservation Easement Purchase (TPL & GVLT)

AWL = American Wildlands  
BZPWG = Bozeman Pass Working Group  
CERI = Craighead Environmental Research Institute  
GVLT = Gallatin Valley Land Trust  
GVC = Greater Yellowstone Coalition  
MDT = Montana Department of Transportation  
MOSS = Montana Outdoor Science School  
PCEC = Park County Environmental Council  
TPL = Trust for Public Lands  
WTI = Western Transportation Institute
3. Regulations: Bozeman Pass Zoning

REVISED BOZEMAN PASS ZONING REGULATION

June 1, 2005 draft

Advisory Committee:
Gray Davidson, Co-Chair, Kelly Canyon
Jennifer Read, Co-Chair, Jackson Creek
Nona Chambers, Secretary, Chestnut
Jeanne Eggert, Treasurer, Jackson Creek
Hugo Schmidt, Moffit Gulch
Martha Biel, Sawmill Road
Tina Visscher, Kelly Canyon
Tim Schaub, Kelly Canyon
Deb Kmon Davidson, Kelly Canyon
SECTION 11-106: PROTECTION OF WILDLIFE HABITAT AREAS

A. PURPOSE. The natural and scenic resources in Gunnison County, including wildlife, are essential components of the County’s economic base and help to establish the rural character of the County. Tourists visit and recreate in Gunnison County because of the quality of these natural resources, including the abundance of wildlife species found in the area. These resources are also a basic element of the quality of life for residents of Gunnison County. The standards in this Section are intended to protect sensitive wildlife habitat areas, to protect biological field research, and to ensure that wildlife remains a part of Gunnison County’s natural environment for generations to come. In addition, this Section is designed to:

1. SUSTAIN AND ENHANCE EXISTING POPULATIONS OF GUNNISON SAGE-GROUSE. Sustain and enhance survival of the Gunnison Sage-grouse.

2. PRECLUDE THE NEED TO LIST, OR MINIMIZE THE IMPACT OF LISTING OF GUNNISON SAGE-GROUSE AS CANDIDATE SPECIES. Help implement an effective strategy and programs that will preclude the need to list, or minimize the impact of listing of the Gunnison Sage-grouse as a candidate for threatened or endangered status pursuant to the *Endangered Species Act of 1973*, or at a minimum, demonstrate the intent of Gunnison County to preserve and protect habitat that will lessen the impact if listing does occur.

Gunnison County Planning Department, Gunnison, CO

Request for Pre-Application Conference Concerning Potential Development in Gunnison County Sage-grouse Occupied Habitat

DATE RECEIVED: ____/____/____
Point 5: Public Investments
Transportation

The People’s Way US 93
Point 5: Public Investments

Land Acquisition

Game Trail Subdivision
Elk Bench Corridor

Crestone-Baca Land Trust
Elk Migration Corridor
THE MORONGO BASIN, CA CASE STUDY
Working together “basin-wise” to protect what we value as we plan for growth
PARTNERS

LOCAL GOVERNMENT
• County of San Bernardino
• City of Twentynine Palms
• Town of Yucca Valley
• Morongo Valley Community Services District
• Joshua Tree Municipal Advisory Council

NON PROFIT
• Basin Wide Foundation
• Mojave Desert Land Trust
• Morongo Basin Conservation Association
• National Parks Conservation Association
• Morongo Basin Property Association
• Sonoran Institute
• The Wildlands Conservancy

WATER DISTRICTS
• Hi Desert Water District
• Joshua Basin Water District
• Bighorn-Desert View Water Agency

LAND & RESOURCE MANAGERS
• CA Department of Fish & Game
• Bureau of Land Management
• National Park Service, Joshua Tree National Park
• United States Fish & Wildlife Service
• United States Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center

BUSINESS & EDUCATION
• Building Industry Association, Morongo Basin Chapter
• Copper Mountain College
Buffers and Separators
- Buffers between communities
- Protect JTNP mission through compatible land uses
- Protect Base from encroachment

Connectivity
- Protect ecological linkages and wildlife habitat
- Protect biologically or ecologically critical areas
- Regional network of trails and open space

Community Values
- Quality of Life and protection of “community character”
- Economic Development
- Support City, County & Town Missions

Water Quality and Quantity
- Protect washes and watersheds
- Protect native groundcover and enhance infiltration
### Conservation Priority Setting Workshops

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**Legend**
- Between N+ Y+ and N+ Y+ refers to areas within the corridor.
- Less than 1 km from the corridor boundary.
- Greater than 1 km from the corridor boundary.
- Open space.
- Less than 1 km from corridor boundary.
- Greater than 1 km from corridor boundary.
- Less than 1 km from urban development.
- Greater than 1 km from urban development.
- Land/areas where corridor work is not required.
- Land/areas where corridor work is required.
Wildlife Friendly Ordinances

Vegetation Protection
Avoidance
Use limitations
Pet restrictions
Dark Sky Lighting
Timing restrictions
Fencing types
Setbacks
Enviro. Assessments
Watershed Protection
Hillside & Native Plant Protection
Transportation Mitigation
Public Investments

Nolina Peak Conservation Campaign to Preserve 639 Acres near Joshua Tree
Planning for People and Wildlife Workshop

PLEASE JOIN US!
August 3—4, 2009
The Finlen Hotel, Butte MT

A workshop for elected officials, county planners and planning board members, wildlife managers, rural landowners and other citizens to discuss the impacts of growth and effective planning methods to conserve the future of Montana’s fish and wildlife legacy.

“The movement for the conservation of wildlife and the larger movement for the conservation of all our natural resources are essentially democratic in spirit, purpose, and method.”

Theodore Roosevelt
THE SONORAN INSTITUTE

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