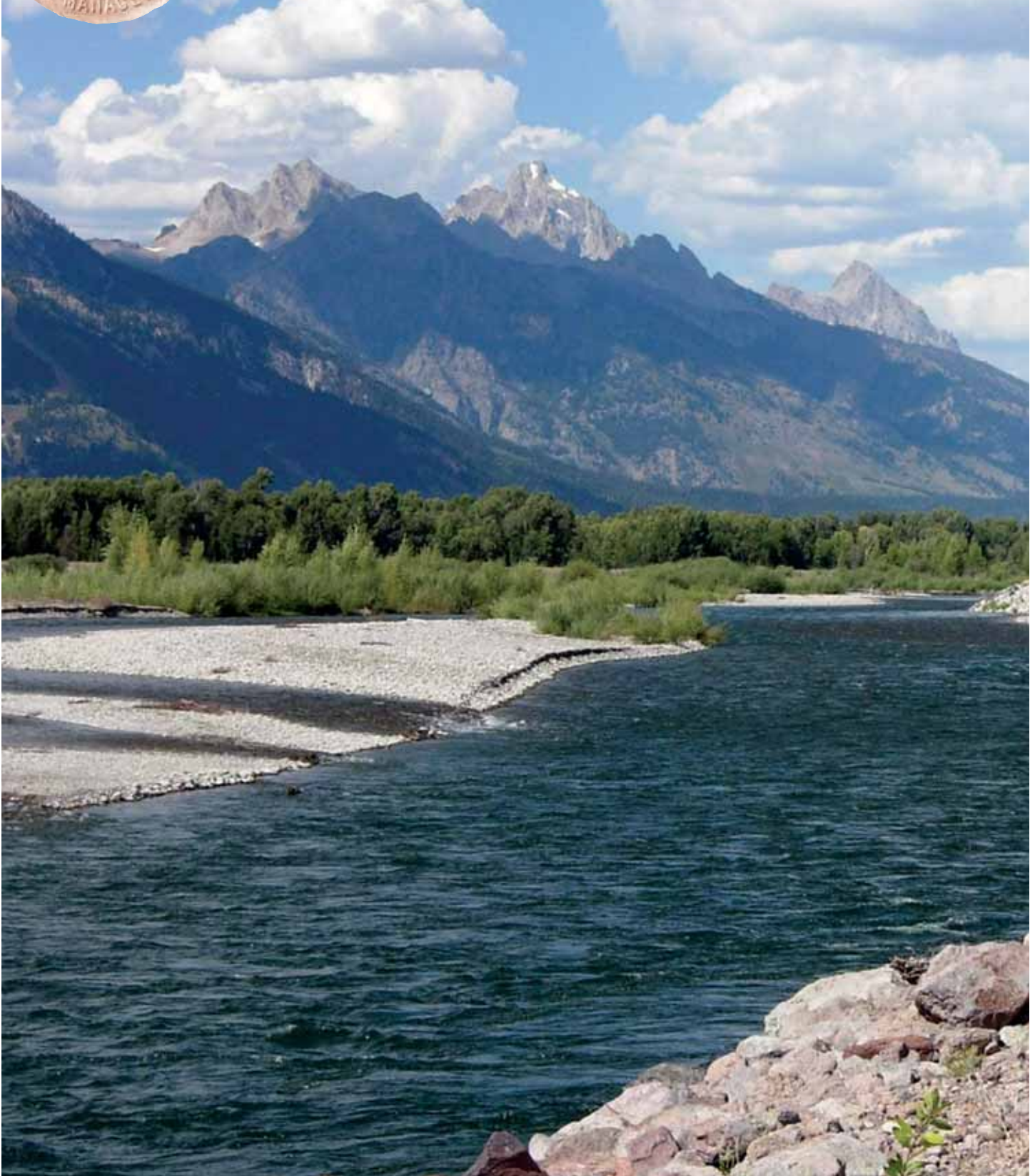




SNAKE RIVER CORRIDOR MANAGEMENT/OWNERSHIP TRANSFER PLAN

NOVEMBER 2008



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November 2008

Prepared for:

Bureau of Land Management - Pinedale Field Office

Snake River Fund

Bridger-Teton National Forest

Teton County

Wyoming Game and Fish Commission

Jackson Hole Land Trust

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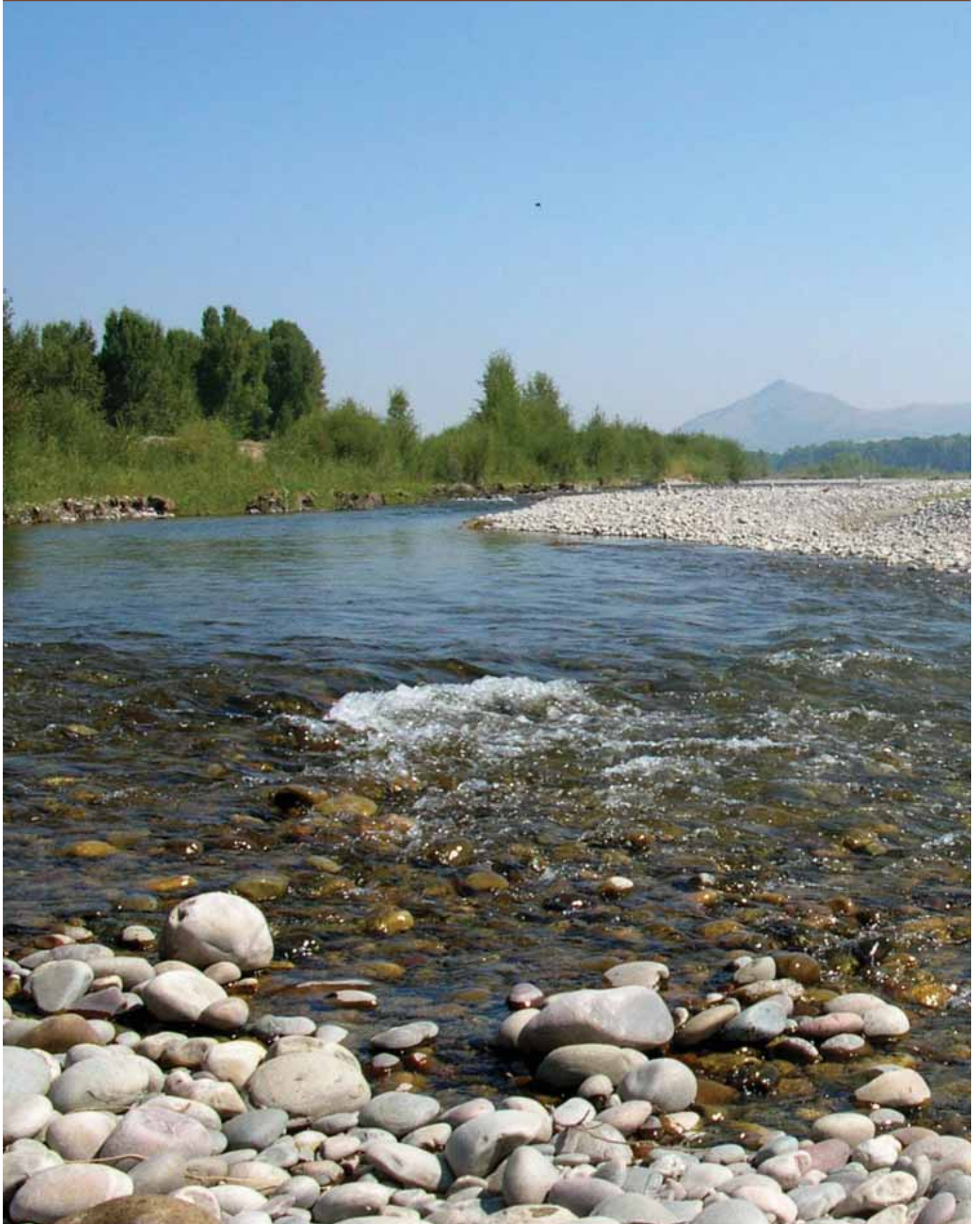
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INTRODUCTION



INTRODUCTION



PROJECT BACKGROUND

The original Jackson Hole land surveys in the late 1800s ended at “meander lines” established at the outer banks of the Snake River. At that time, the Snake River consisted of braided channels that were a mile or more wide in some areas. Lands within the meander lines were omitted from the official U.S. survey and remained in public ownership. In the 1950s, levee construction along the Snake River separated many omitted lands from the active channel. Most of these lands reverted to the adjacent private landowners after litigation in the 1970s and 1980s. A series of parcels that were not titled to adjacent landowners remain in the public domain, under the ownership and management of the Bureau of Land Management.



In 1999, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) initiated a process to develop a Snake River Resource Management Plan (RMP) to provide a comprehensive and environmentally adequate framework for managing and allocating uses of the 24 scattered parcels (totaling about 1,200 acres) along the Snake River. In April 2004, the BLM issued its Record of Decision (ROD). Through the ROD, the BLM adopted the Snake River RMP, which provides for the disposal of the parcels from BLM administration, while ensuring that the lands remain in public ownership and available for recreation, public access, open space, and wildlife habitat.

PURPOSE OF THIS PLAN

The purpose of this plan is to provide the Snake River Task Force with the information and tools to initiate the transfer of BLM parcels to other entities, and a framework for the long-term management of these parcels as an interconnected network of public lands along the Snake River.

- The *Introduction* section includes background information that is relevant to the long-term ownership and management of the BLM parcels.
- The *Parcel Analysis* section provides a detailed summary of the parcels including resource values, management issues, and existing uses.
- The *Planning Process* section provides a summary of efforts to engage individual and group stakeholders and the public, as well as the feedback obtained from those meetings.
- The final recommendations for the long-term ownership and management of the BLM parcels, as well as key steps to implement those recommendations are included in the *Implementation Recommendations* section.
- More information on Task Force member organizations, a description of a conceptual river camp program, estimated capital and management unit costs, river corridor case studies, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for cooperative management, and Parcel Analysis Report on compact disc (CD) are included as appendices.





The information provided in this report is intended to provide a basis for long-term ownership and management recommendations. As such, this report does not contain detailed information about specific resources. Detailed resource information for each parcel was documented in the Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Snake River RMP, and can be obtained from the BLM office in Pinedale, Wyoming.

PLANNING AREA

This plan is focused on the BLM-owned parcels along the Snake River and Gros Ventre River between Grand Teton National Park and South Park Bridge (U.S. Highway 89/191). The planning area is located within Teton County, Wyoming. There are 18 non-contiguous BLM parcels along about 20 miles of the Snake River.

Parcel Boundaries and Mapping

Parcel mapping for this planning process was provided by the BLM. Considering the unusual circumstances under which these parcels were established, and the fact that parcel boundaries change over time as the Snake River meanders through its floodplain, there are discrepancies between various map sources over the exact boundary and shape of some of these parcels.

This planning effort used the same parcel map boundaries that were used during the Snake River RMP process. Many of the parcels have been surveyed by the BLM and/or private surveyors; others have not. For the purposes of this plan, it is assumed that this BLM mapping is reasonably accurate and is sufficient to direct ownership and management recommendations for each parcel. However, mapping discrepancies do exist, so the exact parcel boundaries shown on the maps in the plan are for planning purposes only and should not be relied upon for an accurate delineation of property boundaries.

SUMMARY OF THE SNAKE RIVER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN PROCESS

The BLM initiated the Snake River RMP process in 1999, with a Scoping Letter and Notice of Intent. Preliminary management alternatives were developed in 2002, and a Draft EIS was released for public review in 2003. A public meeting was conducted in January 2000, and a formal hearing was conducted in March 2003. BLM personnel also met formally and informally with many members of the outfitting and ranching industries and with the general public. The BLM received 68 individual comment letters and 290 form letters about the Draft EIS, and two individuals gave testimony at the public hearing.

Based on the comments received on the Draft EIS, the BLM completed the Final EIS for the Snake River RMP in September 2003. The Proposed Plan that was outlined in the Final EIS was formally adopted by the BLM in April 2004



in a ROD. The Snake River RMP provides for the disposal of the parcels from BLM administration, while ensuring that the lands remain in public ownership and available for recreation, public access, open space, and wildlife habitat (BLM 2003; BLM 2004).



Snake River Task Force

In 2004, a Task Force was established to develop an Implementation Plan for the Record of Decision that reflects the interests, concerns and decisions of the participating parties, and considers public sentiment. Task Force members include:

- *Bureau of Land Management - Pinedale Field Office*
- *Snake River Fund*
- *Bridger-Teton National Forest*
- *Teton County*
- *Wyoming Game and Fish Commission*
- *Jackson Hole Land Trust*

Each Task Force member has an interest in the management of the recreational, cultural, and natural resources of Teton County and is participating in a number of planning efforts with other interested agencies and individuals. In particular reference to the Snake River planning area, each Task Force member has a vested interest in a cooperative and seamless

management model. In an effort to perpetuate this management model, each member of the Task Force agreed to lend its expertise to the project, as outlined in a Memorandum of Understanding. Each Task Force member organization is described in more detail in Appendix A.

SUMMARY OF THIS PLANNING PROCESS

Preliminary Parcel Analysis Report

As a first step toward eventual ownership and management recommendations, the Task Force developed a Preliminary Parcel Analysis Report that provided a detailed summary of the parcels including resource values, management issues, and existing uses. The information provided in the report was used to provide a basis for long-term ownership and management recommendations. As such, the report did not contain detailed information about specific resources. Detailed resource information for each parcel was documented in the Final EIS for the Snake River RMP, and can be obtained from the BLM office in Pinedale, Wyoming. This report also includes preliminary recommendations for the ownership and management of each parcel. These preliminary recommendations were included to direct feedback and discussion among Task Force members, key stakeholders, and the general public.





Public Input

During the planning process, the Task Force solicited comments on the Preliminary Parcel Analysis Report through a number of avenues. The informal public comment period began on October 2, 2006 with individual landowner meetings, continued with stakeholder group meetings from October 16 to October 21, 2006 and concluded on October 26, 2006 with the deadline for receipt of written comments. The Task Force held one public open house meeting in Jackson, Wyoming on October 19, 2006 to solicit issues about the project and comments on the Preliminary Parcel Analysis Report from the public.

The Task Force published a public notice announcing the public open house and soliciting participation in the planning process

in The Jackson Hole News & Guide. The Task Force also sent a press release to the paper and posted the Preliminary Parcel Analysis Report on the Snake River Fund's website (www.snakeriverfund.org). The public notice was also distributed to about 20 additional public locations within Jackson. This announcement provided information on the Snake River Corridor Ownership/Management Transfer Plan, background from the BLM's Snake River RMP, and the public open house meeting.

During the course of the public and stakeholder meeting process, the Task Force received comments from about 30 individuals. Comments were consolidated and grouped by topic area. Based on the issues and recommendations identified in the public and stakeholder meeting process, several key issues were identified:

- River camps
- Signage
- Current use by outfitters
- River management from Wilson Bridge to South Park Bridge
- Considerations for South Park development

Information gathered during the public- and stakeholder-meeting process regarding some issues was used to assist the Task Force to finalize the Parcel Analysis Report (Appendix F) and in the development of this plan. Other issues, such as river management, will need to be addressed in the future by the Task Force.

PLANNING CONTEXT



PLANNING CONTEXT

TETON COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Teton County's community character, which is largely defined by its natural and scenic resources, is the foundation of the economy and the basis for over half of the jobs in both the Town of Jackson and Teton County. Teton County's Land Development Regulations, which have the purpose of implementing the Comprehensive Plan, establish the zoning districts and zoning district overlays that regulate the type and intensity of land uses within Teton County. Several of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) parcels fall in either one or both of the overlay districts (described below) that have the purpose of protecting natural and scenic resources.

Natural Resources Overlay District

The boundaries of the Natural Resources Overlay District have been adopted as part of the Land Development Regulations. Development is to be designed to protect the areas wildlife need to survive; therefore, development is to be kept outside of the Natural Resources Overlay District, as much as possible.

The objective of the Natural Resources Overlay District is to protect:

- Migration routes and crucial winter ranges of elk
- Migration routes and crucial winter ranges of mule deer
- Crucial winter habitat of moose
- Nesting areas and winter habitat of trumpeter swans
- Spawning areas of cutthroat trout
- Nesting areas and crucial winter habitat of bald eagles

Scenic Resources Overlay District

The boundaries of the Scenic Resources Overlay District have been adopted as part of these Land Development Regulations. The purpose of the Scenic Resources Overlay District is to preserve

and maintain Teton County's most frequently viewed scenic resources that are important to both its character and economy.

NATURAL RESOURCE OVERVIEW

Vegetation Communities

Most of the vegetated portions of the parcels consist of a narrowleaf cottonwood riparian complex, which is dominated by a mosaic of cottonwood forests, open meadows, and wetlands. The cottonwood forests are typically dominated by mature, even-aged stands of narrowleaf cottonwood, interspersed with dense patches of willows, and occasional occurrences of spruce. The forest understory generally consists of a variety of grasses, forbs, and small shrubs. Small shrubs such as willow and mountain alder dominate the vegetation on the stable gravel bars within the levee system along the Snake River. Outside of the levees, wetlands are supported by irrigation diversions and numerous spring-fed creeks and ponds (BLM 2003; USACE 2000).





Vegetation Condition

The planning area was once characterized by an abundance of diverse riparian vegetative habitats. Wooded islands, transitioning to riparian and wetland communities were a vital component of the highly productive braided-channel riverine environment. Construction of the levee system through most river reaches in the planning area has resulted in erosion, degradation, and in many cases destruction of these island habitats (USACE 2000).

Many of the mature cottonwood forests in the planning area are predicted to degrade over time due to a lack of the overbank flooding needed for regeneration. Long-term replacement of these stands depends on periodic flooding in the future (BLM 2003).

Noxious Weeds

Human and livestock disturbances, combined with a lack of successful regeneration of native vegetation, have contributed to noxious weed infestations along the Snake River corridor. Noxious weeds common along the corridor include spotted knapweed, Dalmatian toadflax, houndstongue, Canada thistle, and musk thistle (BLM 2003). Clearing land for houses, highways, utility lines, and levees, as well as high-use travel or recreation activities has opened up areas to weed invasion. In the planning area, weed patches are concentrated along the levees, access roads, major highways, and on areas disturbed by natural river processes.

Significant Wildlife Habitat

The Snake River riparian corridor is considered to be extremely important habitat for a diversity of wildlife species. Some of the significant wildlife species that pertain to this planning effort include bald eagle, elk, and moose.

Bald Eagle

The combination of mature cottonwood forests and a reliable source of prey has made the Snake River riparian corridor an exceptionally productive area for bald eagles. The Snake River corridor has been known to support a winter population of between 40 and 60 birds, which includes both year-round residents and migrants (BLM 2003).

The Greater Yellowstone Bald Eagle Management Plan (GYEWT 1983) establishes three management zones and criteria based on proximity to nests. Each zone is defined here as a background reference for the specific parcel analyses:

- **Zone 1 - Occupied Nesting Area:** Area within a ½ mile radius of an occupied nest. Should allow only minimum human activity during the nesting season (between February 1 and August 15), and light human activity the remainder of the year. Management actions should emphasize maintaining or enhancing bald eagle habitat.

BLM parcel 21 is within Zone 1, along with portions of parcel 15/16.



- **Zone 2 - Primary Use Area:** Area between ½ mile and 1 mile from an active nest and alternate nests. Should allow light human activity during the nesting season, and moderate levels of activity at other times. Management actions should be designed to ensure bald eagle habitat is not degraded.

BLM parcels that are entirely or partially within Zone 2 include parcels 7, 9/10, 15/16, 17/18, 23, and 24.

- **Zone 3 - Home Range Area:** Potential foraging habitat within 2.5 miles of an active nest and alternate nests. The primary purpose of this zone is to maintain adequate foraging conditions and aid in maintaining the integrity of Zones 1 and 2. Should not allow more than moderate human activity. Management actions should not degrade the availability of prey, and should ensure that important habitat components (e.g., perch trees and snags, visual screening from human use areas, and potential nest sites) are maintained.

Several BLM parcels (3, 6, 9/10, 11, 12, 17/18, 19, 23, and 24) are partially or completely within Zone 3.

- **Zone 4 - Communal Winter Roost Protection Area:** Area within 1 mile of a communal winter roost. Applicable between November 1 and April 1. Ground-disturbing activities should be restricted within ½ mile of communal winter roost sites year-round.

No BLM parcels in the planning area within Zone 4.

Elk

The Jackson Hole area supports one of the largest elk herds in North America, with over 13,000 animals. Over half of these animals migrate to the winter range on the National Elk Refuge (north of Jackson), while the remainder of the herd winters in Grand Teton National Park, on state feedgrounds, and in other areas. The Wyoming Game and Fish Department operates the South Park Feedground along the north bank of the Snake River in the southern portion of the planning area. Fall migrations usually begin in October or November and end in mid-December (USFWS 2005).

While most of the elk migration occurs to the north and east of the Snake River corridor, some



of the Snake River parcels do support elk migration. Areas to the north of the Wilson Bridge may support elk migrations between Grand Teton National Park and the National Elk Refuge. Some of the larger parcels to the south of the Wilson Bridge contribute to elk migrations between summer range to the west of the Snake River and the South Park Feedground (BLM 2003; Miller pers. comm. 2006).

Moose

The Snake River corridor supports a year-round population of moose along the river and nearby creek bottoms. The population increases in the winter as moose migrate from higher elevations. The entire Snake River planning area is considered by the Wyoming Game and Fish Department to be critical winter range for moose (BLM 2000).

Other Wildlife

In addition to the specific species described above, the Snake River corridor is known to support over 150 species of birds (including waterfowl, raptors, and passerines), a variety of small mammals, and several reptiles and amphibians (USACE 2000). The aquatic environment supports the indigenous fine-spotted cutthroat trout, which is the main attraction for anglers in the area (BLM 2004).



Snake River Levee System

Background

The Snake River levee system began construction in the 1950s. The first round of publicly constructed levees (the “Federal Levees”) was completed in 1964. Additional public levees in the southern portion of the planning area were initiated in the 1980s and were completed in the late 1990s. Currently, 24.5 miles of levees occur along the Snake and Gros Ventre Rivers between Moose and South Park Bridge. The distance between the levees ranges between 1,000 and 1,600 feet, compared to the natural meanders of between 1,000 and 4,000 feet that existed prior to levee construction (USACE 2000).

In 2000, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers completed a study to investigate the feasibility of restoring fish and wildlife habitat that was lost as a result of construction, operation, and maintenance of levees (USACE 2000). A demonstration project area immediately upstream of the Wilson Bridge has been completed. Additional restoration work is still in the planning stages (Barney pers. comm. 2006).

Ongoing Levee Maintenance

Levee inspection and maintenance is conducted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in partnership with Teton County. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is ultimately responsible for maintenance of the levee system. A major levee inspection effort is conducted each year at the beginning of July (following the peak runoff

period), while a network of “levee watchers” inspects local areas on a daily basis during the runoff season. Non-emergency levee repairs are usually conducted in September (Barney pers. comm. 2006).

Ownership and Public Access

Most of the levees along the Snake River are located on Teton County easements over private land. Some of the levees, including those near the Wilson Bridge, are popular for recreational use (e.g., walking, running, horseback riding, biking, and fishing access). Legal public access to levees varies between locations and is not guaranteed on all levees.

Existing Recreational Use

The Snake River planning area supports a broad range of both river-based and land-based recreational uses. General recreational uses and popular recreation areas are described below, while particular uses on individual BLM parcels are described in detail in the individual parcel analysis.

River Access

Restricted public use is allowed on most of the private lands in the Snake River channel through recreational easements. This access does not extend outside the river levees; in most cases it does not even include the levees themselves. The recreational easements do not provide increased access to the river, but rather a greater range of activities for the public on the river. The easements allow only very specific uses of the river on private lands, including floating, fishing, wading, hiking, and picnicking. Unlike most areas



in Wyoming, these activities are allowed in the river channel where the underlying surface is private land. Most notably, boats can be anchored for fishing in these areas. Other uses (i.e., camping, building fires, and hunting) are prohibited on the easements.

Boating

Private and commercial boating is a very popular use of the Snake River through the planning area. Most of the boating activity occurs between April and October, and generally includes float fishing and rafting.



Existing Boat Ramp Facilities

Boating in the planning area is supported by three public boat ramps at Moose (within Grand Teton National Park), the Wilson Bridge, and the South Park Bridge. There are also several private boat landings that are used by individual property owners and commercial outfitters. Details of the existing public facilities are as follows:

- **Moose Boat Ramp:** Paved boat ramp and parking area located immediately east of the Moose Visitor Center and Grand Teton National Park Headquarters. Includes rest room and trash facilities.
- **Wilson Bridge:** Unpaved boat ramp located immediately north of the Wyoming Highway 22 bridge over the Snake River near the Town of Wilson. Includes rest room and trash facilities. Limited parking is available along the access road and near the boat ramp. Most of the facilities are located on BLM parcel 13,

while access between the levee and the Snake River is provided by a recreation access easement.

- **South Park:** The Wyoming Game and Fish Department provides boating access to the Von Gontard's Landing through a lease on private lands. The landing is on the north bank of the Snake River, under the existing highway bridge. Portable toilets and limited parking are available at this site.

Moose to Wilson Bridge

This 14-mile reach of the Snake River, which is accessed from the Moose boat ramp, is regulated by the National Park Service. Private boaters must have a permit issued by the National Park Service, while commercial floating is limited to a few approved concessionaires (NPS 2006). There are no limitations on the number of private floating permits issued, and a permit may be issued for a day or for the season.

Wilson Bridge to South Park Bridge

This 10.5-mile reach of the river is accessed from the Wilson Bridge boat ramp. It is used by both private and commercial floaters, and does not require any kind of permit. Up to 60 boats per day are estimated to float this reach of the river, amounting to over 25,000 people per floating season (BLM 2004). The Snake River Fund, in cooperation with the BLM maintains the facilities at the Wilson Bridge boat ramp.

Below South Park Bridge

The Bridger-Teton National Forest administers 25 miles of the Snake River below the South Park boat ramp. Large, non-commercial groups



(greater than 15 persons) are required to obtain a permit. Commercial outfitters are permitted under a separate system by Bridger-Teton National Forest. Small, private boaters are currently not regulated. Instead, voluntary donations to the Snake River Fund are used to maintain and improve public access facilities along the river (BTNF 2006).

Fishing

The Snake River through the planning area is a popular destination for fly-fishing from shore or by boat. The Wyoming Game and Fish Department classifies the river as a blue-ribbon trout stream of national importance. The most common and most sought-after fish species is the fine-spotted cutthroat trout.

Fishing Access

Fishing access along the Snake River through the planning area is generally limited to major road crossings, including Moose Junction in Grand Teton National Park, the Wilson Bridge, and the South Park Bridge. The levees both upstream and downstream of the Wilson Bridge are popular for walk-in fishing access. Other public fishing access points include BLM parcel 23, and the Wyoming Game and Fish Department's South Park Wildlife Habitat Management Area.



Land-Based Recreation

Where public access is available or not specifically excluded by fences, portions of the levee system are very popular for walking, running, biking, horseback riding, cross-country skiing, and

snowshoeing. Motorized recreation does occur along the levees and on some of the BLM parcels, but it is fairly uncommon. Most of the land-based recreational use is concentrated around the Wilson Bridge, though it is also apparent elsewhere along the river. The publicly accessible levees are also used to access some of the BLM parcels. Parcel-specific uses are described in the individual parcel analysis sections that follow.

In the Wilson Bridge area, public access and parking on the east bank of the river is provided at Emily Stevens Park, which is owned and managed by Teton County. On the west bank of the river, public access and parking are provided from the Wilson Bridge boat ramp (i.e., BLM parcel 13) and a small parking area on the south side of Wyoming Highway 22.

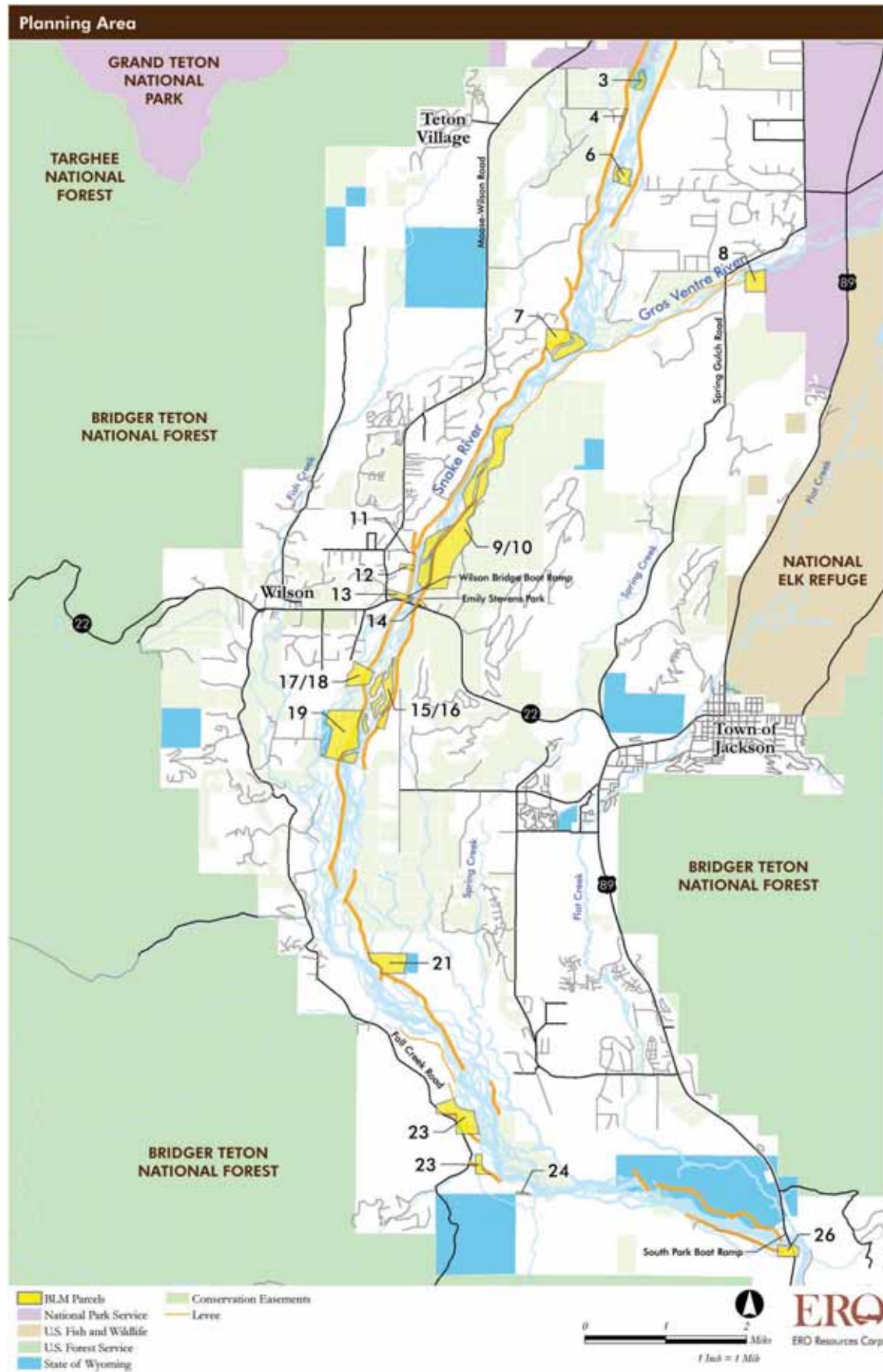
Jackson Hole Community Pathways

The Jackson Hole Community Pathways program is a partnership between Teton County, the Town of Jackson, and other entities. The overall mission of the Pathways program is to plan and construct a system of community pathway trails, improve conditions for bicycling and walking, enhance access to backcountry trail systems, and improve awareness of the needs of bicyclists, pedestrians, equestrians, and nordic skiers.

The existing pathways system includes an interconnected network of paved pathway trails throughout Jackson Hole, and numerous designated unpaved trails. The Snake River levees to the north and south of the Wilson Bridge are used as unpaved trails as part of the overall pathways system. The Pathways program completed a master plan for the system in June 2007.

Other Recreation

The area below the Wilson Bridge on the west bank of the river is a popular summer destination for locals. Known as "Wilson Beach," the shallow side-channels in the area are used by both families and small groups for picnics, swimming, kayak practice, and dog exercise/play. It is important to note that this area is private property.



PARCEL ANALYSIS



PARCEL ANALYSIS

PARCEL 3

General Parcel Information

Size: 12 acres

Parcel Location: Northeast corner Section 20, Township 42 North, Range 116 West

Description

The parcel is a small island in the Snake River. The eastern portion of the parcel is a large gravel bar, while the western portion consists of a small upland. The upland portion supports a cottonwood stand interspersed with small clearings and wetland vegetation.

Access

Accessible by river only.

Adjacent Land Use and Ownership

The parcel is bounded by Grand Teton National Park on the north, State of Wyoming School Trust Land on the west, and private lands on the south and east. The Jackson Hole Land Trust holds a conservation easement over the State Trust Land and the private land on the south, while The Nature Conservancy holds a conservation easement over the private lands to the east.

Zoning: RU-Rural; natural resource overlay.

Existing Use and Management

Public Access and Use

No indication of significant public access or use of this parcel.

Infrastructure and Improvements

No roads, structures, or other improvements occur on this parcel.

Resource Management and Use

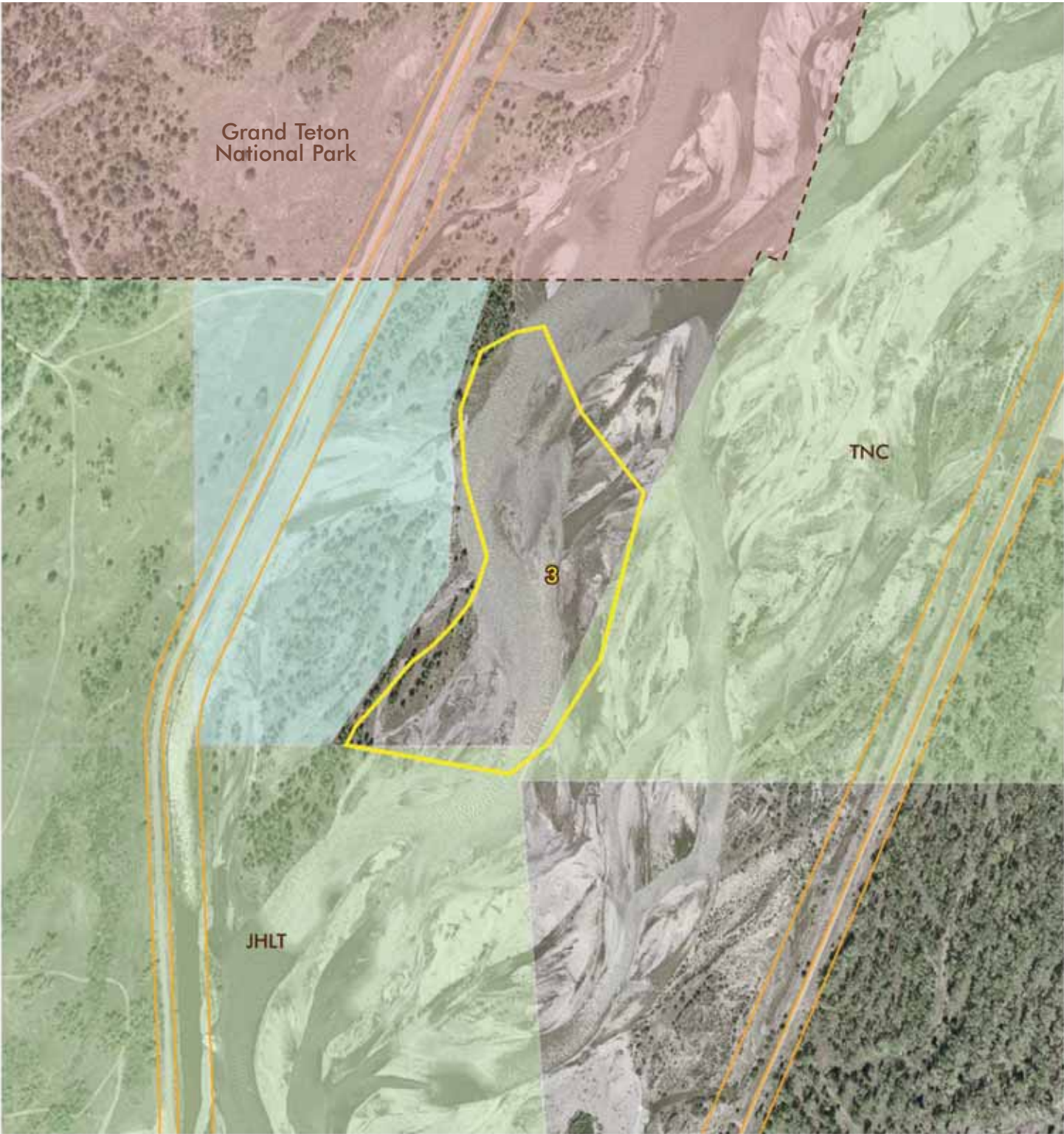
There is some indication of a nearby landowner accessing the parcel with heavy equipment to construct and maintain a connection between the river channel and an irrigation ditch headgate on the JY Ranch Levee. There are no other indications of any resource management or uses on this parcel.

Existing Leases or Encumbrances

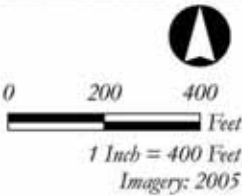
Teton County has no records of existing leases or encumbrances.



PARCEL 3



- | | | |
|--|--------------------|-------|
| BLM Parcels | Levee Easement | Fence |
| State of Wyoming | Dump Site | Road |
| Conservation Easements | Gravel Mining Area | Trail |
| JHLT Jackson Hole Land Trust | | |
| TCSPT Teton County Scenic Preserve Trust | | |
| TNC The Nature Conservancy | | |



Resource Values

- **Buffer** – Provides a buffer to a deep irrigation supply.
- **Wildlife Habitat** – Contains a small area of cottonwood forest and small wetland areas typical of the planning area. This area provides limited habitat for moose, elk, and other wildlife species.
- **Bald Eagle Habitat** – Zone 2, Primary Use Area.

Management Issues

- **Noxious Weeds** – Canada thistle, musk thistle, spotted knapweed, houndstongue, and mullein.
- **Incompatible Use** – Heavy equipment use to manipulate the river channel could degrade the small area of upland habitat by contributing to erosion and facilitating the spread of noxious weeds.

Management and Public Use Options

- **Habitat Conservation** – Maintain the parcel in a natural state with little human intervention or use. Respond to major management issues (e.g., noxious weeds and inappropriate uses) on an as-needed basis.
- **River Camp Site** – Include the parcel in a managed program to provide overnight camping opportunities along the river.

Transfer and Ownership Options

- Bridger-Teton National Forest, fee-simple ownership.
- Wyoming Game and Fish Commission, fee-simple ownership.
- Wyoming Game and Fish Commission or Bridger-Teton National Forest, fee-simple ownership with a conservation easement held by the Jackson Hole Land Trust or Snake River Fund.
- Bureau of Land Management retains ownership with a conservation easement.

Recommendation

Management Emphasis

Habitat Conservation – Emphasize riparian habitat conservation, while allowing compatible public uses (i.e., river camp). Respond to management issues on an as-needed basis.

Snake River Camp Pilot Program – Include the parcel in a five-year pilot program to evaluate the feasibility of managed overnight camping at designated sites along the river.

Ownership

Bridger-Teton National Forest ownership with management support from other Task Force partners.

A reversionary clause should be considered as part of the ownership transfer.



Parcel 3 Transfer and Management

Ownership

- Bridger-Teton National Forest
- Reversionary clause in transfer deed.

Management Emphasis

Habitat Conservation and Public Use -

Emphasize riparian habitat conservation, while allowing compatible public uses (i.e., river camp). Respond to management issues on an as-needed basis.

Snake River Camp Pilot Program - Include the parcel in a five-year pilot program to evaluate the feasibility of managed overnight camping at designated sites along the river.

Resource Management

- **River Camp Monitoring** - As part of the pilot program, monitor river campsites and use for impacts (e.g., vegetation trampling, human waste, soil erosion, and trespassing).
- **Signage** - Post signs in upland locations indicating the ownership, management, and appropriate use of the parcel.
- **Noxious Weeds** - Conduct annual control and monitoring of noxious weeds.
- **Habitat Management** - Conduct periodic monitoring for bald eagle or other raptor use, and any management issues that may arise. Adapt river camp locations or accessibility if natural resource impacts become apparent.
- **Incompatible Uses** - Conduct periodic monitoring of nearby uses to ensure that heavy equipment use or other incompatible uses do not degrade resource values.

- **Partnerships** - Coordinate monitoring, weed management, and any necessary landowner outreach with other partners (i.e., Teton County Weed & Pest, Jackson Hole Land Trust and the Snake River Fund) to minimize costs and to ensure that stewardship is consistent with other similar parcels.

Rationale

The most appropriate long-term ownership entity for this parcel is the Bridger-Teton National Forest. This is because this parcel, along with parcels 6 and 7, are the best locations to initiate a Snake River Camp Pilot Program. Such a program is compatible with the multiple-use mandates and the existing skills and infrastructure that are needed to effectively balance natural resource conservation with compatible public use. In addition, the ownership of this and other parcels along the Snake River will give Bridger-Teton National Forest a clear and consistent management presence along the river.

Implementation of a river camp on this parcel will not be without its challenges. Camping opportunities may be limited due to the parcel's size, shape, and location in the river channel. The parcel is currently located within bald eagle zone 2, in which "light human activity" is appropriate. A river camp at this location will need to be planned with the concurrence of Wyoming Game and Fish Department non-game biologists. Finally, the conservation easement held by the Jackson Hole Land Trust on the State Trust Land to the west prohibits any overnight camping. The campsite's location would need to be clearly identified in order to avoid confusion and potential easement violations on the State Trust Land.



PARCEL 4

General Parcel Information

Size: 5 acres

Parcel Location: Southeast corner Section 20, Township 42 North, Range 116 West

Description

Parcel 4 is a narrow strip of land along the right bank of the Snake River, and includes about 1,000 feet of the JY Ranch Levee and small areas on both sides of the levee. The upland or outer portion contains a sliver of cottonwood forest, while the area on the inside of the levee is characterized by riprap, gravel bars, and some vegetation.

Access

Accessible by river and along the levee.

Adjacent Land Use and Ownership

The parcel is adjacent to private, residential properties in the R Lazy S Subdivision to the west, and large parcels of private land to the north, east, and south. The Jackson Hole Land Trust holds a conservation easement over the private land to the north.

Zoning: RU-Rural; natural resource overlay.

Existing Use and Management

Public Access and Use

No clear access for the general public. However, there does appear to be considerable use of the levee by nearby landowners.

Infrastructure and Improvements

Most of the parcel consists of the levee. There are no other roads, structures, or improvements on this parcel.

Resource Management and Use

Except for levee maintenance, there are no indications of any active resource management or use on this parcel.

Existing Leases or Encumbrances

Levee easement for the JY Ranch Levee.

Resource Values

- **Buffer** – Small strip of upland vegetation provides a buffer between the levee and river to the east, and residential properties to the west.



PARCEL 4



- | | | |
|---|--------------------|-------|
| BLM Parcels | Levee Easement | Fence |
| State of Wyoming | Dump Site | Road |
| Conservation Easements | Gravel Mining Area | Trail |
| <small>JHLT Jackson Hole Land Trust</small> | | |
| <small>TCSPT Teton County Scenic Preserve Trust</small> | | |
| <small>TNC The Nature Conservancy</small> | | |

0 200 400
Feet
1 Inch = 400 Feet
Imagery: 2005

ERO Resources Corp.

- **Recreational Access** – Provides about 1,000 feet of levee and river access to neighboring landowners, or a landing area for floaters on the river. There is no clear land-based access for the general public.
- **Bald Eagle Habitat** – Zone 1, Occupied Nesting Area.

Management Issues

- **Potential Trespass** – Parcel is bounded on all sides by private lands; any additional public use could result in trespass on neighboring lands, both within the river channel and along the levee.

Management and Public Use Options

- **Public River Access** – Designate the parcel as a public river access point and seek a legal means for land-based access to the levee.
- **Limited Monitoring and Management** – Maintain the parcel in a natural state with little human intervention. Monitor resource management or property trespass issues in conjunction with annual levee inspections. Respond to major management issues (e.g., encroachment from neighboring landowners, noxious weeds, and inappropriate uses) on an as-needed basis.
- **No Management** – Allow existing, informal public use to continue with no active monitoring or management.

Transfer and Ownership Options

- Teton County, fee-simple ownership.
- Teton County, fee-simple ownership with a conservation easement held by the Jackson Hole Land Trust or Snake River Fund.
- Bureau of Land Management retains ownership with a conservation easement and considers sale or transfer to adjacent landowners under an amended Resource Management Plan.
- Bureau of Land Management retains ownership (no conservation easement) and considers sale or transfer to adjacent landowners under an amended Resource Management Plan.

Recommendation

Management Emphasis

Public River Access with Limited Monitoring and Management – Continue to allow public access along the levee, with periodic monitoring to detect adverse impacts to resource or adjacent landowners.

Ownership

Teton County fee ownership.

A conservation easement should be placed on this parcel, while a reversionary clause should be considered as part of the ownership transfer.



Parcel 4 Transfer and Management

Ownership

- Teton County
- Reversionary clause in transfer deed.

Management Emphasis

Public River Access - Continue to allow public access along the levee, with periodic monitoring to detect adverse impacts to resources or adjacent landowners.

Resource Management

- **Monitoring** - Monitor parcel on an annual basis during levee inspections to identify major management issues, including noxious weeds and encroachment.
- **Partnerships** - Coordinate monitoring, weed management, and any necessary landowner outreach with other partners (i.e., Teton County Road and Levee, Teton County Weed & Pest, Jackson Hole Land Trust, and the Snake River Fund) to minimize costs and to ensure that stewardship is consistent with other similar parcels.

Rationale

This parcel is very small, consists mainly of the levee itself, and is not accessible to the general public (though it is used by neighboring landowners). It provides little wildlife habitat or public recreation value and is not anticipated to attract additional public use. The true value in this parcel is in the opportunity to work with adjacent landowners to improve or clarify public recreation access or wildlife values in another nearby location. Teton County is the recommended ownership entity, and a conservation easement is not recommended because Teton County already has a levee easement over most of the parcel. A nearby levee access easement (about 250 feet to the north) could also provide maintenance or emergency access to this parcel that could improve management of recreational use through this river reach.



PARCEL 6

General Parcel Information

Size: 25 acres

Parcel Location: Northeast corner Section 29, Township 42 North, Range 116 West

Description

Parcel 6 is two islands within the levees of the Snake River. The western island consists of a gravel bar vegetated by small willows and occasional clusters of mature vegetation. The larger eastern island consists of an extensive cottonwood gallery forest. A small side channel currently divides the two islands.

Access

Accessible by river only.

Adjacent Land Use and Ownership

The parcel is completely contained within a larger private parcel that lies mainly between the Snake River levees. Several residential parcels in the Teton Cascades Subdivision along Sagebrush Drive are located to the east.

Zoning: RU-Rural; natural resource overlay.

Existing Use and Management

Public Access and Use

There are indications of frequent use of the eastern half of the parcel by neighboring landowners, including a picnic table, an all-terrain vehicle (ATV) track, and a salt lick, likely used to draw game to the area. River floaters may occasionally use the western portion of the parcel for lunch breaks or shore fishing.

Infrastructure and Improvements

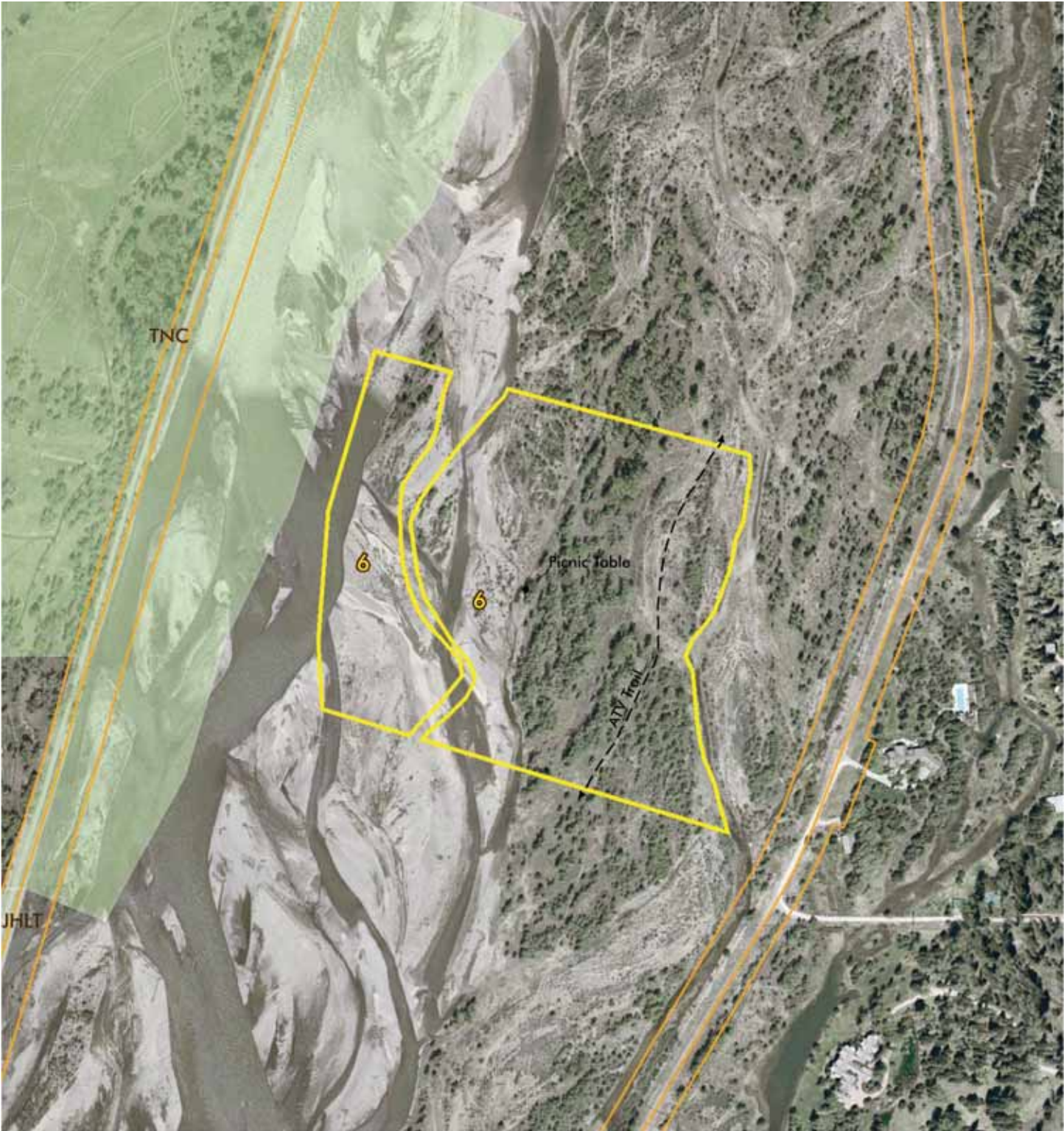
A picnic table has been placed on the western edge of the eastern island near the center of the parcel. A well-defined ATV track crosses the eastern portion of the parcel in a north-south orientation. There are no other roads, structures, or other improvements on this parcel.

Resource Management and Use

There is no indication of any management of natural resources on this parcel. As described above, the eastern portion of the parcel appears to be commonly used by neighboring landowners for picnicking, ATV use, and potentially hunting and fishing.



PARCEL 6



- | | | |
|--|--------------------|-------|
| BLM Parcels | Levee Easement | Fence |
| State of Wyoming | Dump Site | Road |
| Conservation Easements | Gravel Mining Area | Trail |
| JHLT Jackson Hole Land Trust | | |
| TCSPT Teton County Scenic Preserve Trust | | |
| TNC The Nature Conservancy | | |

0 200 400 Feet
1 Inch = 400 Feet
Imagery: 2005

ERO Resources Corp.

Existing Leases or Encumbrances

Teton County has no records of existing leases or encumbrances.

Resource Values

- **Wildlife Habitat** – Eastern portion of the parcel contains a large area of mature cottonwood forest and small wetlands typical of the planning area. The parcel provides limited habitat for moose, elk, and other wildlife species.
- **Bald Eagle Habitat** – Zone 2, Primary Use Area.

Management Issues

- **Noxious Weeds** – Canada thistle and spotted knapweed.
- **Motorized Vehicle Use** – Clear indications of ATV use on the eastern portion of the parcel, although travel appears to be limited to a single north-south corridor.
- **Encroachment** – The condition of the picnic table on the parcel clearly indicates that the parcel has recently been used by neighboring landowners.

Management and Public Use Options

- **Habitat Conservation** – Maintain the parcel in a natural state with little human intervention or use. Remove picnic table and other potential structures (e.g., hunting stands and blinds) and prohibit motorized vehicle access. Respond to major management issues (e.g., noxious weeds and inappropriate uses) on an as-needed basis.
- **Limited Public Use** – Allow appropriate access and use from adjacent areas, but prohibit motorized vehicle use on the parcel. Allow continued use of the existing picnic table, and monitor the area for resource damage and other inappropriate improvements.
- **River Camp Site** – Include the parcel in a managed program to provide overnight camping opportunities along the river.

Transfer and Ownership Options

- Bridger-Teton National Forest, fee-simple ownership.
- Wyoming Game and Fish Commission, fee-simple ownership.
- Wyoming Game and Fish Commission or Bridger-Teton National Forest, fee-simple ownership with a conservation easement held by the Jackson Hole Land Trust or Snake River Fund.
- Bureau of Land Management retains ownership with a conservation easement.

Recommendation

Management Emphasis

Habitat Conservation – Emphasize riparian habitat conservation, while allowing compatible public uses (i.e., river camp). Respond to management issues on an as-needed basis.





Snake River Camp Pilot Program – Include the parcel in a five-year pilot program to evaluate the feasibility of managed overnight camping at designated sites along the river.

Ownership

Bridger-Teton National Forest ownership with management support from other Task Force partners.

A reversionary clause should be considered as part of the ownership transfer.



Parcel 6 Transfer and Management

Ownership

- Bridger-Teton National Forest
- Reversionary clause in transfer deed.

Management Emphasis

Habitat Conservation and Public Use -

Emphasize riparian habitat conservation, while allowing compatible public uses (i.e., river camp). Respond to management issues on an as-needed basis.

Snake River Camp Pilot Program - Include the parcel in a five-year pilot program to evaluate the feasibility of managed overnight camping at designated sites along the river.

Resource Management

- **River Camp Monitoring** - As part of the pilot program, monitor river campsites and use for impacts (e.g., vegetation trampling, human waste, soil erosion, and trespassing).
- **Signage** - Post signs in upland locations indicating the ownership, management, and appropriate use of the parcel.
- **Noxious Weeds** - Monitor and control noxious weeds annually.
- **Habitat Management** - Conduct periodic monitoring for bald eagle or other raptor use, and any management issues that may arise. Manage habitat and public use to facilitate ongoing use by moose and migrating elk. Adapt river camp locations or accessibility if wildlife impacts become apparent.
- **Encroachment/Incompatible Uses** - Prohibit ATV access and use at the parcel boundary with signage, outreach to neighboring landowners, and if needed, limited fencing. Retain and repair picnic table, but monitor area for inappropriate uses and resource damage.
- **Public Use** - In addition to river camps, allow limited, informal public use from the river and from neighboring areas. Restrict any additional improvements and monitor for additional encroachment or resource damage.

- **Partnerships** - Coordinate monitoring, weed management, and any landowner outreach with other partners (i.e., Teton County Weed & Pest, Jackson Hole Land Trust, and the Snake River Fund) to minimize costs and to ensure that stewardship is consistent with other similar parcels.

Rationale

This parcel contains a fairly large area of upland, cottonwood forest habitat, is located within an important elk migration corridor, and provides suitable habitat for bald eagle. This parcel is also one of the three logical locations (parcels 3, 6, and 7) to initiate a Snake River Camp Pilot Program. The most appropriate long-term ownership entity is the Bridger-Teton National Forest because the agency's multiple-use mandates and local infrastructure are best suited to effectively managing a balance between natural resource conservation with compatible public use. In addition, the ownership of this and other parcels along the Snake River will give Bridger-Teton National Forest a clear and consistent management presence along the river.

This parcel is currently located within bald eagle zone 2, in which "light human activity" is appropriate. River campsites on this parcel would need to be established with the concurrence of Wyoming Game and Fish Department non-game biologists to ensure that bald eagle habitat needs are protected.

Although existing uses by neighboring landowners are evident on the parcel (i.e., ATV track and picnic table), those uses have not yet resulted in significant resource degradation. While it is clear that motorized use on the parcel should be prohibited, other informal public uses appear to be consistent with habitat management goals and should be managed during the river camp pilot program at the discretion of the future land manager. Periodic monitoring must be conducted to ensure that wildlife habitat values are sustained. Future management or restrictions of existing uses and encroachment need to be balanced with opportunities to engage neighboring landowners as partners in the management and stewardship of this parcel.



PARCEL 7

General Parcel Information

Size: 78 acres

Parcel Location: West half of Section 5, east half of Section 6, Township 41 North, Range 116 West

Description

The parcel consists of two areas located at the confluence of the Snake and Gros Ventre Rivers. The west portion of the parcel consists of large area on both sides of the John Dodge Levee. The east portion of the parcel consists of an island between the main channel of the Snake River and the Gros Ventre River. In addition to the levee, most of the west portion of the parcel consists of mature cottonwood forest and an extensive network of wetlands, streams and ponds. The eastern portion of the parcel is a large island containing mature cottonwood forest.

Access

Western portion accessible from the levee; eastern portion an island accessible by river only.

Adjacent Land Use and Ownership

Private residential lands within the John Dodge Homestead Subdivision border the parcel to the west and north. Other private lands are adjacent to the parcel to the east and the south. The Jackson Hole Land Trust holds conservation easements over three large properties to the east of the parcel.

Zoning: SF-NC, Single-Family; RU-Rural along eastern edge; natural resource overlay.

Existing Use and Management

Public Access and Use

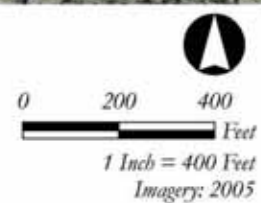
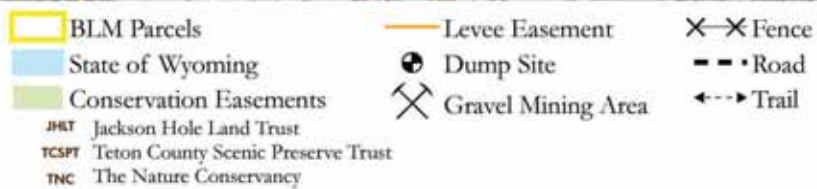
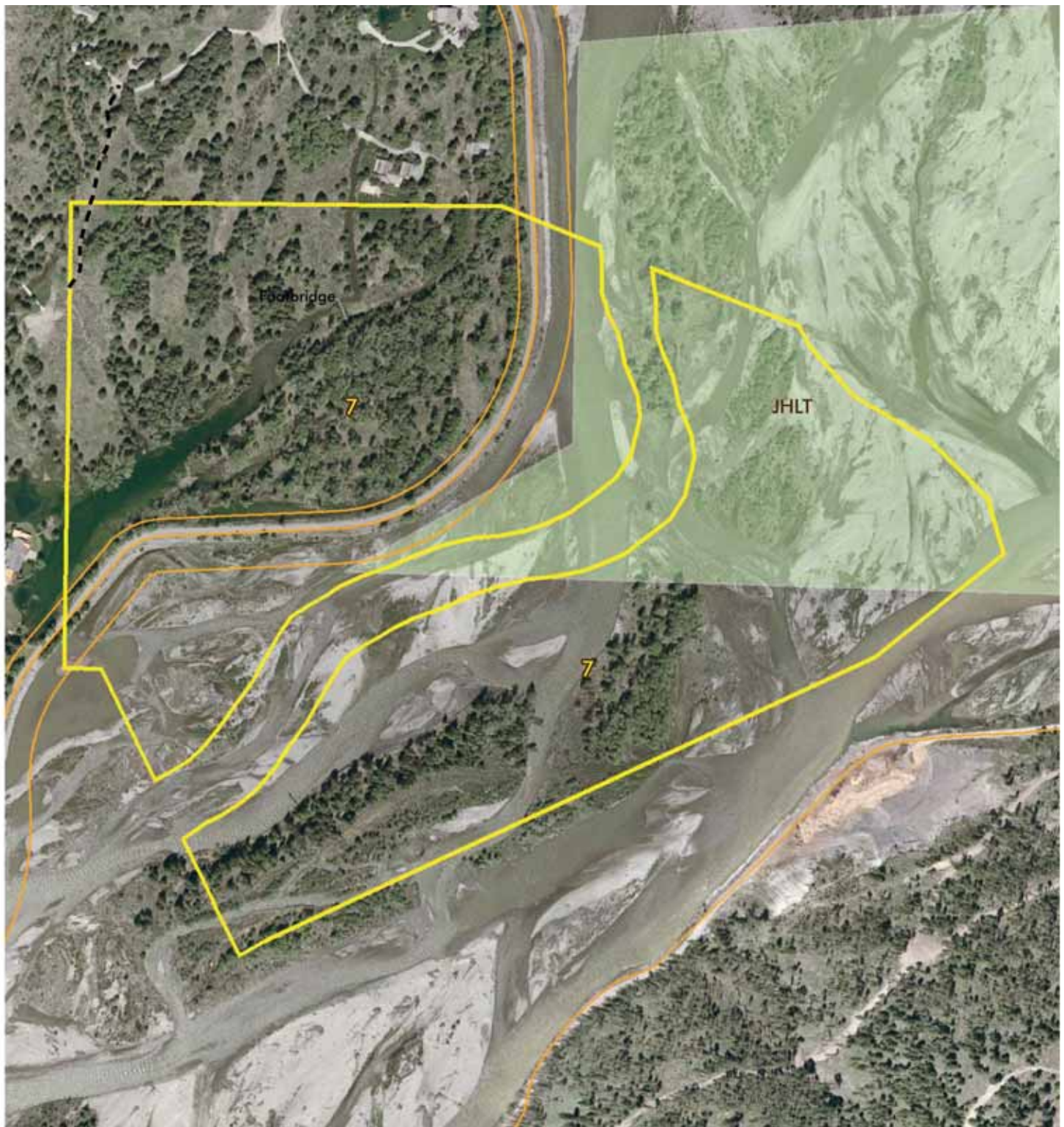
The portion of the John Dodge Levee through this parcel appears to be used by neighboring landowners for recreation access. Several nearby residences have private paths and gates to access the levee. Additional levee access from the adjacent subdivision comes from an informal access trail about 1,000 feet south of the parcel boundary. There are no indications of public access to or use of the eastern, island portion of the parcel.

Infrastructure and Improvements

The John Dodge Levee along the west bank of the Snake River crosses through the center of the parcel. An informal road between adjacent private lands crosses the northwest corner of the property. No other roads, structures, or other improvements on this parcel.



PARCEL 7





Resource Management and Use

Some of the mature cottonwoods along the levee near the western edge of the parcel are covered with wire mesh to protect them from beaver. Other than continual levee management, there is no indication of any management of natural resources on this parcel.

Existing Leases or Encumbrances

Levee easement for the John Dodge Levee.

Resource Values

- **Wildlife Habitat** – Eastern portion of this parcel contains a large area of mature cottonwood forest and small wetlands, while the cottonwood forest in the western portion of the parcel is interspersed with extensive ponds and wetlands. This area provides limited habitat for moose, elk, and other wildlife species.
- **Bald Eagle Habitat** – Zone 1, Occupied Nesting Area and Zone 2, Primary Use Area.



Management Issues

- **Noxious Weeds** – Spotted knapweed, houndstongue, musk thistle, bull thistle, and common mullein.
- **Encroachment** – Upland area along the northern edge of (west portion of parcel) lies directly adjacent to existing private parcels with residences. Monitor the area for potential encroachment of private structures, trails, or other uses on the parcel.

Management and Public Use Options

- **Habitat Conservation** – Maintain the parcel in a natural state with little human intervention or use. Allow public use along the levee, and discourage public use in other areas. Conduct routine monitoring and respond to major management issues (e.g., noxious weeds and encroachment) on an as-needed basis.
- **River Camp Site** – Consider including the parcel in a managed program to provide overnight camping opportunities along the river.



Transfer and Ownership Options

- Bridger-Teton National Forest, fee-simple ownership.
- Wyoming Game and Fish Commission, fee-simple ownership.
- Wyoming Game and Fish Commission or Bridger-Teton National Forest, fee-simple ownership with a conservation easement held by the Jackson Hole Land Trust or Snake River Fund.
- Bureau of Land Management retains ownership with a conservation easement.
- Bureau of Land Management retains ownership for a future transfer of the upland portion to neighboring landowners, with a conservation easement.



Recommendation

Management Emphasis

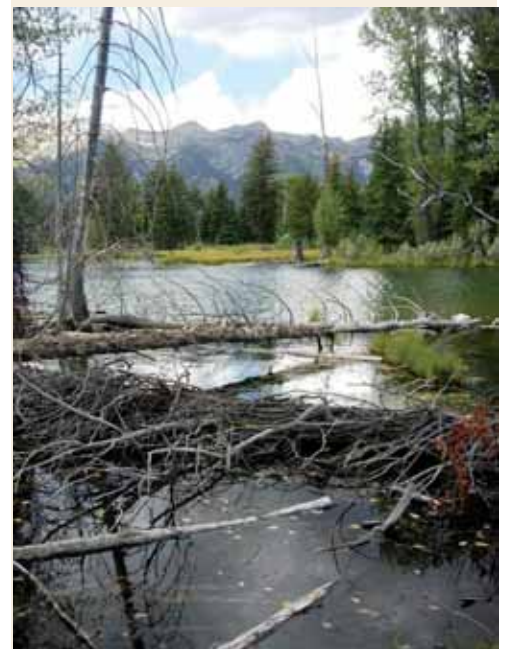
Habitat Conservation – Emphasize riparian habitat conservation, while allowing compatible public uses (i.e., river camp and public use along the levee). Respond to management issues on an as-needed basis.

Snake River Camp Pilot Program – Include the eastern island portion of the parcel in a five-year pilot program to evaluate the feasibility of managed overnight camping at designated sites along the river.

Ownership

Bridger-Teton National Forest ownership with management support from other Task Force partners.

A reversionary clause should be considered as part of the ownership transfer.



Parcel 7 Transfer and Management

Ownership

- Bridger-Teton National Forest
- Reversionary clause in transfer deed.

Management Emphasis

Habitat Conservation and Public Use -

Emphasize riparian habitat conservation, while allowing compatible public uses (i.e., river camp, and public use along the levee). Respond to management issues on an as-needed basis.

Snake River Camp Pilot Program - Include the parcel in a five-year pilot program to evaluate the feasibility of managed overnight camping at designated sites along the river.

Resource Management

- **River Camp Monitoring** - As part of the pilot program, monitor river campsites for impacts to resources (e.g., vegetation trampling, human waste, soil erosion, and trespassing).
- **Noxious Weeds** - Control and monitor noxious weeds annually.
- **Habitat Management** - Monitor periodically for bald eagle or other raptor use, and any management issues that may arise. Manage habitat and public use to facilitate ongoing use by moose and migrating elk. Adapt river camp locations or accessibility if wildlife impacts become apparent.
- **Encroachment** - Monitor northern and western boundaries of the parcel for any encroachment of private structures or facilities on the parcel.
- **Public Use** - Allow public use along the levee in addition to the river camp pilot program on the island.
- **Partnerships** - Coordinate monitoring, weed management, and any landowner outreach with other partners (i.e., Teton County, Jackson Hole Land Trust, and the Snake River Fund) to minimize costs and to ensure that stewardship is consistent with other similar parcels.

Rationale

This parcel contains two examples of high quality, cottonwood forest; one area is an island in the river, while the other lies behind the levee. Both of these areas provide important riparian wildlife habitat. The area behind the levee (west portion) also provides a buffer between the Snake River and the adjacent subdivision to the west. This parcel is also one of the three logical locations (parcels 3, 6, and 7) to initiate a Snake River Camp Pilot Program. The most appropriate long-term ownership entity is the Bridger-Teton National Forest because the agency's multiple-use mandates and local infrastructure are best suited to effectively managing a balance between natural resource conservation and compatible public use. In addition, the ownership of this and other parcels along the Snake River will give Bridger-Teton National Forest a clear and consistent management presence along the river.

Most of this parcel is currently located within bald eagle zone 2, in which "light human activity" is appropriate. The northernmost portion of the island is currently located within bald eagle zone 1, in which only "minimum human activity" should be allowed. River camps are not appropriate within bald eagle zone 1. River campsites elsewhere on this parcel would need to be established with the concurrence of Wyoming Game and Fish Department non-game biologists to ensure that bald eagle habitat needs are protected. Another important consideration for river camps is the proximity to private residences along the west bank of the river. In order to protect the privacy and views of neighboring landowners, river campsites should not be located within view of existing residences.



PARCEL 8

General Parcel Information

Size: 41 acres

Parcel Location: Southwest corner Section 34, Township 42 North, Range 116 West

Description

Parcel 8 is located along the south bank of the Gros Ventre River and consists mainly of mature cottonwood forest interspersed with several clearings, small drainages, and wetlands. The parcel contains several roads between the Lucas Levee and the existing private lands, and numerous old and new dumpsites. Portions of the northeast corner of the parcel have been excavated for gravel.

Access

Accessible from the north across the Gros Ventre River channel from a county-owned parking area on the north side of the river along Spring Gulch Road. Teton County holds a public access easement along the north bank levee and within the Gros Ventre River channel.

Parcel is also accessible across Grand Teton National Park from Highway 89, about one mile east of the parcel.

Adjacent Land Use and Ownership

Grand Teton National Park is adjacent to the parcel on the east; private ranch land abuts the parcel to the south and west. The Jackson Hole Golf and Tennis Club golf course is located across the river to the north.

Zoning: No zoning designation; natural resource and scenic resource overlay.

Existing Use and Management

Public Access and Use

No indication of significant public access or use of this parcel. This area has been reported to be a “party spot” in the past.

Infrastructure and Improvements

The Lucas Levee along the south bank of the Gros Ventre River crosses the northern and northeastern portions of the parcel. Several roads access the parcel from the private ranch adjacent to the parcel on the south and west. One of these roads ends at the remains of an old, impassible bridge across a small drainage. Another road exits the eastern boundary of the parcel and enters Grand Teton National Park. This road is not gated.



PARCEL 8



BLM Parcels

State of Wyoming

Conservation Easements

JHLT

Jackson Hole Land Trust

TCSPT

Teton County Scenic Preserve Trust

TNC

The Nature Conservancy

Levee Easement

Dump Site

Gravel Mining Area

X-X

Fence

- - -

Road

← - - - →

Trail

0

200

400

Feet

1 Inch = 400 Feet

Imagery: 2005

ERO

ERO Resources Corp.

36

A barbed-wire fence crosses through the middle of the parcel. An old concrete structure, believed to be a sheep dip, previously used for treating sheep with solutions of insecticides, is located in the southeastern corner of the parcel.

Resource Management and Use

This parcel shows many signs of significant use by neighboring landowners.

- **Dumping** – Numerous large and small dumpsites on this parcel. While some have been buried, others are exposed. Dumped materials include everything from old cars and machinery to old, 55-gallon drums, oil cans, wire, glass, and sheet metal.
- **Grazing** – Southern portion of the parcel is used to graze horses associated with the neighboring ranch.
- **Gravel Mining** – Several large areas in the northeast corner of the property have been used for gravel mining. This mining may be associated with the construction and maintenance of the Lucas Levee along the south bank of the Gros Ventre River.

Existing Leases or Encumbrances

Levee easement for Lucas Levee.

Resource Values

- **Elk Movement Corridor** – Occurs within a major corridor for seasonal elk migration between the mountains to the west and the winter range on the National Elk Refuge to the east.
- **Wildlife Habitat** – Cottonwood forest and small wetlands on the parcel are typical of the planning area and provide habitat for a variety of wildlife species.
- **Bald Eagle Habitat** – Zone 3, Home Range Area.

Management Issues

- **Dumping** – Historical and current dumping is the most significant management issue on this parcel. The numerous dump areas pose human health and safety risks, degrade wildlife habitat, and significantly degrade the aesthetic appeal of the area. Dump areas may also present legal liability issues due to the potential for soil and ground water contamination.
- **Sheep Dip** – The low, long, concrete basin in the southeast corner of the property is believed to be an old sheep dip. A number of different chemicals have been used in sheep dips. Sheep dip chemicals were arsenic-based until the 1950s, with organochlorine (e.g., dieldrin, lindane, and DDT) and organophosphate (e.g., diazinon) insecticides used after this. Disposal of spent dipping solutions, spillage, and splashes of these chemicals have left toxic residues in soil, which may have leached into ground water around dip sites. Some of these chemicals persist in soil for many years. Arsenic does not degrade or break down over time.
- **Noxious Weeds** – Dalmatian toadflax, spotted knapweed, houndstongue, musk thistle, and common mullein.





- **Grazing** – Livestock, primarily horses, have recently grazed the southern half of the parcel. There is no public land grazing allotment on this parcel.
- **Potential Trespass** – An existing road leaves the northeast corner of the parcel and provides open vehicle access to Grand Teton National Park. This unmanaged access point could potentially facilitate inappropriate or illegal uses of Grand Teton National Park resources.

Management and Public Use Options

- **Dump Investigations, Cleanup, and Restoration** – Conduct Phase I and II Environmental Site Assessments prior to the transfer of the property to document the dump areas and identify any hazardous materials. Revegetate with native species following clean up to avoid additional noxious weed infestations.
- **Habitat Conservation** – Manage the parcel to protect riparian woodland habitat along the Gros Ventre River, protect elk migration routes, and buffer private land uses to the west. Restrict or manage grazing to maximize wildlife habitat values. Conduct periodic habitat monitoring and respond to major management issues (e.g., noxious weeds and inappropriate uses) on an as-needed basis.
- **Elk Management** – Allow public hunting in combination with active herd management techniques (e.g., hazing) to facilitate elk migration and minimize the impacts of elk on adjacent private lands.



Transfer and Ownership Options

- Wyoming Game and Fish Commission, fee-simple ownership.
- Wyoming Game and Fish Commission, fee-simple ownership with a conservation easement held by the Jackson Hole Land Trust or Snake River Fund.
- Bureau of Land Management retains ownership with a conservation easement.
- Bureau of Land Management retains ownership with a conservation easement and considers sale or transfer to adjacent landowners under an amended Resource Management Plan.



Recommendation

Management Emphasis

Clean up and Habitat Management – After the dumpsites on the parcel are investigated and cleaned up, emphasize the conservation of riparian habitat and the management of migrating elk.

Ownership

Wyoming Game and Fish Commission fee-simple ownership.

A conservation easement should be placed on this parcel, while a reversionary clause should be considered as part of the ownership transfer.

Parcel 8 Transfer and Management

Ownership

- Wyoming Game and Fish Commission
- Conservation easement held by the Jackson Hole Land Trust.
- Reversionary clause in the transfer deed.

Management Emphasis

Habitat Management - Investigate and clean up dumpsites on the parcel, and manage for the conservation of riparian habitat and the management of migrating elk.

Resource Management

- **Dump Cleanup** - Conduct Phase I and Phase II investigations of the dump areas prior to transfer of the property. Depending on the results of the Phase I/II investigations, major dumpsites and the sheep dip area should be excavated and disposed of properly. Small dump areas may be buried onsite if they do not pose an environmental risk.
- **Noxious Weeds** - Control and monitor noxious weeds annually. Revegetate and monitor dump areas to reduce the potential for additional noxious weed infestations.
- **Habitat Management** - Manage the parcel for riparian habitat conservation, with an emphasis on sustaining a viable elk migration corridor. Use periodic monitoring to identify any management issues that may arise.
- **Grazing** - Work with the neighboring landowner to either restrict grazing on the parcel or develop a management strategy that is consistent with overall habitat management goals.
- **Fencing and Vehicle Access** - Work with the neighboring landowner to establish fencing and gated access along the property boundaries that is compatible with habitat management priorities. Remove any unnecessary fences. Work with Grand Teton National Park to manage informal vehicle access from the parcel.

- **Signage** - Post signs along parcel boundaries indicating the ownership, management, and appropriate uses of the parcel.
- **Public Access** - Allow limited public access to the parcel for hunting and fishing use. Work with adjacent landowners to clarify walk-in access from Spring Gulch Road.
- **Incompatible Uses** - Conduct periodic monitoring to ensure that additional dumping or other incompatible uses do not occur.
- **Partnerships** - Coordinate monitoring, weed management, and any landowner outreach with other partners (i.e., Teton County, Jackson Hole Land Trust, and Grand Teton National Park) to minimize costs and to ensure that stewardship is consistent with other similar parcels.

Rationale

The primary values of this parcel are general riparian habitat, an important elk migration corridor, and as a buffer between Grand Teton National Park and private lands. The Wyoming Game and Fish Department is an appropriate agency for the management and stewardship of this parcel in terms of big game (i.e., especially elk) movement. The extensive dumping and the subsequent potential for hazardous waste contamination is a significant management and liability issue that should be investigated prior to any property transfer.

Considering the lack of clear access from Spring Gulch Road and the remote nature of this parcel, only limited walk-in public access for hunting and fishing and other appropriate uses should be encouraged or permitted. Ongoing monitoring will be important to ensure that future dumping does not occur, any grazing plans or restrictions are followed, and potential encroachment into Grand Teton National Park is managed.





PARCEL 9/10

General Parcel Information

Size: 320 acres

Parcel Location: Southwest corner of Section 7, northwest corner of Section 18, Township 41 North, Range 116 West; Section 13 and north half of Section 24, Township 41 North, Range 117 West

Description

Parcel 9/10 constitutes a strip of land that is over two miles long along the left bank of the Snake River, ending ¼ mile north of the Wilson Bridge. This parcel includes vegetated islands on the inside of the Walton Quarry Levee, as well as extensive upland cottonwood forests on the outside of the levee. A steep bluff undulates along the eastern edge of the upland forests, and delineates the eastern boundary of the parcel. A diversion ditch follows the base of the bluff along most of the parcel. Several check dams and ponds are located immediately east of the levee in the southern portion of the parcel.

Several two-track roads and fences traverse the upland forest areas, which are extensively used by the adjacent Walton Ranch for grazing. The levee in the southern portion of this parcel is very popular for land-based recreation (e.g., walking, biking, and dog use), as well as fishing access from the shore.

Access

Access is along the levee from the existing Emily Stevens Park located at Wyoming Highway 22 near the Wilson Bridge. The levee access road is gated at the Emily Stevens Park parking lot. Additional road access is through the Walton Ranch to the east. This parcel is also accessible by river.

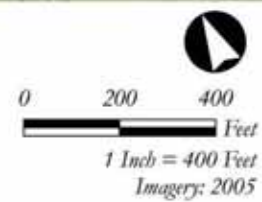
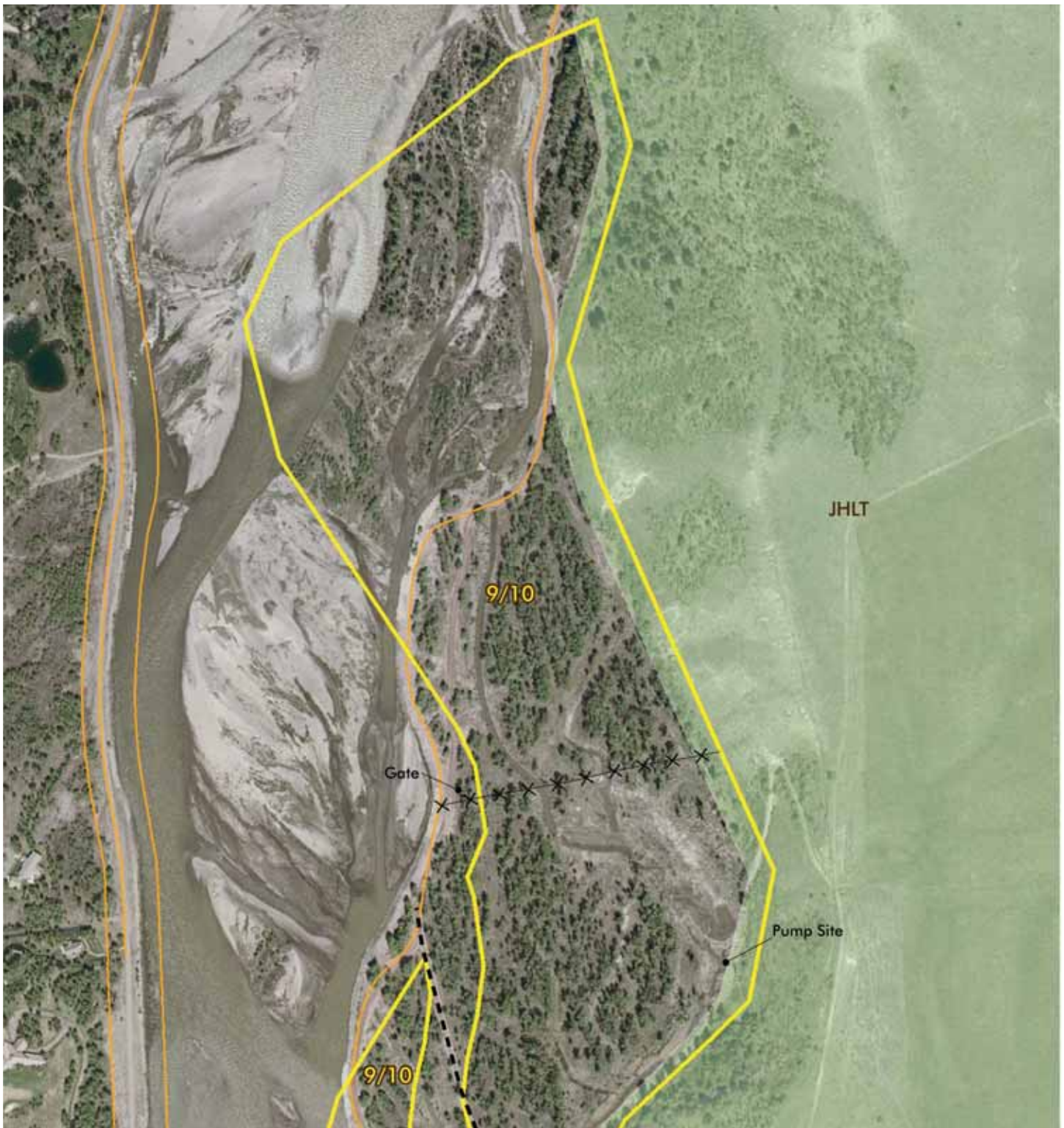
Adjacent Land Use and Ownership

The parcel is adjacent to private ranch land to the east, and Teton County-owned park property to the south. The Jackson Hole Land Trust holds conservation easements on both of these parcels. The private Iron Rock Subdivision is also adjacent to the southeast corner of the parcel. Private lands across the Snake River to the west are residential.

Zoning: RU-Rural; natural resource overlay; scenic overlay on southern half between Walton Quarry Levee and Walton Ranch Road.



PARCEL 9/10A



PARCEL 9/10B

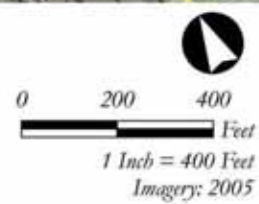
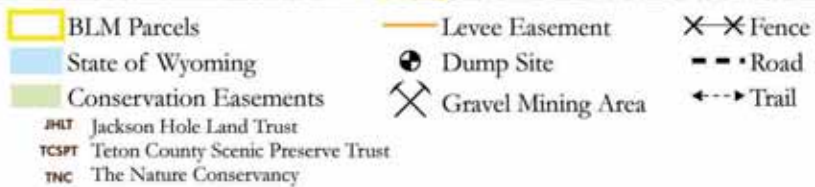
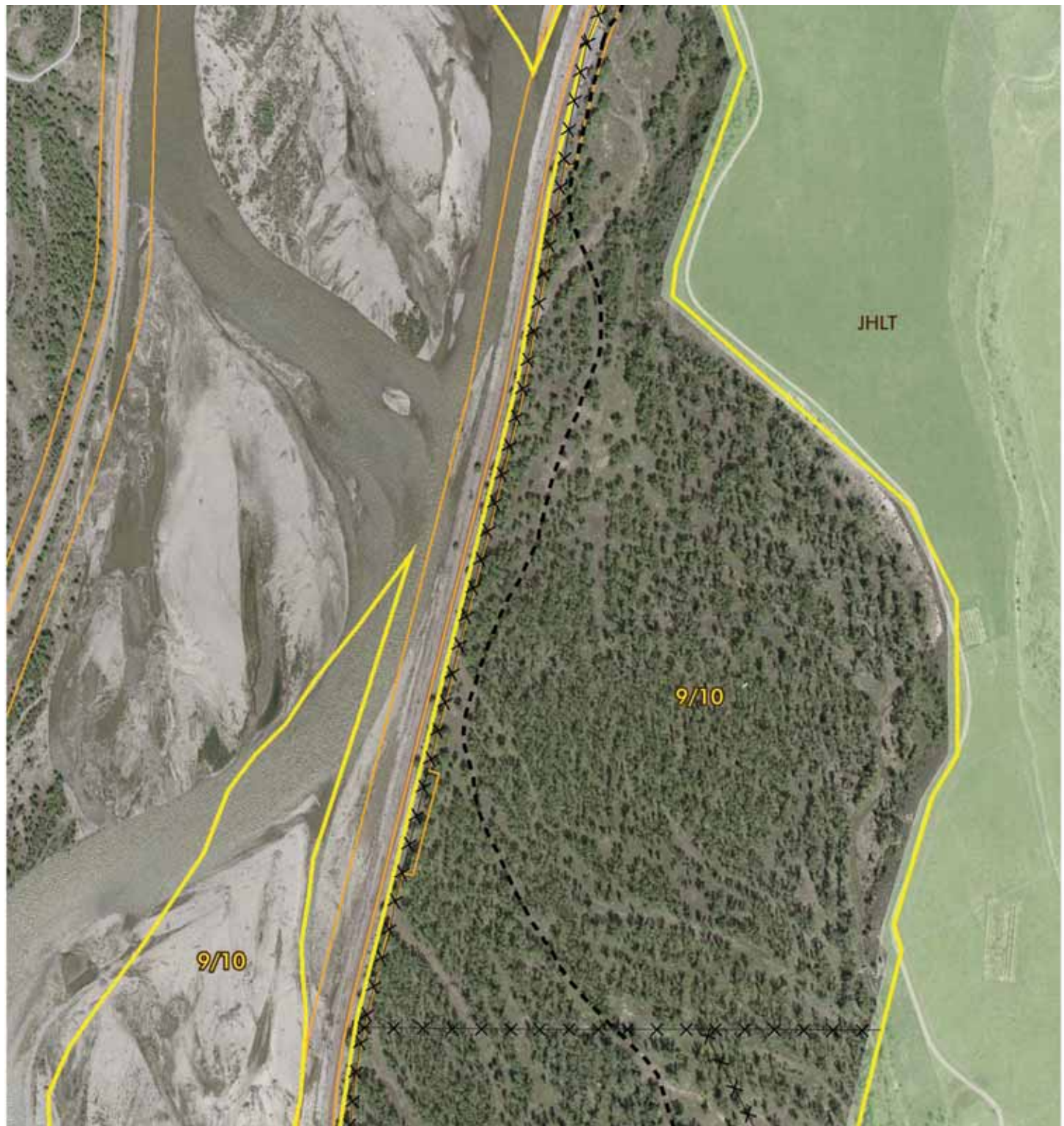


- | | | |
|---|--------------------|-------|
| BLM Parcels | Levee Easement | Fence |
| State of Wyoming | Dump Site | Road |
| Conservation Easements | Gravel Mining Area | Trail |
| JHLT Jackson Hole Land Trust | | |
| TCSPT Teton County Scenic Preserve Trust | | |
| TNC The Nature Conservancy | | |

0 200 400
Feet
1 Inch = 400 Feet
Imagery: 2005

ERO Resources Corp.

PARCEL 9/10C

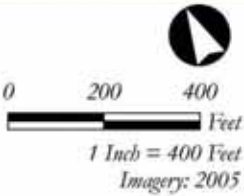


PARCEL 9/10D



Emily Stevens Park – 300 feet
↓
Parking Area – ¼ mile

- | | | |
|--|--------------------|-------|
| BLM Parcels | Levee Easement | Fence |
| State of Wyoming | Dump Site | Road |
| Conservation Easements | Gravel Mining Area | Trail |
| JHLT Jackson Hole Land Trust | | |
| TCSPT Teton County Scenic Preserve Trust | | |
| TNC The Nature Conservancy | | |



Existing Use and Management

Public Access and Use

Public access is from the Emily Stevens Park parking area along Wyoming Highway 22 east of the Wilson Bridge. Most of the public use is concentrated on the levee and along the riverbank. The levee is very popular for walking, bicycling, and dog use and provides access to the Snake River for shore fishing. Hunting is also an existing use on the parcel. In the winter, the levee, along with a second graded loop road in the northern half of the parcel, are groomed for cross-country skiing, creating an out-and-back ski track with a small loop at the end.

Infrastructure and Improvements

- **Roads** – There are several roads on this parcel. In addition to the levee road, a second graded road is located on the upland side of the levee in the northern half of the parcel. There are also numerous two-track and informal ranch roads through the upland cottonwood forest.
- **Fencing and Gates** – Several fences and gates on the parcel are used to manage grazing. Most of the fencing is concentrated in the southern half of the parcel. Large gates are located along the levee road in two locations: one near the northern boundary of the parcel, and one near the middle of the parcel.
- **Ditches and Irrigation** – A diversion ditch follows the eastern boundary of the parcel for most of its length. An irrigation pump is located along the ditch in the northernmost portion of the parcel. This pump presumably delivers irrigation water to the pastureland that lies east of the parcel.

Resource Management and Use

- **Grazing** – The adjacent ranch leases the upland portions of the parcel and uses it for summer pasture.
- **Gravel Mining** – A small area in the southern portion of the parcel has been used in the past for gravel mining. Several large pieces of mining equipment remain on the parcel. The roads through the northern portion of the parcel are also used to access an active gravel mine area to the north of the parcel.

Existing Leases or Encumbrances

The 1982 settlement for this parcel stipulated that the Walton Ranch has a right to lease the property for grazing subject to a determination by the United States in any “legally mandated planning procedure.” There is also a Levee easement for Walton Quarry Haul Road and Walton Quarry Levee.

Resource Values

- **Wildlife Habitat** – Extensive cottonwood forests and small streams and wetlands typical of the planning area. This area is winter range for moose and supports habitat for numerous other wildlife species.





- **Bald Eagle Habitat** – Portions in Zone 1, Occupied Nesting Area; Zone 2, Primary Use Area; and Zone 3, Home Range Area.
- **Potential Trail Development** – This parcel has significant potential to expand public use opportunities and facilities. Options include additional summer and winter loop trails through the upland riparian forest that complement the existing opportunities along the levee, as well as rest rooms, kiosks, and benches.

Management Issues

- **Grazing Management** – In the past, this parcel has failed to meet some grazing management standards due to heavy grazing resulting in reduced health of the native shrub community (BLM 2004).
- **Noxious Weeds** – Dalmatian toadflax, spotted knapweed, houndstongue, musk thistle, and common mullein. Areas impacted from grazing, public use, and former mining are especially vulnerable to noxious weed infestations.
- **Potential Use Conflicts** – Most of the public use on this parcel is currently concentrated along the levee and the river frontage. While this parcel has potential for additional trail development and use in the upland forested areas, such use may need to be balanced with grazing management during the summer months. Any future expansions of public use opportunities should be coordinated with existing and future grazing management needs prior to implementation.
- **Gravel Mining Area** – The gravel mining areas in the southern portion of the parcel currently contain several large piles of aggregate materials along with trucks and other heavy equipment, stockpiled construction materials, and dump areas. This area could present problems due to public safety issues and vandalism. It may also be a source for the spread of noxious weeds.



Management and Public Use Options

- **Agricultural Use** – Maintain the existing emphasis on agricultural use of the upland portions of the parcel by extending the existing grazing practices. Continue to concentrate public use on the levee and along the Snake River frontage.
- **Habitat Conservation** – Manage the parcel to emphasize wildlife habitat conservation. Work with grazing lessee to change, reduce, or eliminate grazing in some areas, based on habitat restoration and conservation objectives. Continue to concentrate public use on the levee and along the Snake River frontage. Monitor habitat conditions, grazing practices, and public use on an annual basis, and respond to major management issues (e.g., grazing, noxious weeds, and inappropriate public use) on an as-needed basis.
- **Public Park** – Manage the parcel to provide enhanced recreation opportunities, including additional loop trails through the upland cottonwood forest, and associated facilities such as benches, kiosks, and rest rooms. Accommodate agricultural uses and habitat conservation to the extent that they are compatible with a public use emphasis.



Transfer and Ownership Options

- Teton County, fee-simple ownership.
- Teton County, fee-simple ownership with a conservation easement held by the Jackson Hole Land Trust or Snake River Fund.

Recommendation

Management Emphasis

Public Use and Habitat Management – Manage the parcel in a comprehensive manner that emphasizes public use opportunities, while accommodating compatible agricultural use along with habitat conservation and restoration.

Ownership

Teton County fee-simple ownership.

A conservation easement should be placed on this parcel, while a reversionary clause should be considered as part of the ownership transfer.



Parcel 9/10 Transfer and Management

Ownership

- Teton County
- Conservation easement held by the Jackson Hole Land Trust.
- Reversionary clause in the transfer deed.

Management Emphasis

Public Use and Habitat Management - Manage the parcel in a comprehensive manner that emphasizes public use opportunities, while accommodating compatible agricultural use along with habitat conservation and restoration.

Resource Management

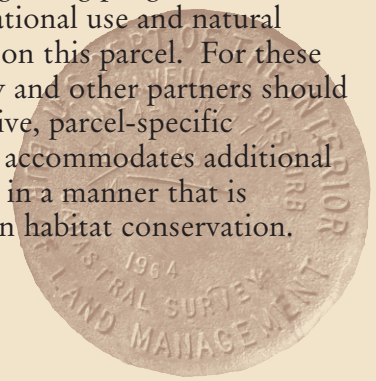
- **Public Use Facilities** - Identify and develop several loop trails, and associated facilities, that provide opportunities for the public to enjoy the upland cottonwood forest in both the summer and the winter. Ensure the location and seasonal use of various trails and facilities are compatible with overall grazing management and habitat conservation strategies.
- **Signage** - Post signs along the levee and in other locations to indicate the ownership, management, and appropriate uses of the parcel. Additional signs should be developed to support future trails and recreational uses.
- **Grazing** - Work with the existing grazing lessee and other partners to develop a grazing management strategy that accommodates agricultural needs, accommodates additional public use, and facilitates long-term habitat conservation.
- **Habitat Conservation** - Identify management strategies to protect and enhance riparian wildlife habitat. Consider habitat conservation strategies when developing plans for future public use and grazing management on this parcel. Monitor periodically for bald eagle or other raptor use, and any management issues that may arise.
- **Gravel Mining Area** - Clean up and fence the former gravel mining area in the southern portion of the parcel to avoid vandalism and public safety issues.

- **Noxious Weeds** - Monitor and control noxious weeds annually with a focus on areas disturbed due to past mining activities, existing and future public use, and livestock grazing.
- **Master/Management Planning** - Develop a parcel management plan that outlines the specific resource values and management issues at a greater level of detail; documents resource management and public facility objectives for the parcel; and provides a parcel-specific process to facilitate future implementation.
- **Partnerships** - Coordinate monitoring, weed management, and landowner outreach with other partners (i.e., Wyoming Game and Fish Department, Teton County Weed & Pest, Jackson Hole Land Trust, and the Snake River Fund) to minimize costs and to ensure that stewardship is consistent with other similar parcels. These partners will also be integral in developing a management plan for the parcel.

Rationale

Considering the location of this parcel (adjacent to Emily Stevens Park and Highway 22) and the existing levels of public use, Teton County is the logical ownership and management entity. Teton County Parks and Recreation would manage the parcel as a public open space park that is part of a larger complex of county-owned recreation lands near the Wilson Bridge. The large areas of upland cottonwood forest on this parcel provide a unique opportunity to develop a network of relatively flat, lowland trails that are distinctly different from the steep, mountainous trails common in Jackson Hole.

The upland portions of this parcel are currently leased for grazing. This use is an important and respected component of the neighboring ranch operations. While there is some potential for user conflicts and natural resource impacts, a well-planned and managed grazing program can be compatible with recreational use and natural resource conservation on this parcel. For these reasons, Teton County and other partners should develop a comprehensive, parcel-specific management plan that accommodates additional public use and grazing in a manner that is consistent with riparian habitat conservation.



PARCEL 11

General Parcel Information

Size: < 1 acre

Parcel Location: Northwest corner Section 24, Township 41 North, Range 117 West

Description

The parcel is a 30-foot wide strip of land situated primarily west of the Boat Ramp Levee. This parcel consists of cottonwood riparian forest, and is completely surrounded by an adjacent private land parcel.

Access

The parcel is accessible from the Boat Ramp Levee, about ½ mile north of the Wilson Bridge. However, the parcel is surrounded by posted and fenced private property.

Adjacent Land Use and Ownership

The parcel is surrounded on all sides by privately owned residential land. Parcel 9/10 is located across the Snake River to the east.

Zoning: SF – NC, Single Family; natural resource overlay.

Existing Use and Management

Public Access and Use

There is no clear public access to this parcel. Parcel may be accessible from Jarvis Lane depending on the right-of-way.

Infrastructure and Improvements

A small irrigation ditch crosses the parcel; no other roads, structures, or other improvements are known on this parcel.

Resource Management and Use

No known resource management activities on this parcel.

Existing Leases or Encumbrances

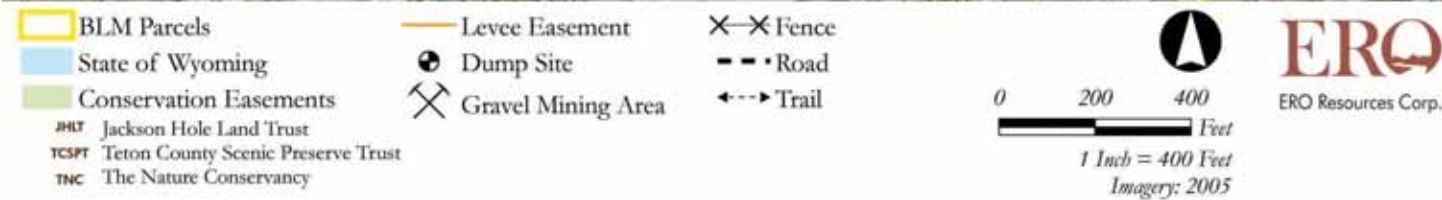
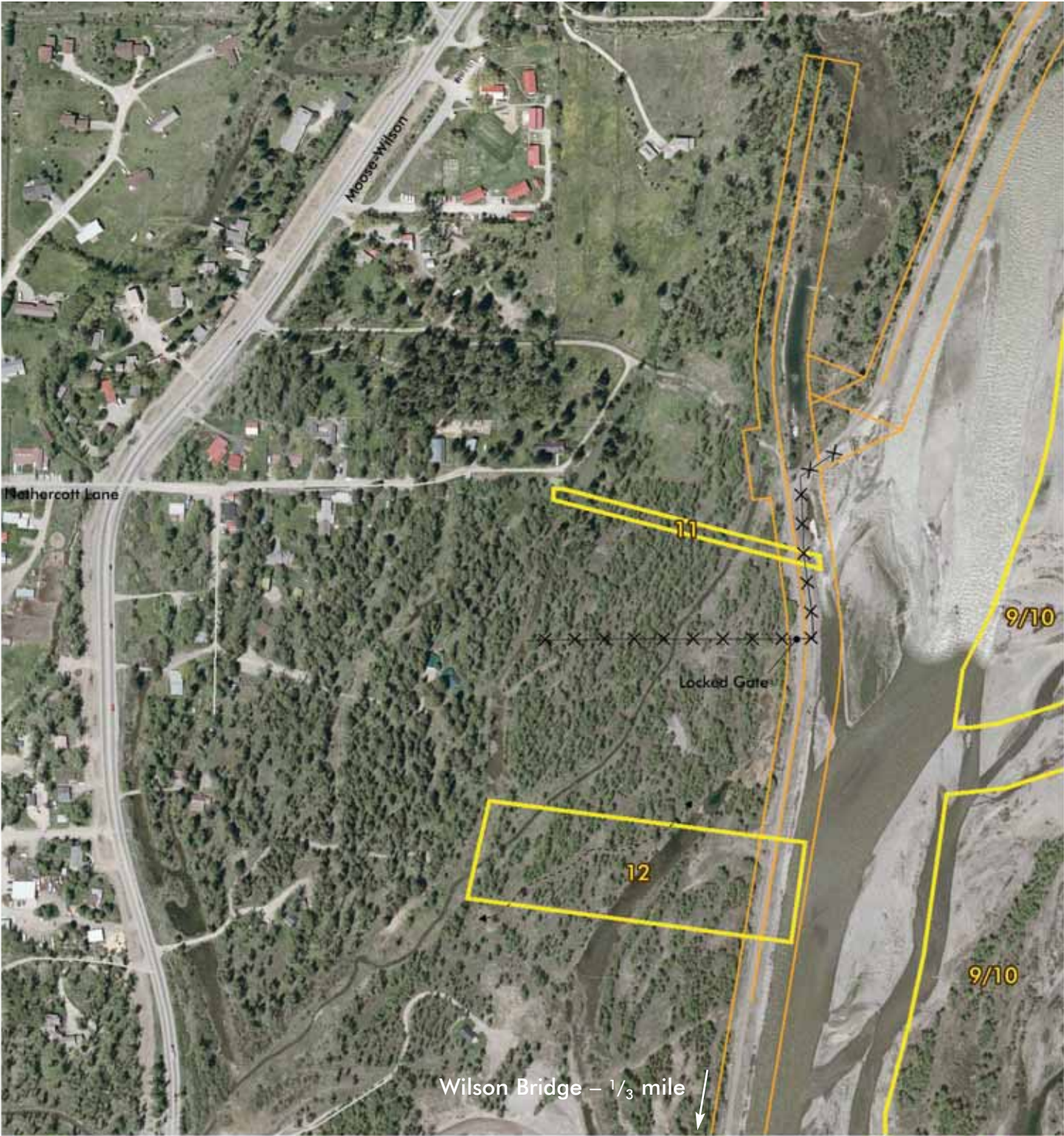
Levee easement for the Boat Ramp Levee.

Resource Values

- **Wildlife Habitat** – Contains upland cottonwood forest typical of the planning area, which provides habitat for moose, elk and other wildlife species.
- **Bald Eagle Habitat** – Zone 2, Primary Use Area.



PARCEL 11



Management Issues

- **Access** – Surrounded by private property, and does not have any clear public access.
- **Potential Encroachment** – Considering its location as an apparent inholding within private land, monitor for potential encroachment of private structures or other inappropriate uses.

Management and Public Use Options

- **Habitat Conservation** – Maintain the parcel in a natural state with little human intervention or use. Respond to major management issues (e.g., noxious weeds and inappropriate uses) on an as-needed basis.
- **River Access** – Develop a formal access point across this parcel between the Moose-Wilson Road and the Snake River via Jarvis Lane.

Transfer and Ownership Options

- Bureau of Land Management retains ownership with a conservation easement and considers sale or transfer to adjacent landowner under a future Resource Management Plan.
- Bureau of Land Management retains ownership (no conservation easement) and considers sale or transfer to adjacent landowners under a future Resource Management Plan.
- Bureau of Land Management retains ownership (no conservation easement) and allows the parcel to be used in a future public-private land swap (under a future Resource Management Plan) with the goal of improving public river access and opportunities associated with parcel 13.
- Teton County, fee-simple ownership.
- Teton County, fee-simple ownership with a conservation easement held by the Jackson Hole Land Trust or Snake River Fund.

Recommendation

Management Emphasis

Limited habitat monitoring and management in association with surrounding private lands.

Ownership

Disposal to adjacent private landowner.



Parcel 11 Transfer and Management

Ownership

- Disposal to adjacent private landowner.

Management Emphasis

Short-Term Monitoring - Limited monitoring and management of property prior to disposal.

Resource Management

- **Monitoring** - Conduct periodic monitoring to identify natural resource and encroachment issues.
- **Partnerships** - Coordinate short-term monitoring, weed management, and landowner outreach with other partners (i.e., Teton County Weed & Pest, Jackson Hole Land Trust, and the Snake River Fund) to minimize costs and to ensure that stewardship is consistent with other similar parcels.

Rationale

This parcel is very small, is surrounded by a parcel of private land, and is currently not publicly accessible. This parcel has little public value and should be sold or otherwise transferred to a private party. The current BLM RMP allows for the disposal of parcels to adjacent landowners if the parcel is less than one acre in size.



PARCEL 12

General Parcel Information

Size: 6 acres

Parcel Location: Northwest corner Section 24, Township 41 North, Range 117 West

Description

A small strip of cottonwood riparian forestland, wetlands, and ponds on the west side of the Boat Ramp Levee.

Access

Accessible from the west Snake River levee, about ½ mile north of the Wilson Bridge.

Adjacent Land Use and Ownership

Adjacent to vacant, private parcels on the north, west, and south. Parcel 9/10 lies across the Snake River to the east. A private gravel quarry lies about 400 feet to the south.

Zoning: SF – NC, Single Family; natural resource overlay.

Existing Use and Management

Public Access and Use

This parcel is accessible from the levee. A narrow, single-track trail crosses the parcel (along with other neighboring parcels) to make a connection between the levee to the east and residential areas along the Moose-Wilson Road to the west.

Infrastructure and Improvements

An irrigation ditch crosses the parcel. No other roads, structures, or improvements occur on this parcel.

Resource Management and Use

There are no indications of any resource management or uses on this parcel.

Existing Leases or Encumbrances

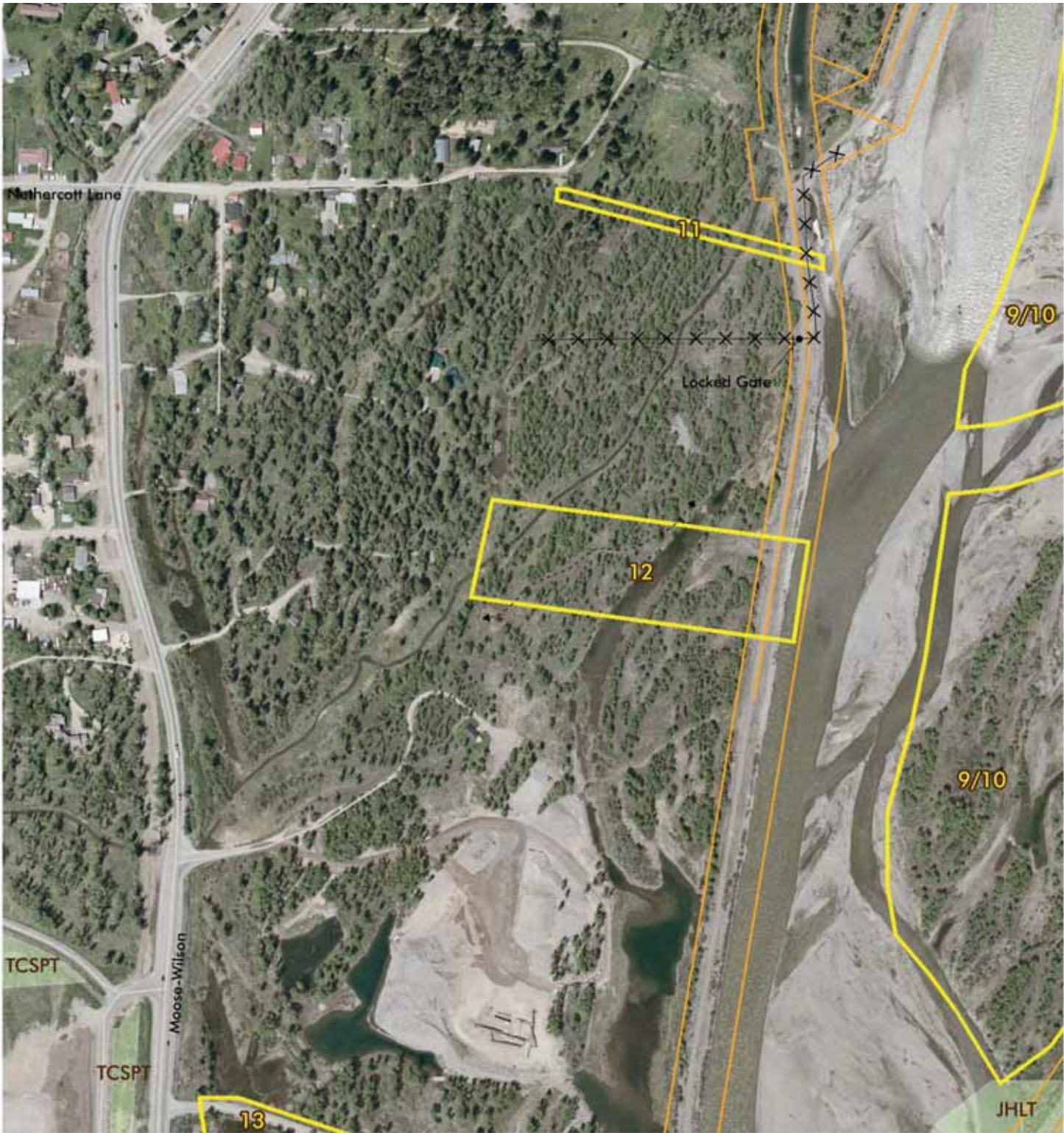
Levee easement for Boat Ramp Levee.

Resource Values

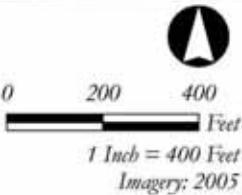
- **Wildlife Habitat** – Contains cottonwood forest, a pond, and small wetlands that are typical of the planning area. The parcel provides habitat for moose, elk, and other wildlife species within the context of surrounding land.
- **Bald Eagle Habitat** – Zone 2, Primary Use Area.



PARCEL 12



- | | | |
|--|--------------------|-------|
| BLM Parcels | Levee Easement | Fence |
| State of Wyoming | Dump Site | Road |
| Conservation Easements | Gravel Mining Area | Trail |
| JHLT Jackson Hole Land Trust | | |
| TCSPT Teton County Scenic Preserve Trust | | |
| TNC The Nature Conservancy | | |



Management Issues

- **Dumping** – Some indications of past dumping on the parcel in the vicinity of the levee. Any additional or future dumping would need to be monitored and managed.
- **Noxious Weeds** – Spotted knapweed, houndstongue, and musk thistle.

Management and Public Use Options

- **Habitat Conservation** – Maintain the parcel in a natural state with little human intervention or use. Respond to major management issues (e.g., noxious weeds and inappropriate uses) on an as-needed basis.

Transfer and Ownership Options

- Bureau of Land Management retains ownership with a conservation easement and considers sale or transfer to adjacent landowner under an amended Resource Management Plan.
- Bureau of Land Management retains ownership (no conservation easement) and considers sale or transfer to adjacent landowners under an amended Resource Management Plan.
- Bureau of Land Management retains ownership (no conservation easement) and allows the parcel to be used in a future public-private land swap (under an amended Resource Management Plan) with the goal of improving public river access in association with parcel 13.
- Teton County, fee-simple ownership.
- Teton County, fee-simple ownership with a conservation easement held by the Jackson Hole Land Trust or Snake River Fund.

Recommendation

Management Emphasis

Limited habitat monitoring and management in association with surrounding private lands.

Ownership

Teton County with the understanding that BLM will allow the parcel to be used in a future public-private land swap with the goal of improving public river access in association with parcel 13.

A reversionary clause should be considered as part of the ownership transfer.



Parcel 12 Transfer and Management

Ownership

- Teton County
- Include language that enables Teton County to transfer the parcel to a private party in order to improve public access or wildlife habitat protection on parcel 13.

Management Emphasis

Habitat Monitoring - Limited habitat monitoring and management in association with surrounding private lands.

Resource Management

- **Monitoring** - Conduct periodic monitoring to identify natural resource and encroachment issues.
- **Partnerships** - Coordinate monitoring, weed management, and landowner outreach with other partners (i.e., Teton County Weed & Pest, Jackson Hole Land Trust, and the Snake River Fund) to minimize costs and to ensure that stewardship is consistent with other similar parcels.

Rationale

This parcel is small and isolated and does not appear to have any significant public access or habitat conservation value, except informal access between the levee and a nearby residential area. In the meantime, parcel 13, located about ¼ mile to the south, is heavily used for public recreation but does not have adequate parking or formal river access. While the direct sale or transfer to adjacent private landowners is precluded by the BLM's Snake River RMP and ROD, a two-step transfer to Teton County and then to a private landowner may be possible if it is structured in a way that ultimately benefits public access and use and wildlife habitat conservation on parcel 13. If such a two-step transfer were feasible, the best use and public value of parcel 12 would be to leverage improvements to parcel 13.



PARCEL 13

General Parcel Information

Size: 11 acres

Parcel Location: East side of Section 23, west side of Section 24, Township 41 North, Range 117 West

Description

Parcel 13 lies on the north side of the Wilson Bridge on the west bank of the Snake River, and contains the access road, parking area, and other facilities for the Wilson Bridge Boat Ramp. Most of the parcel consists of upland cottonwood forest typical of the planning area. A large pond and wetland complex dominates the western edge of the parcel near the Moose-Wilson Road.

Access

The parcel is accessible by vehicle from the Moose-Wilson Road, about 1,000 feet north of the Highway 22 intersection. The levee access road enters the parcel from the east side of the Moose-Wilson Road.

Adjacent Land Use and Ownership

The parcel is bounded by highway rights-of-way to the south and west, and a private gravel mining operation to the north. Parcel 14 lies across the Snake River to the east.

Zoning: RU-Rural; natural resource overlay.

Existing Use and Management

Public Access and Use

This parcel provides a well-known and well-used access point to the Snake River. Both commercial and private floaters use the boat ramp. The parcel is also a popular access point for shore fishing, picnicking and swimming. While the parcel provides access to the levee, the boat ramp is not located on the parcel (i.e., public land).

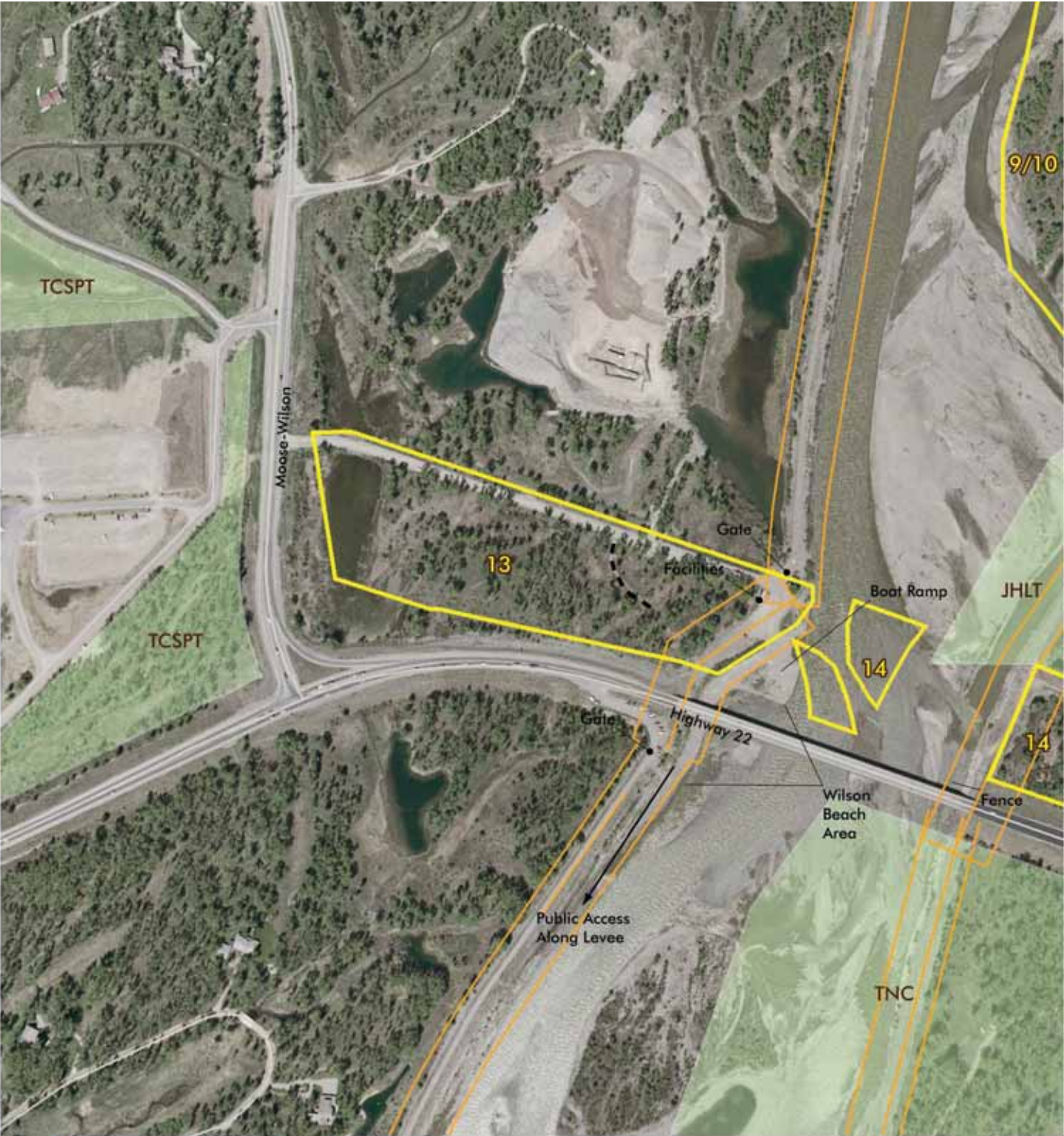
Infrastructure and Improvements

A graded gravel road runs the length of the parcel along its north boundary. A short, secondary road enters the forested area in the eastern half of the parcel, providing access to an informal camping site.

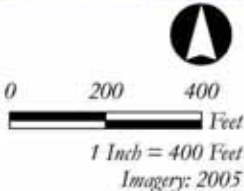
The developed portion of the parcel adjacent to the Boat Ramp Levee includes about 15 parking spaces and boat ramp access to the Snake River. The access road also provides overflow parking for the boat ramp. The parcel contains two pit toilets, an informational kiosk, and a trash dumpster.



PARCEL 13



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|--|--------------------|-------|
| BLM Parcels | Levee Easement | Fence |
| State of Wyoming | Dump Site | Road |
| Conservation Easements | Gravel Mining Area | Trail |
| JHLT Jackson Hole Land Trust | | |
| TCSPT Teton County Scenic Preserve Trust | | |
| TNC The Nature Conservancy | | |



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ERO Resources Corp.

Resource Management and Use

The Snake River Fund maintains the public use facilities that support the boat ramp access. Public access and site maintenance are provided free of charge; however, users are encouraged to give donations to the Snake River Fund to support site management costs. The toilets are cleaned daily during the summer and are pumped twice each year; the dumpster is emptied once each week. No other resource management activities take place on this parcel.

Existing Leases or Encumbrances

Levee easement for Boat Ramp Levee and levee access road.

Resource Values

- **Recreational Access** – Snake River access through this parcel is a major recreational amenity for the community.
- **Potential Pathway Trailhead/Connection-** May provide an important corridor for future pathway development along Wyoming Highway 22 and eventually across the Snake River. This parcel could serve as a regional trailhead that ties the east-west pathway connection in addition to similar uses along the levee to the south.
- **Highway Buffer** – Forested area provides a vegetated buffer between Wyoming Highway 22 and other land uses in the area.
- **Wildlife Habitat** – Contains upland cottonwood forest and small wetland area that is typical of the planning area. Concentrated human use of the eastern half of this parcel and the proximity of roads likely limit use by many wildlife species. There is an active osprey nest on a power line pole at the intersection of the Moose-Wilson Road and the levee access road.
- **Bald Eagle Habitat** – Zone 3, Home Range Area.

Management Issues

- **Parking** – Parking is limited near the boat ramp and along the access road, and is not sufficient to accommodate the amount of use on this parcel during the summer.
- **Informal Camping** – The informal camping area on the parcel could result in management issues due to litter, vegetation trampling, and potentially expanding use.
- **Noxious Weeds** – Spotted knapweed, houndstongue, and musk thistle.

Management and Public Use Options

- **Public Recreation Area** – Expand facilities and services on the parcel to better facilitate the use of the boat ramp for both private and commercial boaters, land-based recreation along the levee and any potential pathway connection, and non-boating river use in the Wilson Beach area.





- **Habitat Conservation** – Minimize human impacts to the wetlands and other wildlife habitat in the western half of the parcel. Respond to major management issues (e.g., noxious weeds and inappropriate uses) on an as-needed basis.

Transfer and Ownership Options

- Teton County, fee-simple ownership.
- Teton County, fee-simple ownership with a conservation easement held by the Jackson Hole Land Trust or Snake River Fund.
- Bureau of Land Management retains ownership with a conservation easement.

Recommendation

Management Emphasis

Public Use and Habitat Management – Emphasize the development and management of public-use facilities along the levee in the eastern half of the parcel, while protecting wildlife habitat in the western half.

Snake River Management – Because this parcel is the only way for the public to access the southern reach of the Snake River within the planning area, the on-the-ground management of public facilities and uses should include other entities as management partners. Key management partners include the Snake River Fund, Bridger-Teton National Forest, and potentially Wyoming State Parks. Ensure consistent on-the-ground management and public contact with the management of future facilities at the South Bridge Boat Ramp (i.e., parcel 26).

Ownership

Teton County fee-simple ownership.

A conservation easement should be placed on this parcel, while a reversionary clause should be considered as part of the ownership transfer.

Work with adjacent landowner to secure legal public access to and use of the Snake River frontage.



Parcel 13 Transfer and Management

Ownership

- Teton County
- Conservation easement held by the Jackson Hole Land Trust (including provisions that allows for the development of additional or improved public use facilities).
- Reversionary clause in the transfer deed.

Management Emphasis

Public Use and Habitat Management -

Emphasize the development and management of public-use facilities along the levee in the eastern half of the parcel, while protecting wildlife habitat in the western half.

Resource Management

- **Signage** - Develop and implement additional signage indicating the ownership of the parcel, management partners, appropriate uses, and overall Snake River management efforts.
- **Camping** - Restrict access to the existing informal camping area, and monitor area for ongoing use and impacts.
- **Noxious Weeds** - Control and monitor noxious weeds annually.
- **Habitat Management** - Monitor the western half of parcel periodically for use by raptors and moose, as well as any management issues that may arise.
- **Master/Management Planning** - Develop a long-term facility development and management plan for the site that encompasses public use facilities, pathways connections, parking, legal access to Wilson Beach, and habitat conservation.

- **Partnerships** - Coordinate public use management, monitoring, weed management, and any landowner outreach with other partners (i.e., Teton County Weed & Pest, Wyoming Game and Fish Department, Bridger-Teton National Forest, Jackson Hole Land Trust, and the Snake River Fund) to minimize costs and to ensure that stewardship is consistent with other similar parcels.

Rationale

This parcel is one of the key public access points along the Snake River and is well used for both land- and river-based recreation. The parcel, along with parcels 9/10 and 14 across the river, are already a popular complex of recreation areas enjoyed by locals and tourists. For this reason, Teton County is the clear ownership entity. While Teton County Parks and Recreation should take on the primary responsibility for recreation facilities in this area, river access management and on-the-ground public contact should also engage other key partners, especially the Snake River Fund, which already has an on-the-ground management presence. The management presence should be consistent between this parcel and any future boat ramp facilities at South Park Bridge (i.e., parcel 26).

The development and implementation of a master/management plan for this parcel will identify a parcel-specific vision for public access and facilities (including securing legal river access, pathways connections, facilities, and parking), habitat conservation, and site management. Facilities and management planning should take into account regional pathways connections, comprehensive river corridor management strategies, and other nearby parcels as a “complex” of county-owned recreation lands. The planning process should be initiated following the initiation of land transfer opportunities associated with parcel 12.





PARCEL 14

General Parcel Information

Size: 5 acres

Parcel Location: West center of Section 24, Township 41 North, Range 117 West

Description

A small basin located along the north side of Wyoming Highway 22, immediately east of the Walton Quarry Levee and the Wilson Bridge. It is vegetated with dense cottonwood forest and wetlands.

Access

Accessible from Emily Stevens Park and the Walton Quarry Levee.

Adjacent Land Use and Ownership

The parcel is adjacent to Emily Stevens Park to the north and east, and the Wyoming Highway 22 right-of-way to the south. Parcel 13 lies across the Snake River to the west.

Zoning: RU-Rural; natural and scenic resource overlay.

Existing Use and Management

Public Access and Use

While this parcel is easily accessible, the steep slopes on all sides and dense vegetation preclude any public use.

Infrastructure and Improvements

Except for the levee and access road surrounding the parcel, there are no other roads, structures, or improvements on this parcel.

Resource Management and Use

There are no indications of any resource management or uses on this parcel.

Existing Leases or Encumbrances

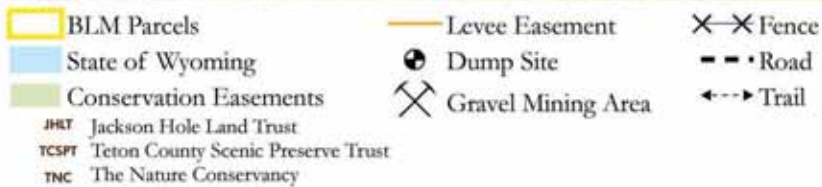
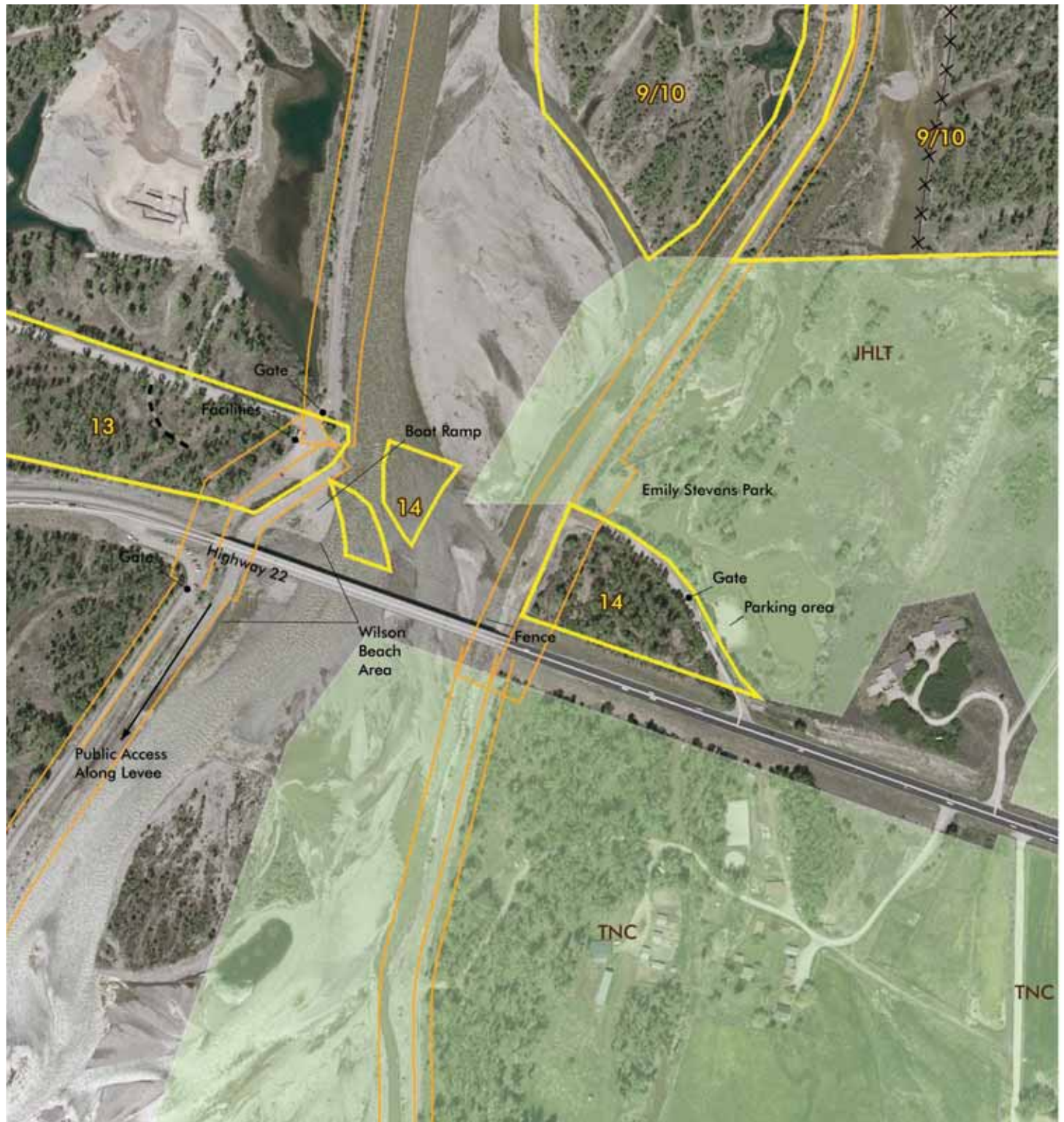
Levee easement for Walton Quarry Levee.

Resource Values

- **Highway Buffer** – Provides a vegetated buffer between Highway 22 and parking area for Emily Stevens Park.
- **Wildlife Habitat** – Contains cottonwood forest, a small stream and associated wetlands typical of the study area. While this is a heavy public use area that is fragmented by roads, the parcel provides limited habitat for some wildlife species.
- **Bald Eagle Habitat** – Zone 3, Home Range Area.



PARCEL 14





Management Issues

- **Noxious Weeds** – Dalmatian toadflax, spotted knapweed, houndstongue, musk thistle, and common mullein.

Management and Public Use Options

- **Habitat Conservation** – Maintain the parcel in a natural state with little human intervention or use. Respond to major management issues (e.g., noxious weeds and inappropriate uses) on an as-needed basis.
- **Boat Ramp Location** – Consider this parcel as a long-term boat ramp location if use of the existing Wilson Bridge boat ramp is no longer feasible due to river access issues.

Transfer and Ownership Options

- Teton County, fee-simple ownership.
- Teton County, fee-simple ownership with a conservation easement held by the Jackson Hole Land Trust or Snake River Fund.
- Bureau of Land Management retains ownership with a conservation easement.

Recommendation

Management Emphasis

Habitat Buffer – Manage this parcel on a limited basis as a visual buffer along Wyoming Highway 22 and a habitat buffer between the highway and Emily Stevens Park and parcel 9/10 to the north.

Boat Ramp – Maintain this parcel as a long-term option should river access at the existing Wilson Bridge boat ramp become infeasible.

Ownership

Teton County, fee simple ownership.

A conservation easement should be placed on this parcel, while a reversionary clause should be considered as part of the ownership transfer.



Parcel 14 Transfer and Management

Ownership

- Teton County
- Conservation easement held by the Jackson Hole Land Trust.
- Reversionary clause in the transfer deed.

Management Emphasis

Habitat Buffer - Manage this parcel on a limited basis as a visual buffer along Wyoming Highway 22 and a habitat buffer between the highway and Emily Stevens Park and parcel 9/10 to the north.

Resource Management

- **Monitoring** - Conduct periodic monitoring to identify any natural resource issues or inappropriate public uses.
- **Partnerships** - Coordinate monitoring and weed management with other partners (i.e., Wyoming Game and Fish Department, Jackson Hole Land Trust, and the Snake River Fund) to minimize costs and to ensure that stewardship is consistent with other similar parcels.

Rationale

This parcel is adjacent to the Emily Stevens Park entry road and provides a visual and habitat buffer between the park and Wyoming Highway 22. For this reason, Teton County is the logical entity for ownership and management of this parcel as part of a county park complex that also includes parcels 9/10 and 13 across the river. The Jackson Hole Land Trust already holds conservation easements on a number of parcels in the adjacent Iron Rock Subdivision. Unless specific management issues arise, there is no apparent need for any active management of this parcel.





PARCEL 15/16

General Parcel Information

Size: 72 acres

Parcel Location: Sections 26 and 35, Township 41 North, Range 117 West

Description

Parcel 15/16 consists mainly of a series of islands and gravel bars between the Public and Morgan Levees about ½ mile south of the Wilson Bridge. A small portion of the southeast corner of this parcel is located outside of the Morgan Levee. While the westernmost islands are generally gravel bars with short willows, the larger islands to the east contain intact stands of mature cottonwood forest. The corner of the parcel, outside the levee, consists of upland cottonwood forest typical of the planning area.



Access

Accessible by river, about ½ mile south of the Wilson Bridge. The Morgan Levee in this area is not open to public access.

Adjacent Land Use and Ownership

The parcel is bounded on the north, south, and east by private property. BLM parcels 17/18 and 19 are located across the Snake River to the west. The Nature Conservancy holds a conservation easement on the adjacent property to the east.

Zoning: RU-Rural; natural resource overlay.

Existing Use and Management

Public Access and Use

No known public access to or use of this parcel. However, adjacent landowners to the east may periodically use this parcel to access the Snake River. Public access and use is not allowed along the Morgan (east side) Levee in this area.



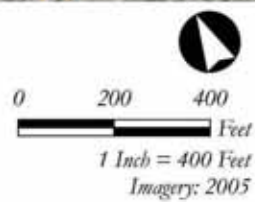
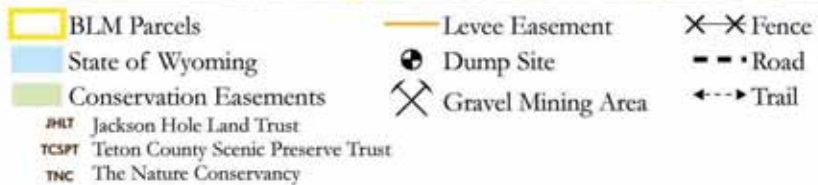
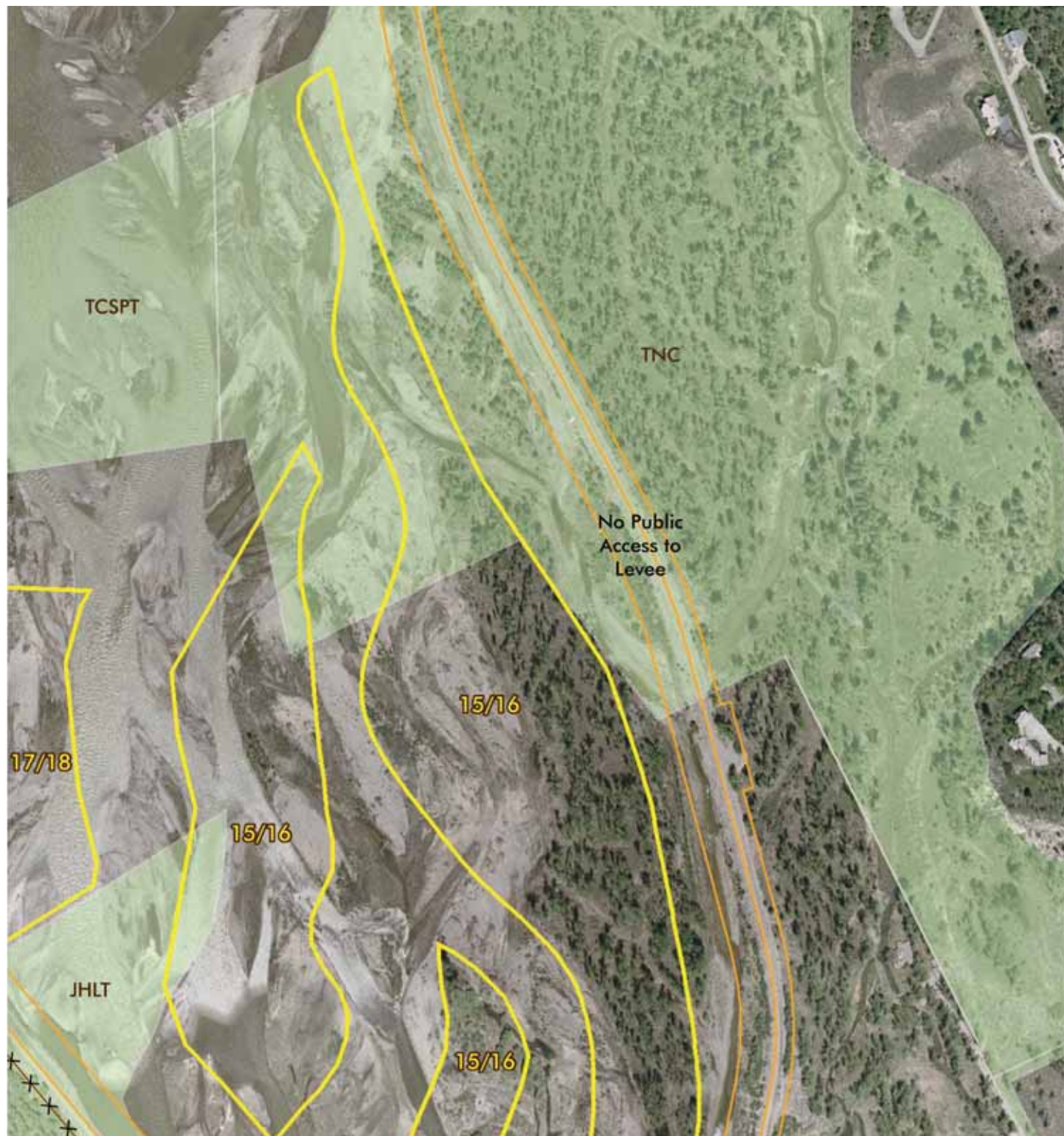
Infrastructure and Improvements

The Morgan Levee runs north to south near the eastern edge of the parcel. This levee crosses the southeast corner of the parcel. There are no other roads, structures, or improvements on this parcel.

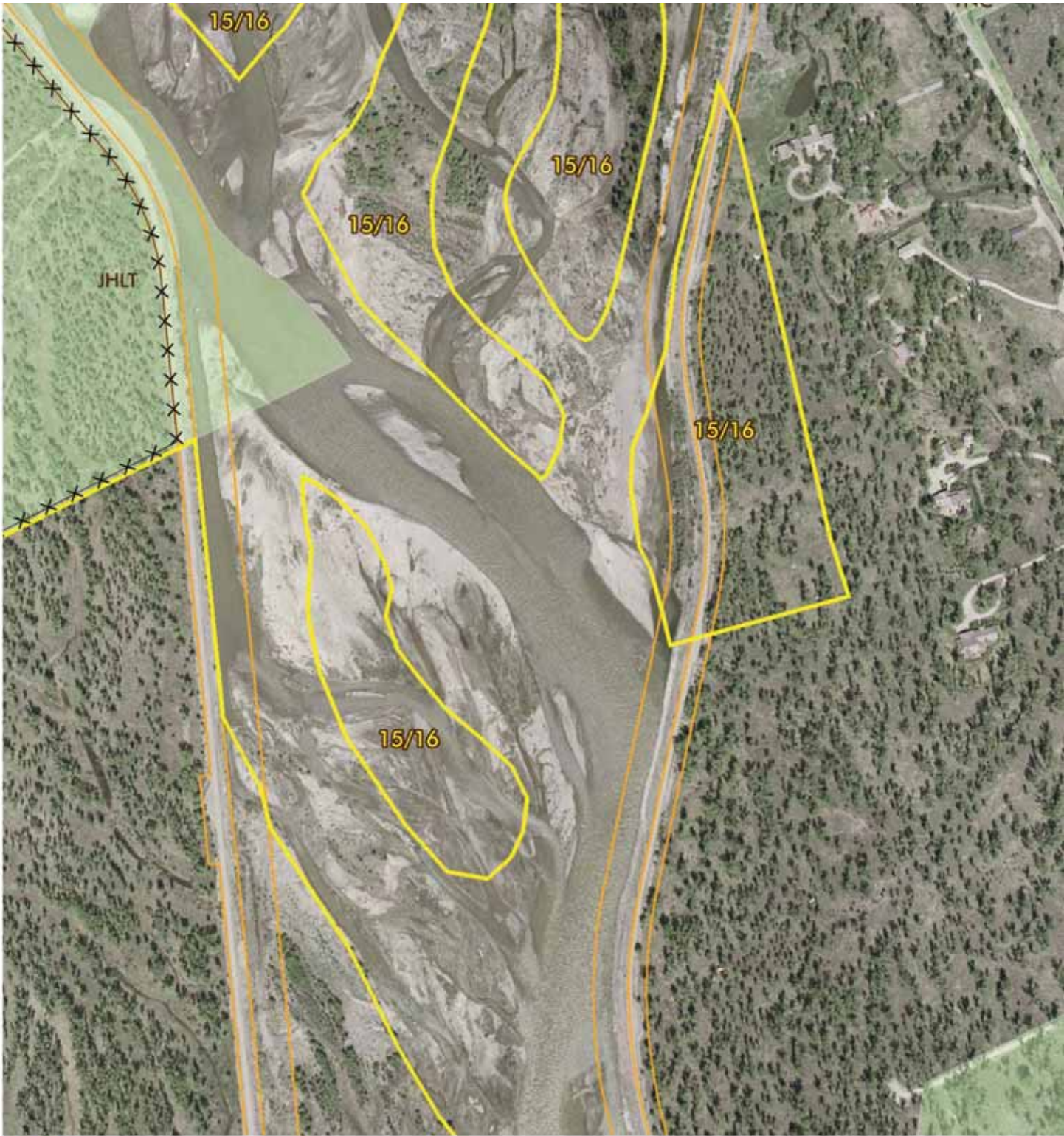
Resource Management and Use

Besides levee maintenance, there are no indications of any active resource management or use on this parcel.

PARCEL 15/16A



PARCEL 15/16B



- | | | |
|--|--------------------|-------|
| BLM Parcels | Levee Easement | Fence |
| State of Wyoming | Dump Site | Road |
| Conservation Easements | Gravel Mining Area | Trail |
| JHLT Jackson Hole Land Trust | | |
| TCSPT Teton County Scenic Preserve Trust | | |
| TNC The Nature Conservancy | | |

0 200 400 Feet
1 Inch = 400 Feet
Imagery: 2005

ERO Resources Corp.

Existing Leases or Encumbrances

Levee easement for the Morgan Levee.

Resource Values

- **Wildlife Habitat** – Provides valuable habitat for large ungulates (i.e., deer, elk, and moose) and other wildlife species in association with adjacent private lands under conservation easement.
- **Bald Eagle Habitat** – Zone 1, Occupied Nesting Area and Zone 2, Primary Use Area.

Management Issues

- **Noxious Weeds** – Spotted knapweed, perennial pepperweed, mullein, houndstongue, and bull thistle.
- **Potential Encroachment** – Encroachment of private roads or facilities from the nearby subdivision to the east is a potential long-term management issue.

Management and Public Use Options

- **Limited Monitoring and Management** – Maintain the parcel in a natural state with little human intervention. Monitor resource management or property trespass issues during annual levee inspections and conservation easement monitoring of adjacent property. Respond to major management issues (e.g., encroachment from neighboring landowners, noxious weeds, and inappropriate uses) on an as-needed basis.
- **River Campsite** – Include the parcel in a managed program to provide overnight camping opportunities along the river.

Transfer and Ownership Options

- Wyoming Game and Fish Commission, fee-simple ownership.
- Wyoming Game and Fish Commission, fee-simple ownership with a conservation easement held by the Jackson Hole Land Trust or Snake River Fund.
- Bureau of Land Management retains ownership with a conservation easement.

Recommendation

Management Emphasis

Habitat Conservation – Emphasize the conservation of riparian habitat, protection of bald eagle nest sites and foraging habitat, and the management of large game.

Ownership

Wyoming Game and Fish Commission fee simple ownership.

A conservation easement should be placed on this parcel, while a reversionary clause should be considered as part of the ownership transfer.



Parcel 15/16 Transfer and Management

Ownership

- Wyoming Game and Fish Commission
- Conservation easement held by the Jackson Hole Land Trust.
- Reversionary clause in the transfer deed.

Management Emphasis

Habitat Conservation - Emphasize the conservation of riparian habitat, protection of bald eagle habitat, and the management of large game.

Resource Management

- **Monitoring** - Monitor parcel on an annual basis as required by a conservation easement to identify major management issues, including noxious weeds and encroachment. Include informal monitoring of the parcel during routine levee inspections conducted by Teton County.
- **Partnerships** - Coordinate monitoring, weed management, and any landowner outreach with other partners (i.e., Teton County Road and Levee Department, Teton County Weed & Pest, The Nature Conservancy, Jackson Hole Land Trust, and the Snake River Fund) to minimize costs and to ensure that stewardship is consistent with other similar parcels.

Rationale

The primary values of this parcel include general wildlife habitat and an area within occupied nesting habitat for bald eagles. Considering the value of this parcel in conserving and buffering important wildlife habitat, the Wyoming Game and Fish Department is an appropriate agency for its management and stewardship. While the parcel is adjacent to a conservation easement held by The Nature Conservancy, that organization does not have a major presence along the Snake River. For this reason an easement held by the Jackson Hole Land Trust will provide additional stewardship and monitoring oversight.



PARCEL 17/18

General Parcel Information

Size: 44 acres

Parcel Location: Section 26, Township 41 North, Range 117 West

Description

Parcel 17/18, which is dominated by a mid- to late-successional cottonwood gallery forest, is one piece of a larger landscape that includes private land and parcel 19. A series of wet and dry meadows occurs on the west side of the levee. Several wetlands are associated with a creek that runs through the parcel on the western edge. Gravel bars and side channels on the river side of the levee provide good river access.

Access

Accessible by river or by walking about $\frac{3}{4}$ mile south from the Wilson Bridge along the Public Levee.

Adjacent Land Use and Ownership

The parcel is bounded on the north, south, and west by private property. The Teton County Scenic Preserve Trust holds a conservation easement on property to the south. The Jackson Hole Land Trust holds a conservation easement over the private land to the north.

Zoning: RU-Rural; natural resource overlay.

Existing Use and Management

Public Access and Use

Some informal walking trails are on the west side of the levee; however, there is no clear access for the general public. There is considerable use of the levee by the public for fishing, running, and walking.

Infrastructure and Improvements

The Public Levee runs north south through the eastern third of parcel 17/18. There are no other roads, structures, or improvements on this parcel.

Resource Management and Use

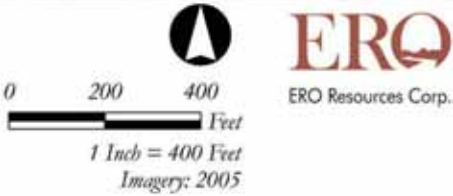
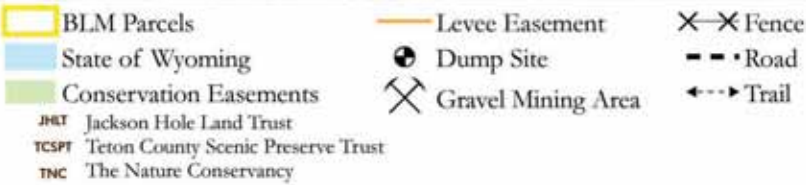
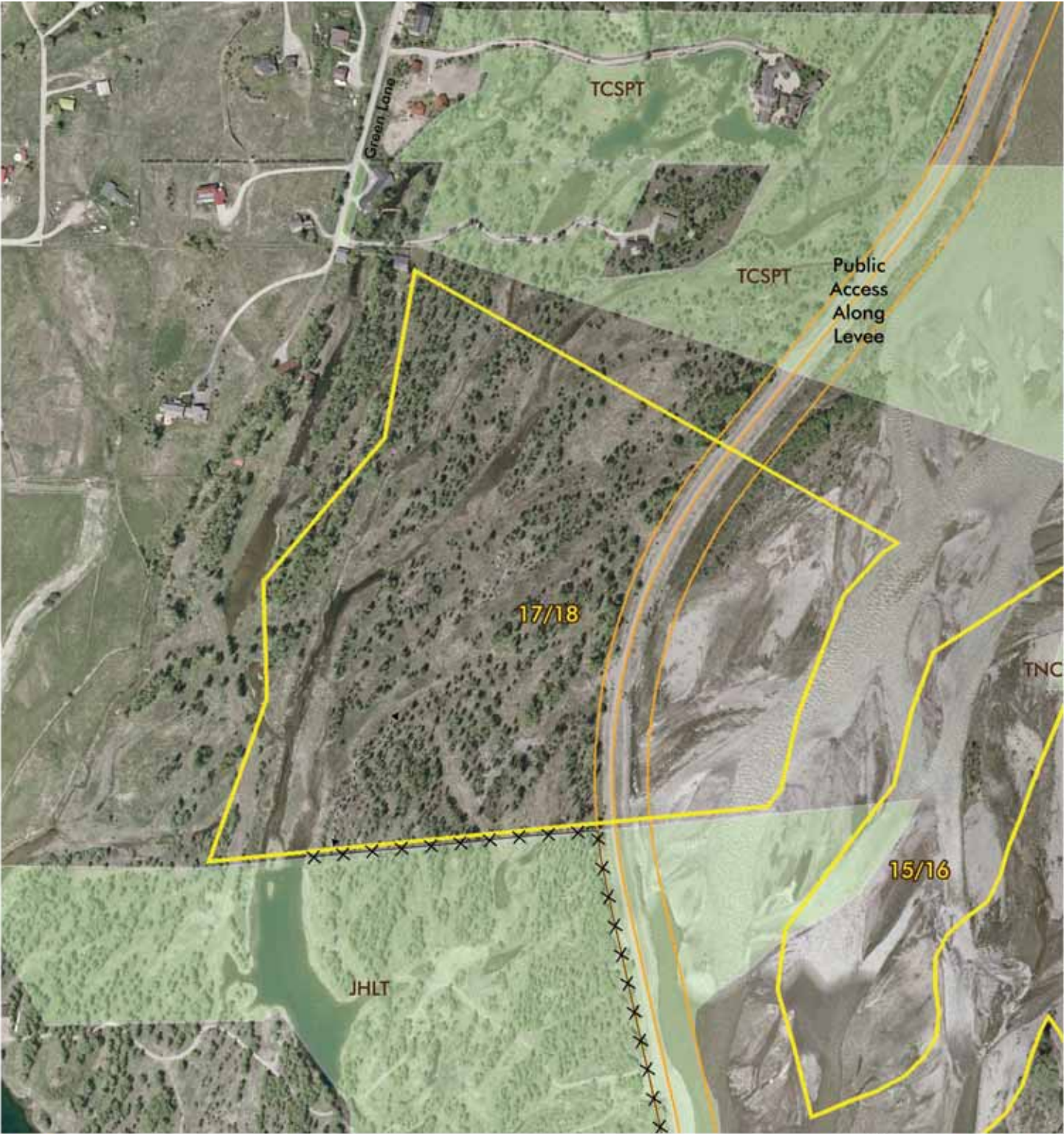
Besides levee maintenance, there are no indications of any active resource management or use on this parcel.

Existing Leases or Encumbrances

Levee easement for the Public Levee.



PARCEL 17/18



Resource Values

- **Wildlife Habitat** – The parcel, in association with private lands under conservation easement and parcel 19, provides valuable habitat for large ungulates (i.e., deer, elk, and moose) and other wildlife species.
- **Bald Eagle Habitat** – Zone 1, Occupied Nesting Area.
- **Recreational Access** – Provides excellent access to the river on the east side of the levee.

Management Issues

- **Dumping** – A small dump occurs on the north side of the parcel near the levee.
- **Noxious Weeds** – Spotted knapweed, houndstongue, and bull thistle.
- **Potential Trespass** – Private lands adjacent to the parcel on three sides coupled with additional public use could result in trespass.
- **Informal Access** – Some indications of informal access and use from adjacent private lands.

Management and Public Use Options

- **Habitat Conservation** – Maintain the parcel in a natural state with little human intervention. Monitor resource management or property trespass issues during annual levee inspections and conservation easement monitoring of adjacent property. Respond to major management issues (e.g., encroachment from neighboring landowners, noxious weeds, and inappropriate uses) on an as-needed basis.
- **Public River Access** – Designate the parcel as a public river access point.
- **No Management** – Allow existing, informal public use to continue with no active monitoring or management.

Transfer and Ownership Options

- Wyoming Game and Fish Commission, fee-simple ownership.
- Wyoming Game and Fish Commission, fee-simple ownership with a conservation easement held by the Jackson Hole Land Trust or Snake River Fund.

Recommendation

Management Emphasis

Habitat Conservation – Emphasize the conservation of riparian habitat and the management of big game.

Ownership

Wyoming Game and Fish Commission fee-simple ownership.

A conservation easement should be placed on this parcel, while a reversionary clause should be considered as part of the ownership transfer.



Parcel 17/18 Transfer and Management

Ownership

- Wyoming Game and Fish Commission
- Conservation easement held by the Jackson Hole Land Trust.
- Reversionary clause in the transfer deed.

Management Emphasis

Habitat Conservation - Emphasize the conservation of riparian habitat and the management of big game.

Resource Management

- **Monitoring** - Monitor parcel on an annual basis as required by a conservation easement to identify major management issues, including noxious weeds and encroachment. Include informal monitoring of the parcel during routine levee inspections conducted by Teton County.
- **Signage** - Construct small signs on the levee at the north and south boundaries identifying the portion of the levee and riverbank that is open to public access and use.

- **Partnerships** - Coordinate monitoring, weed management, and landowner outreach with other partners (i.e., Teton County Road and Levee Department, Teton County Weed & Pest, Jackson Hole Land Trust, and the Snake River Fund) to minimize costs and to ensure that stewardship is consistent with other similar parcels.

Rationale

The primary values of this parcel are for general wildlife habitat, bald eagle habitat, and crucial big game winter range. The Wyoming Game and Fish Department is an appropriate agency for the management and stewardship of this parcel, especially within the context of the larger landscape that includes private land to the south and parcel 19. Because the Jackson Hole Land Trust holds a conservation easement on the private parcel to the south, the organization has a stewardship presence in the area that could be slightly expanded to include additional monitoring and targeted outreach.



PARCEL 19

General Parcel Information

Size: 144 acres

Parcel Location: Section 35, Township 41 North, Range 117 West

Description

Parcel 19, which is dominated by a mid- to late-successional cottonwood gallery forest, is one piece of a larger landscape that includes private land and parcel 17/18. A series of large ponds and streams occur in the northwest and southeast corners of the parcel.

Access

The parcel is accessible by river or by walking about 1.5 miles south from the Wilson Bridge along the Public Levee.

Adjacent Land Use and Ownership

The parcel is bounded on the north and south by private property and on the west by School Trust Land. The Jackson Hole Land Trust holds a conservation easement over the private land to the north. The Teton County Scenic Preserve Trust holds a conservation easement on property to the south.

Zoning: RU-Rural; natural resource overlay.

Existing Use and Management

Public Access and Use

A well-worn trail through the parcel indicates frequent use on the west side of the levee. The public uses the levee for fishing, running, and walking.

Infrastructure and Improvements

The Public Levee runs north south along the east side of the parcel. There are no other roads, structures, or improvements on this parcel.

Resource Management and Use

No indication of any management of natural resources on this parcel.

Existing Leases or Encumbrances

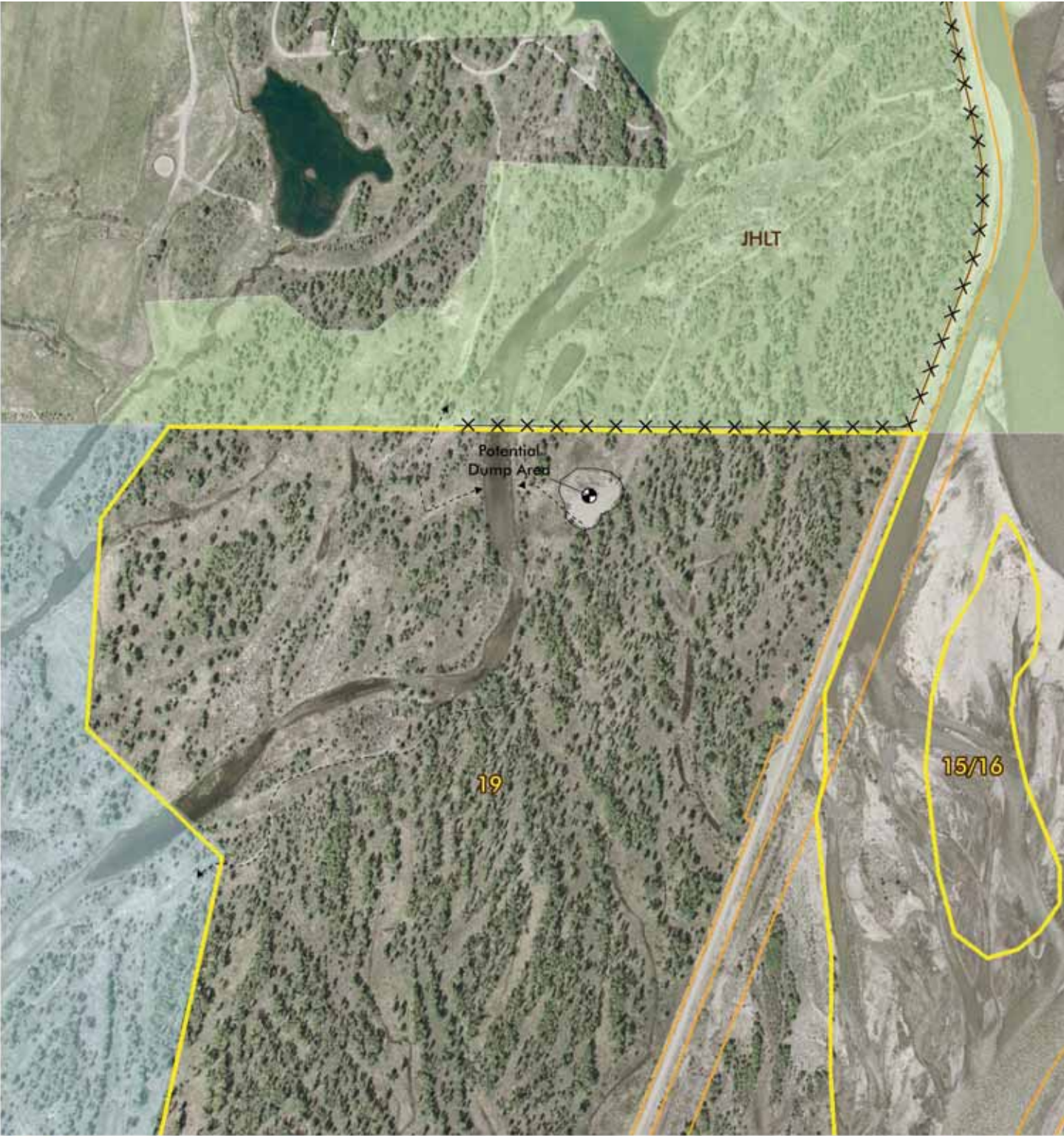
Levee easement for the Public Levee.

Resource Values

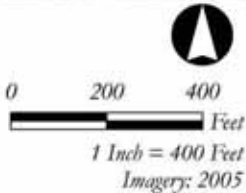
- **Wildlife Habitat** – The parcel, in association with private lands under conservation easement and parcel 17/18, provides valuable habitat for large ungulates (i.e., deer, elk, and moose) and other wildlife species.



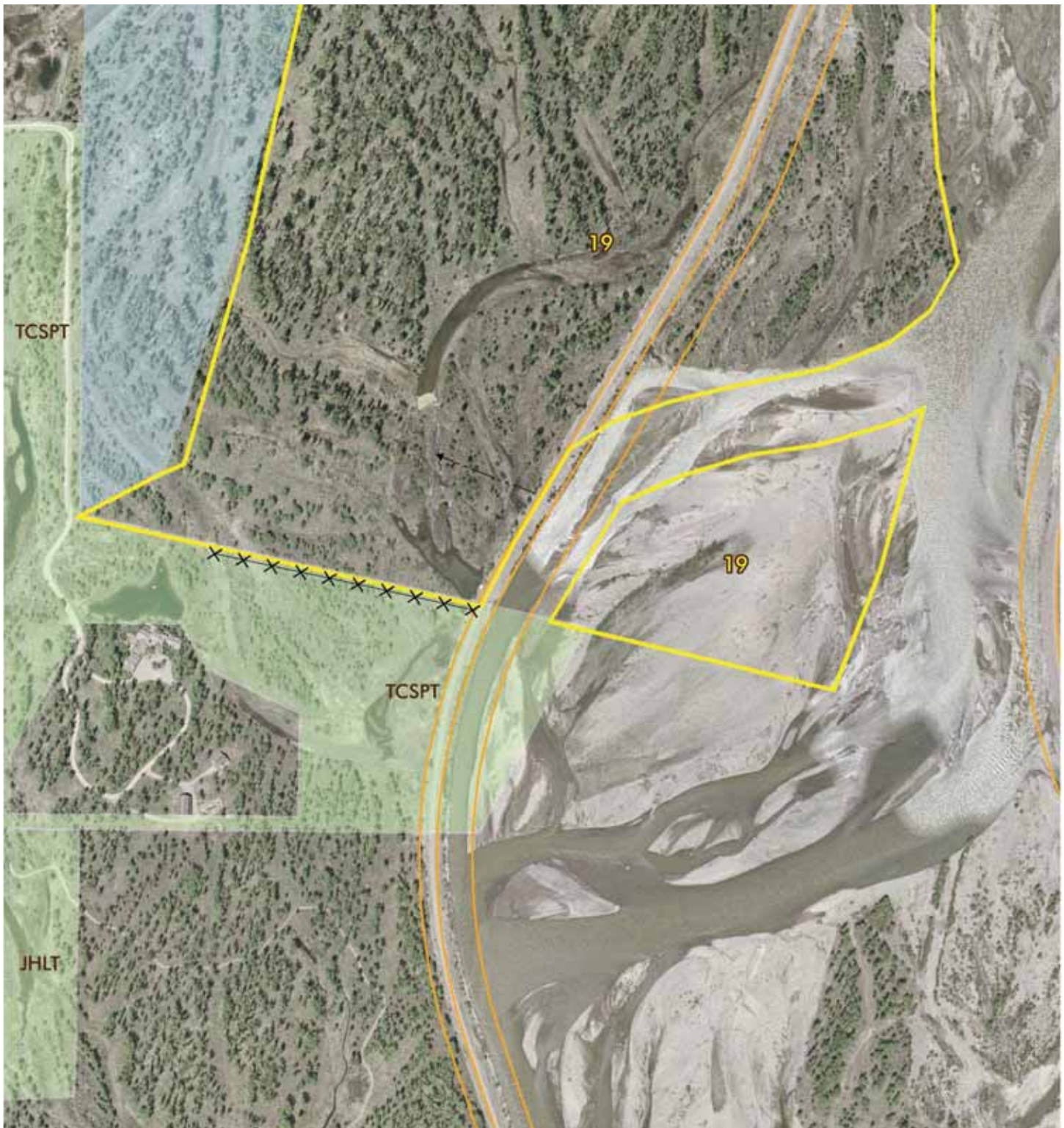
PARCEL 19A



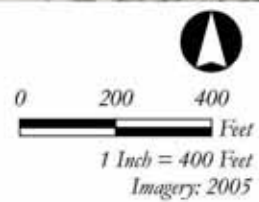
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|--|--------------------|-------|
| BLM Parcels | Levee Easement | Fence |
| State of Wyoming | Dump Site | Road |
| Conservation Easements | Gravel Mining Area | Trail |
| JHLT Jackson Hole Land Trust | | |
| TCSPT Teton County Scenic Preserve Trust | | |
| TNC The Nature Conservancy | | |



PARCEL 19B



- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| BLM Parcels | Levee Easement | X-X Fence |
| State of Wyoming | • Dump Site | Road |
| Conservation Easements | X Gravel Mining Area | ←-→ Trail |
| JHLT Jackson Hole Land Trust | | |
| TCSPT Teton County Scenic Preserve Trust | | |
| TNC The Nature Conservancy | | |



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- **Bald Eagle Habitat** – Zone 1, Occupied Nesting Area and Zone 2, Primary Use Area.

Management Issues

- **Noxious Weeds** – Spotted knapweed, Dalmatian toadflax, houndstongue, and bull thistle.
- **Dumping** – A large dump that has been mostly cleaned up occurs on the north side.
- **Encroachment** – Well-used trails between adjacent lands and the levee on parcel clearly indicate use by neighboring landowners.

Management and Public Use Options

- **Habitat Conservation** – Maintain the parcel in a natural state with little human intervention. Monitor resource management or property trespass issues during annual levee inspections and conservation easement monitoring of adjacent property. Respond to major management issues (e.g., encroachment from neighboring landowners, noxious weeds, and inappropriate uses) on an as-needed basis.
- **Public River Access** – Designate the parcel as a public river access point via the levee.
- **No Management** – Allow existing, informal public use to continue with no active monitoring or management.



Transfer and Ownership Options

- Wyoming Game and Fish Commission, fee-simple ownership.
- Wyoming Game and Fish Commission, fee-simple ownership with a conservation easement held by the Jackson Hole Land Trust or Snake River Fund.

Recommendation

Management Emphasis

Habitat Conservation – Emphasize the conservation of riparian habitat and the management of big game.

Ownership

Wyoming Game and Fish Commission fee-simple ownership.

A conservation easement should be placed on this parcel, while a reversionary clause should be considered as part of the ownership transfer.



Parcel 19 Transfer and Management

Ownership

- Wyoming Game and Fish Commission
- Conservation easement held by the Jackson Hole Land Trust.
- Reversionary clause in the transfer deed.

Management Emphasis

Habitat Conservation - Emphasize the conservation of riparian habitat and the management of big game.

Resource Management

- **Monitoring** - Monitor the parcel on an annual basis as required by a conservation easement to identify major management issues, including noxious weeds and encroachment. Include informal monitoring of the parcel during routine levee inspections conducted by Teton County.
- **Signage** - Construct small signs on the levee at the north and south boundaries identifying the portion of the levee and riverbank that is open to public access and use.

- **Partnerships** - Coordinate monitoring, weed management, and landowner outreach with other partners (i.e., Teton County Road and Levee Department, Teton County Weed & Pest, Jackson Hole Land Trust, and the Snake River Fund) to minimize costs and to ensure that stewardship is consistent with other similar parcels.

Rationale

The primary values of this parcel are for general wildlife habitat, bald eagle habitat, and crucial big game winter range. The Wyoming Game and Fish Department is an appropriate agency for the management and stewardship of this parcel, especially within the context of the larger landscape that includes private land to the north and parcel 17/18. Because the Jackson Hole Land Trust holds a conservation easement on the private parcel to the north, the organization has a stewardship presence in the area that could be slightly expanded to include additional monitoring and targeted outreach.





PARCEL 21

General Parcel Information

Size: 61 acres

Parcel Location: Section 14, Township 40 North, Range 117 West

Description

Parcel 21 is located in gentle bend of the Snake River where the river transitions to a southeasterly flow toward South Bridge. The western quarter of the parcel occurs on the river side of the levee and provides good access to and from the river. Most of the parcel consists of mature cottonwood forest. Two spring creeks traverse the parcel in a southerly direction.

Access

Accessible from the river only.

Adjacent Land Use and Ownership

The parcel is bounded on the east by State Trust Land and private residential lands on all other sides. The Jackson Hole Land Trust holds conservation easements over several properties north of the parcel, but not adjacent to the parcel.

Zoning: RU-Rural; natural resource overlay.

Existing Use and Management

Public Access and Use

No indications of public use of the parcel.

Infrastructure and Improvements

The levee along the east bank of the Snake River crosses through the western third of the parcel. There are no other roads, structures, or other improvements on this parcel.

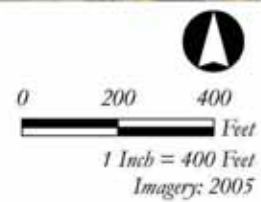
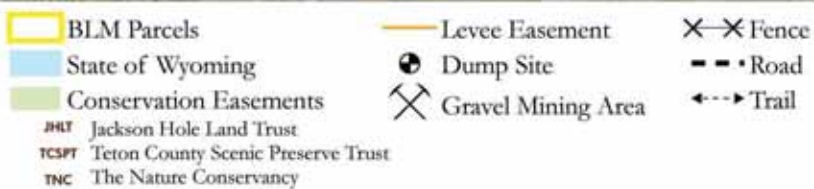
Resource Management and Use

This parcel has been used extensively for livestock grazing in the past. Current grazing use is not known. Besides potential grazing and continual levee management, there are no other indications of any management of natural resources on this parcel.

Existing Leases or Encumbrances

Levee easement for the Upper Imeson #1 Levee. An existing grazing permit is associated with the parcel.

PARCEL 21





Resource Values

- **Wildlife Habitat** – This eastern portion of this parcel contains a large area of mature cottonwood forest that dominates the parcel. Two spring creeks, with associated wetlands, flow north to south across the parcel. The parcel provides crucial winter habitat for big game and is part of a corridor for elk movement to the South Park Feedground.
- **Bald Eagle Habitat** – Zone 1, Occupied Nesting Area.

Management Issues

- **Noxious Weeds** – Spotted knapweed, houndstongue, Canada thistle, musk thistle, bull thistle, common mullein.
- **Nesting Raptors** – Consider seasonal closures for bald eagle nesting.
- **Encroachment** – Monitor the parcel for encroachment or inappropriate uses.

Management and Public Use Options

- **Habitat Conservation** – Maintain the parcel in a natural state with little human intervention. Monitor resource management or property trespass issues during annual levee inspections and conservation easement monitoring of adjacent property. Respond to major management issues (e.g., encroachment from neighboring landowners, noxious weeds, and inappropriate uses) on an as-needed basis.
- **Public Access from River** – Designate the parcel as a publicly accessible river landing for shore fishing and other day uses.
- **No Management** – Allow existing, informal public use to continue with no active monitoring or management.

Transfer and Ownership Options

- Wyoming Game and Fish Commission, fee-simple ownership.
- Wyoming Game and Fish Commission, fee-simple ownership with a conservation easement held by the Jackson Hole Land Trust or Snake River Fund.

Recommendation

Management Emphasis

Habitat Conservation – Emphasize the conservation of riparian habitat, spring creek fishery, and the management of big game.

Ownership

Wyoming Game and Fish Commission fee-simple ownership.

A conservation easement should be placed on this parcel, while a reversionary clause should be considered as part of the ownership transfer.

Parcel 21 Transfer and Management

Ownership

- Wyoming Game and Fish Commission
- Conservation easement held by the Jackson Hole Land Trust.
- Reversionary clause in the transfer deed.

Management Emphasis

Habitat Conservation - Emphasize the conservation of riparian habitat, bald eagle habitat, spring creek fishery, and the management of big game.

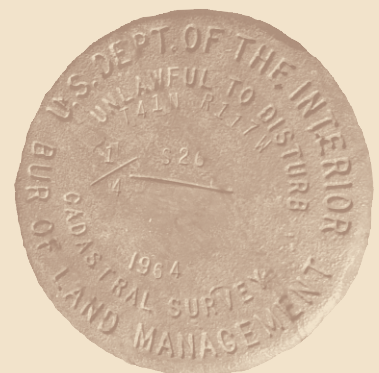
Resource Management

- **Monitoring** - Monitor the parcel on an annual basis as required by a conservation easement to identify major management issues, including noxious weeds and encroachment. Include informal monitoring of the parcel during routine levee inspections conducted by Teton County.
- **Signage** - Consider constructing small signs on the levee at the north and south boundaries identifying the portion of the levee and riverbank that is open to public access and use.

- **Partnerships** - Coordinate monitoring, weed management, and landowner outreach with other partners (i.e., Teton County Road and Levee Department, Teton County Weed & Pest, Jackson Hole Land Trust, and the Snake River Fund) to minimize costs and to ensure that stewardship is consistent with other similar parcels.

Rationale

The primary values of this parcel are general wildlife habitat, bald eagle nesting habitat, crucial big game winter range, and a movement corridor for elk. The two spring creeks that flow through the parcel provide a unique fishery not found on other parcels in the planning area. The Wyoming Game and Fish Department is an appropriate agency for the management and stewardship of this parcel, especially within the context of bald eagle and big game management. Because the Jackson Hole Land Trust holds a conservation easement on several private parcels in the vicinity, the organization has a stewardship presence in the area that could be slightly expanded to include additional monitoring and targeted outreach.





PARCEL 23

General Parcel Information

Size: 89 acres

Parcel Location: Southwest corner Section 24 and portions of Section 25, Township 40 North, Range 117 West

Description

Parcel 23 consists of two parcels along the west bank of the Snake River, situated between the river and Fall Creek Road. The north parcel is bisected by the Taylor Creek #3 Levee, with the upland side of the levee consisting of mature cottonwood forest interspersed with small streams and wetlands. A large extent of this parcel inside of the levee currently consists of the main channel of the Snake River and gravel bar islands. The south parcel is bisected by the Sewell Levee and consists of a mix of cottonwood forest, pastureland, and corrals associated with the adjacent ranch.

Access

The north parcel is accessible from Fall Creek Road through an unmarked gate near the southern property line. The south parcel can be reached through the adjacent ranch complex, but is not publicly accessible. Both parcels can be accessed from the river.

Adjacent Land Use and Ownership

The parcel is bounded by private ranch land on all sides. The BLM is in the process of transferring a small area of the southern portion to the adjacent landowner. A large parcel of private land across the Snake River to the east is under a conservation easement held by the Jackson Hole Land Trust.

Zoning: RU-Rural; natural resource overlay.

Existing Use and Management

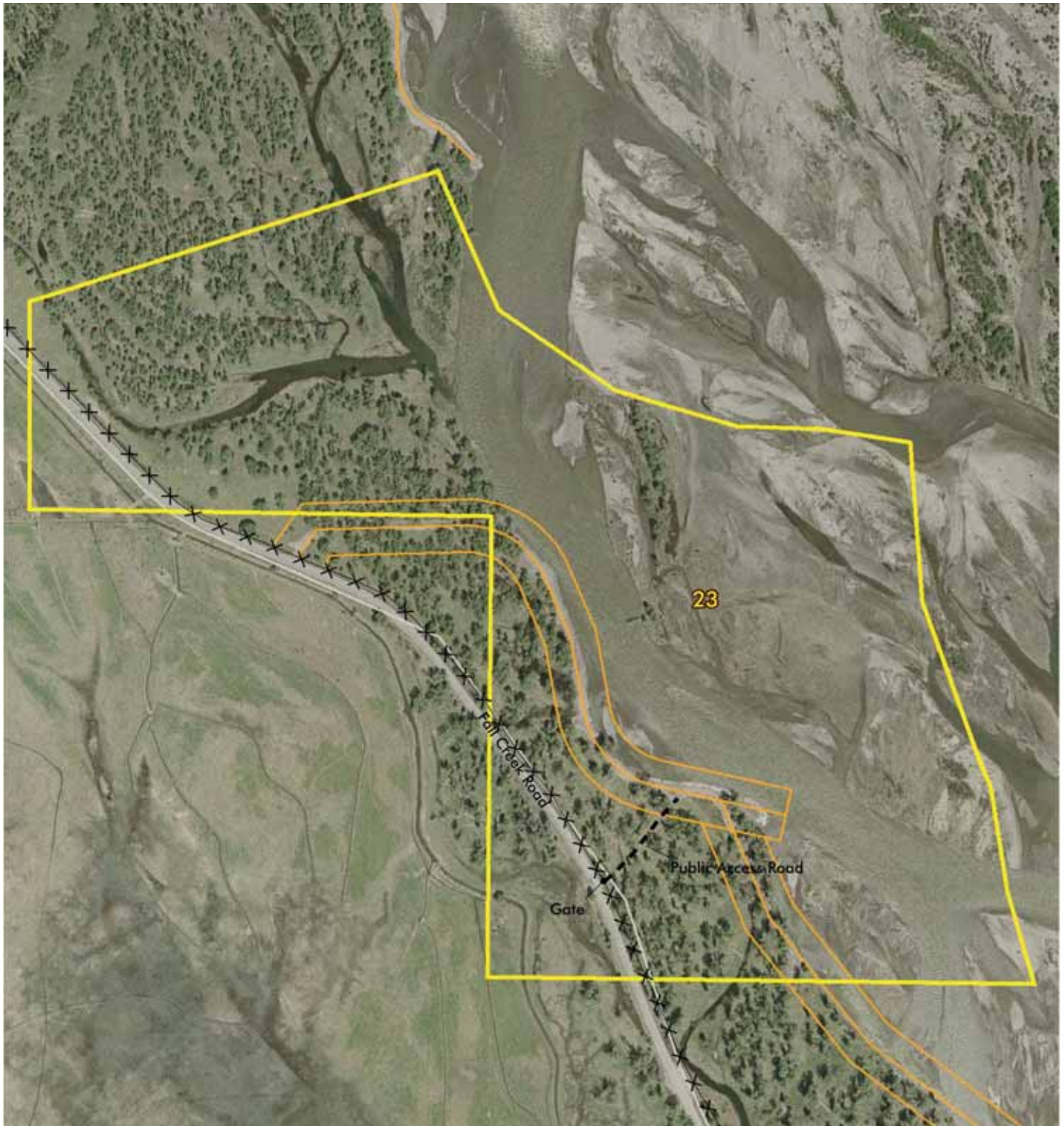
Public Access and Use

There appears to be limited use of the parcel for shore fishing by locals familiar with the parcel and its public access point. River outfitters use the adjacent private parcel to the north as a private take-out and guest dinner service location.

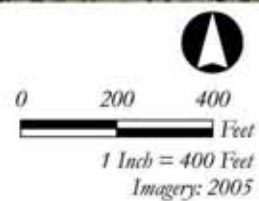
Infrastructure and Improvements

- **Northern Portion** – The Taylor Creek #3 Levee along the west bank of the Snake River bisects this portion of the parcel. A short, two-track access road crosses the northern parcel from an unmarked gate on Fall Creek Road to the levee. A barbed-wire fence runs the length of the parcel along Fall Creek Road.

PARCEL 23A

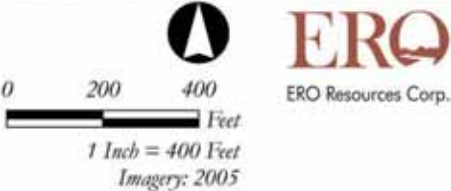
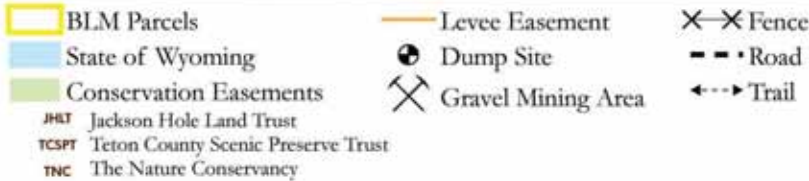
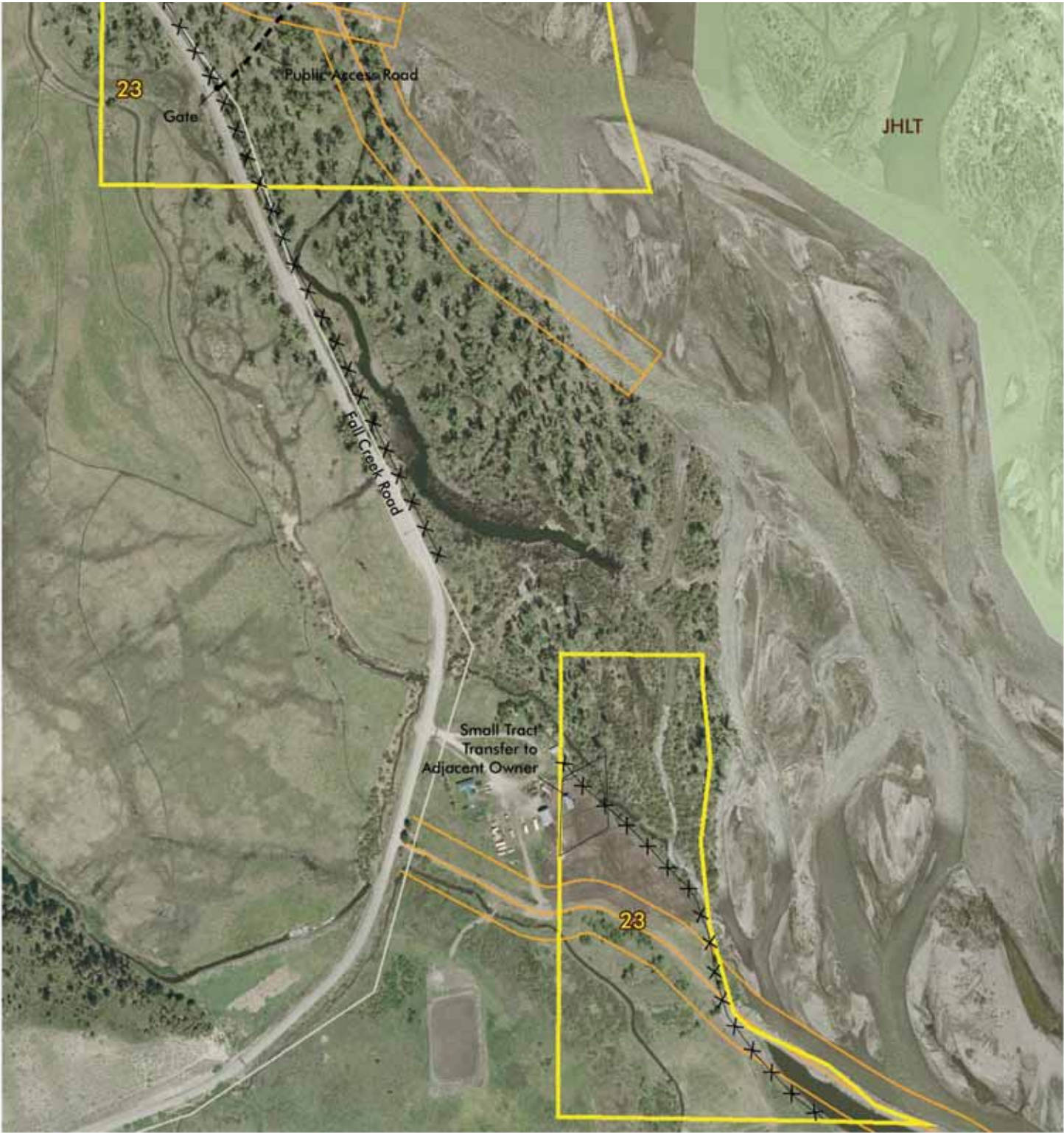


- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| BLM Parcels | Levee Easement | X X Fence |
| State of Wyoming | Dump Site | Road |
| Conservation Easements | X Gravel Mining Area | • • • Trail |
| JHLT Jackson Hole Land Trust | | |
| TCSPT Teton County Scenic Preserve Trust | | |
| TNC The Nature Conservancy | | |



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PARCEL 23B



- **Southern Portion** – The Sewell Levee bisects this portion of the parcel. Corrals, sheds, fences, and other improvements associated with the adjacent ranch complex cover about one third of the southern parcel. A small tract transfer for some of this area is currently in process.

Resource Management and Use

Both the northern and southern portions of the parcel are used to graze livestock.

Existing Leases or Encumbrances

Levee easement for Taylor Creek #3 Levee on the north portion and Sewell Levee on the south portion of the parcel.

Resource Values

- **Bald Eagle** – Zone 1, Occupied Nesting Area; Zone 2, Primary Use Area; and Zone 3, Home Range Area.
- **Elk Movement Corridor** – Occurs within a major corridor for seasonal elk migration between the mountains to the west and the winter range on the South Park Feedground to the east.
- **Wildlife Habitat** – The cottonwood forest and small wetlands on the parcel are typical of the planning area and provide habitat for a variety of wildlife species.

Management Issues

- **Grazing** – Monitor long-term grazing practices and manage to ensure that they do not degrade resource values and are compatible with future uses.
- **Noxious Weeds** – Bull thistle, musk thistle, oxeye daisy, scentless chamomile, common sowthistle, spotted knapweed, houndstongue, and common mullein.

Management and Public Use Options

- **Habitat Conservation** – Manage the parcel to protect riparian woodland habitat along and protect elk migration routes. Restrict or manage grazing to maximize wildlife habitat values. Conduct periodic habitat monitoring and respond to major management issues (e.g., noxious weeds and inappropriate uses) on an as-needed basis.
- **Elk Management** – Allow limited public hunting and fishing access, with potential seasonal closures to facilitate elk migration. Allow continued grazing in a manner that is compatible with elk management. Do not develop new public facilities.
- **Public Park** – Develop limited facilities to facilitate day uses such as shore fishing access, hunting, picnics, and wildlife observation. Facilities may include a small parking area (i.e., five spaces), picnic table, trash receptacles, and a toilet. A small staircase or ramp to facilitate river access for small craft (e.g., canoes or kayaks) also may be appropriate.





- **Public Boat Ramp** – Develop a large-scale boat ramp to provide additional river access between Wilson Bridge and South Park. Related facilities may include toilets, a dumpster, and parking for over 20 vehicles.

Transfer and Ownership Options

- Wyoming Game and Fish Commission, fee-simple ownership.
- Wyoming Game and Fish Commission, fee-simple ownership with a conservation easement held by the Jackson Hole Land Trust or Snake River Fund.
- Teton County, fee-simple ownership.
- Teton County, fee-simple ownership with a conservation easement.
- Bridger-Teton National Forest, fee-simple ownership.



Under any of these scenarios, consider the appropriate mechanism to enter into a land trade and/or transfer with the adjacent ranch. The purpose of such a transaction would be to dispose of the southern parcel and the corners of the northern portion on the west side of Fall Creek Road in order to consolidate parcel boundaries and facilitate management.

Recommendation

Management Emphasis

Public Use and Habitat Management – Develop limited day use facilities with defined rules and regulations, while emphasizing elk management and overall habitat conservation.

Ownership

Wyoming Game and Fish Commission, fee-simple ownership.

A conservation easement should be placed on this parcel, while a reversionary clause should be considered as part of the ownership transfer.

Ownership transfer should consider the possibility of a land trade with the adjacent ranch.

Parcel 23 Transfer and Management

Ownership

- Wyoming Game and Fish Commission
- Conservation easement held by the Jackson Hole Land Trust.
- Reversionary clause in the transfer deed.
- Include language that allows for a land trade or transfer to consolidate parcel boundaries.

Management Emphasis

Public Use and Habitat Management - Develop limited day use facilities while emphasizing elk management and overall habitat conservation.

Resource Management

- **Public Access** - Clarify and improve public access from Fall Creek Road with a cattle guard that allows open vehicle access consistent with grazing management.
- **Signage** - Post signs at the Fall Creek Road access and along the levee indicating the ownership, management, and appropriate uses of the parcel.
- **Noxious Weeds** - Control and monitor noxious weeds annually.
- **Habitat Management** - Manage the parcel for riparian habitat conservation, with an emphasis on sustaining a viable elk migration corridor. Conduct periodic monitoring to identify any management issues that may arise.
- **Grazing** - Work with the neighboring landowner to develop a management strategy that is consistent with limited public access and overall habitat management priorities. Monitor grazing to ensure compliance with any management plan.

- **Maintenance and Law Enforcement** - Incorporate a frequent maintenance and law enforcement presence to minimize and manage incompatible or inappropriate uses (e.g., partying, camping, and dumping), and to track the effects of additional public use on the parcel.
- **Partnerships** - Coordinate monitoring, weed management, and landowner outreach with other partners (i.e., Teton County Road and Levee Department, Teton County Weed & Pest, Jackson Hole Land Trust, and the Snake River Fund) to minimize costs and to ensure that stewardship is consistent with other similar parcels.

Rationale

While this parcel provides a unique opportunity for public access to the Snake River, it also supports important habitat for elk, bald eagle, and other wildlife species. The development of limited public use facilities, the management of wildlife habitat, and managed grazing appear to be compatible objectives for this parcel. For these reasons, the Wyoming Game and Fish Department is the appropriate entity to own and manage the parcel. Management will need to be closely coordinated with the grazing lessee to ensure that public use and grazing are compatible with wildlife management needs. The Wyoming Game and Fish Department should also work with the adjacent landowner to formulate a land trade that results in more logical and efficient parcel boundaries.



PARCEL 24

General Parcel Information

Size: 2 acres

Parcel Location: Southwest corner of Section 30, Township 40 North, Range 116 West

Description

Parcel 24 includes a small strip of land in the main channel of the Snake River. This parcel may include exposed gravel bars during low flow periods.

Access

Accessible by river only; likely inundated during high river flows.

Adjacent Land Use and Ownership

The parcel is adjacent to private ranch land to the east in all directions. The Jackson Hole Land Trust holds a conservation easement on the parcel to the north.

Zoning: RU-Rural; natural resource overlay.

Existing Use and Management

Public Access and Use

No public access to or use of this parcel.

Infrastructure and Improvements

No roads, structures, or other improvements occur on this parcel.

Resource Management and Use

No resource management or uses on this parcel.

Existing Leases or Encumbrances

Teton County has no record of leases or encumbrances on this parcel. As the Snake River changes course, the BLM's long-term ownership of this parcel may be in question.

Resource Values

Bald Eagle – Zone 1, Occupied Nesting Area and Zone 2, Primary Use Area.

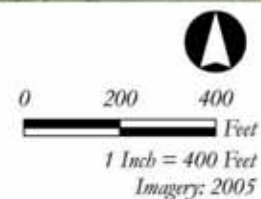
Management Issues

This parcel is located within the Snake River channel and currently presents no significant management issues.

PARCEL 24



- | | | |
|--|--------------------|-------|
| BLM Parcels | Levee Easement | Fence |
| State of Wyoming | Dump Site | Road |
| Conservation Easements | Gravel Mining Area | Trail |
| JHLT Jackson Hole Land Trust | | |
| TCSPT Teton County Scenic Preserve Trust | | |
| TNC The Nature Conservancy | | |



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Management and Public Use Options

As the Snake River shifts, management and use options are limited to periodic monitoring to identify and respond to future management issues.

Transfer and Ownership Options

- BLM retains ownership.
- BLM retains ownership and considers sale or transfer to adjacent landowners under an amended Resource Management Plan.
- BLM retains ownership and allows the parcel to be used as part of a future public-private land trade associated with parcel 23.

Recommendation***Management Emphasis***

Limited monitoring to identify and respond to future management issues.

Ownership

BLM retains ownership. If possible, consider this parcel as part of a future land trade associated with parcel 23.

Parcel 24 Transfer and Management

Ownership

- BLM retains ownership

Management Emphasis

Limited Monitoring - Limited monitoring to identify and respond to future management issues.

Resource Management

- **Periodic Monitoring** - As the Snake River changes and shifts, conduct periodic monitoring to identify and address future management issues.
- **Partnerships** - Coordinate monitoring any landowner outreach with other partners (i.e., Bridger-Teton National Forest, Wyoming Game and Fish Department, Teton County, and the Snake River Fund).

Rationale

This parcel is currently within the main channel of the Snake River. A determination needs to be made whether this parcel will continue to be under BLM ownership as the Snake River continues to shift. Any future management may arise from the establishment of vegetation, wildlife habitat, and noxious weeds if and when the Snake River moves away from the parcel. The BLM can determine whether this parcel may be included in a land transfer “package” associated with the boundaries of parcel 23, which is located about ½ mile to the northwest.





PARCEL 26

General Parcel Information

Size: 23 acres

Parcel Location: Southwest corner Section 34, Township 40 North, Range 116 West

Description

This parcel encompasses the riverbank and associated uplands on the south side of the Snake River at the South Park Bridge. The western portion of the parcel consists of a large, open field with non-native pasture grasses, while the eastern portion of the parcel consists of a small meadow and a narrow strip of willows and cottonwoods along the riverbank.

Access

The parcel is accessible from the Munger Mountain Road turnoff on U.S. Highway 89/191 immediately south of the South Park Bridge. This parcel is also accessible from the south bank of the Snake River.

Adjacent Land Use and Ownership

A large gravel quarry and associated processing facilities are adjacent to the parcel to the west and south. Evan's construction accesses the river across the east side of the parcel for gravel extraction. Private lands, primarily residential, bound the property to the north and west. A mobile home park is adjacent to the parcel to the southeast.

Zoning: RU-Rural; natural resource overlay throughout and scenic resource overlay to the west of U.S. Highway 89/191.

Existing Use and Management

Public Access and Use

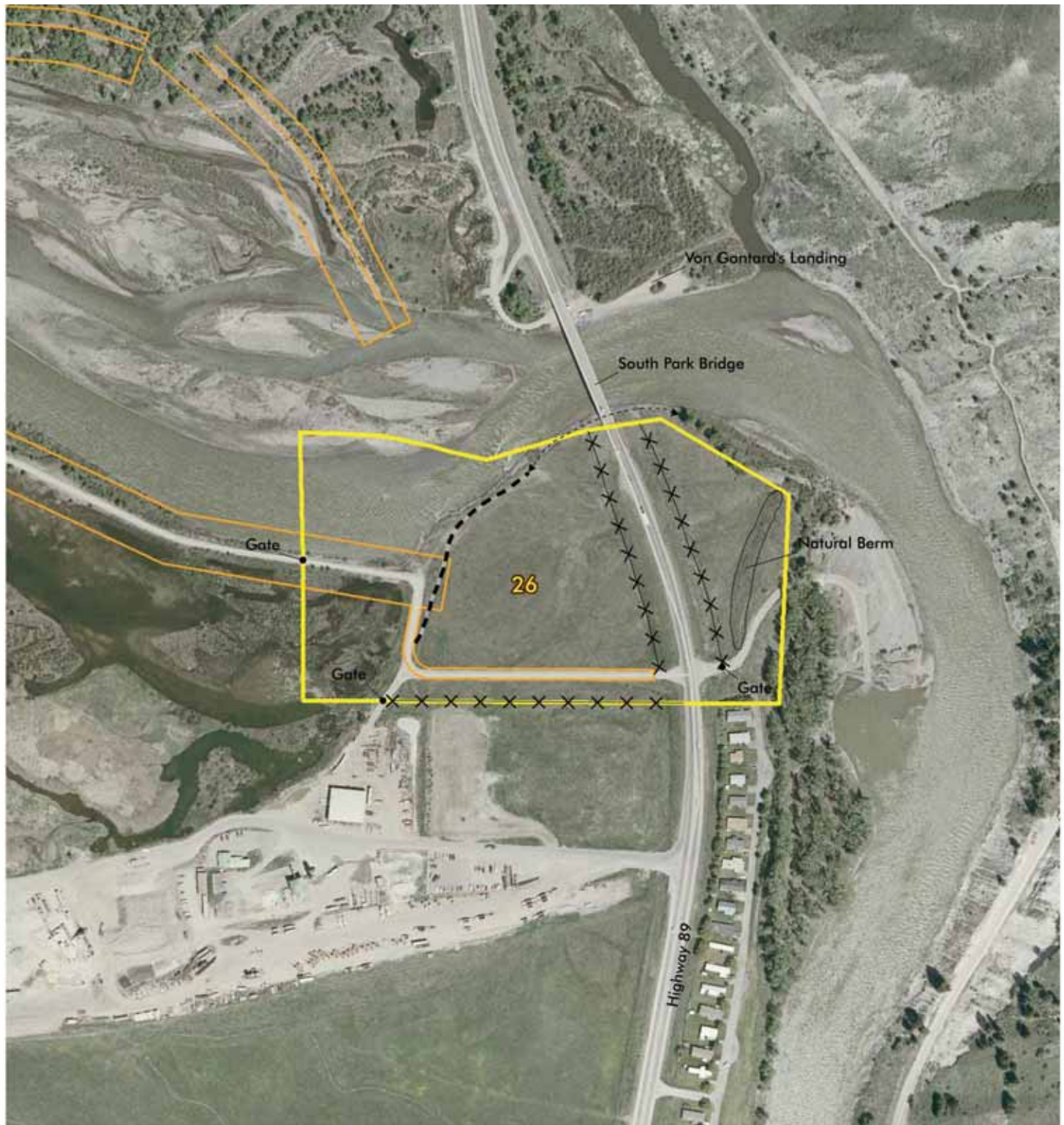
This parcel is used for public river access from the highway and Munger Mountain Road. An informal parking area occurs on the west side of the highway, while the sandbar east of the highway is a popular shore-fishing destination.

In 2004, the BLM completed a South Park River Access Recreation Project Plan to develop a major boat ramp and river access facility at this site. This plan is commonly referred to as the "OTAK Plan." The OTAK Plan has not been endorsed by the Task Force.

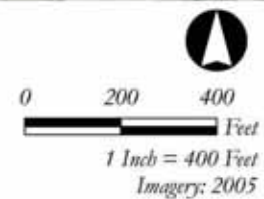
Infrastructure and Improvements

The Evans Levee enters the west edge of the parcel, while the remaining bank is armored with concrete riprap. U.S. Highway 89/191 bisects the parcel as it crosses the Snake River over the South Park Bridge. A large culvert under the levee connects the ponds in

PARCEL 26



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|---|--|--|
| BLM Parcels | Levee Easement | X-X Fence |
| State of Wyoming | Dump Site | Road |
| Conservation Easements | X Gravel Mining Area | Trail |
| JHLT Jackson Hole Land Trust | | |
| TCSPT Teton County Scenic Preserve Trust | | |
| TNC The Nature Conservancy | | |





the southwest corner of the property to the Snake River. A small irrigation ditch crosses the field in the western portion of the parcel.

Resource Management and Use

There are no known resource management activities on this parcel.

Existing Leases or Encumbrances

Levee easement and levee access road for the Evans Levee.

Resource Values

- **River Access** – Provides direct public access to the Snake River from the highway. The BLM has already outlined a plan for the development and expansion of river access facilities at this location.
- **Community Gateway** – Located along a major highway access to Jackson Hole, and could serve as a southern gateway to the valley.
- **Wildlife Habitat** – Eastern portion of the parcel contains limited riparian habitat that is typical of the planning area.

Management Issues

- **Noxious Weeds** – Spotted knapweed, bull thistle, common mullein, and black henbane.
- **Parking** – The existing, informal parking area on the west side of the parcel has the potential to expand beyond its current limits. This would lead to degradation of vegetation and visual resources and could promote noxious weeds.
- **Public Safety** – Existing public access between the parking area to the west of the highway and the shore fishing area to the east of the highway is along an informal trail that traverses the steep riprap at the south bridge abutment. Steep, erodible slopes hinder river access in the western portion of the parcel. Both of these factors present public safety issues, especially during high water flows.

Management and Public Use Options

- **Public Recreation Area** – Develop some level of public river access facilities, as described in the OTAK Plan, to replace the existing boat ramp on the north bank of the Snake River. This facility would support both commercial and private boaters, and also could serve as a regional pathway trailhead, a location for non-boat river access, and other purposes.
- **Habitat Conservation** – Maintain the parcel in its current state with little human intervention or use. Respond to major management issues (e.g., noxious weeds and inappropriate uses) on an as-needed basis.

Transfer and Ownership Options

- Teton County, fee-simple ownership.
- Wyoming State Parks, fee-simple ownership.
- Bridger-Teton National Forest, fee-simple ownership.



Recommendation

Management Emphasis

Public Recreation Area – Establish the area as a Teton County Park. Develop public-use facilities following the general concepts and objectives outlined in the OTAK Plan. Work with the Wyoming Department of Transportation to improve vehicular access into the site. Develop formal partnerships to manage recreation on the site in a manner that is consistent with other Snake River access locations.

Snake River Management – This parcel would be the primary river access point between Wilson Bridge and the Snake River Canyon. Include other entities as management partners, (i.e., the Snake River Fund, Bridger-Teton National Forest, and potentially Wyoming State Parks) with on-the-ground management of public facilities and uses. Ensure consistent management and public contact with the management of facilities at the Wilson Bridge Boat Ramp (i.e., parcel 13).

Ownership

Teton County, fee-simple ownership.

A conservation easement should be placed on this parcel, while a reversionary clause should be considered as part of the ownership transfer.



Parcel 26 Transfer and Management

Ownership

- Teton County
- Conservation easement held by the Jackson Hole Land Trust (including provisions that allow for the development of public use facilities).
- Reversionary clause in the transfer deed.

Management Emphasis

Public Recreation Area - Establish the area as a Teton County Park. Develop public-use facilities following the general concepts and objectives outlined in the OTAK Plan. Work with the Wyoming Department of Transportation to improve vehicular access into the site. Develop formal partnerships to manage recreation on the site in a manner that is consistent with other Snake River access locations.

Snake River Management - This parcel would be the primary river access point between Wilson Bridge and the Snake River Canyon. Include other entities as management partners, including the Snake River Fund and Bridger-Teton National Forest, with on-the-ground management of public facilities and uses.

Resource Management

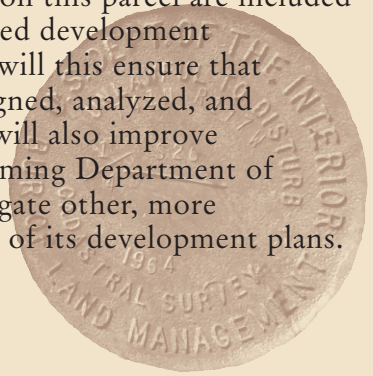
- **Monitoring** - Conduct periodic monitoring to identify natural resource and encroachment issues.
- **Signage** - Post temporary signs indicating the ownership, management, appropriate uses of the parcel. Permanent signs should be developed as part of the overall facility implementation, and should also include information on recreation opportunities, management partners, and overall Snake River management.
- **Partnerships** - Coordinate public use management, monitoring, weed management, and any landowner outreach with other partners (i.e., Wyoming Game and Fish Department, Bridger-Teton National Forest, Jackson Hole Land Trust, and the Snake River Fund) to minimize costs and to ensure that stewardship is consistent with other similar parcels.

Rationale

Teton County has the ability to raise local funds for capital construction (i.e., through its Specific Purpose Excise Tax (SPET) request), the capacity to manage public recreation facilities, and an interest in developing public parks along the Snake River. Therefore, Teton County is the appropriate entity to own and be a principal partner in managing river access at this location. However, the on-the-ground management of this site and the overall management of Snake River recreation must include other partners, including the Bridger-Teton National Forest and the Snake River Fund. Both of these entities have an existing management presence along the river, and are anticipated to take the lead with long-term river recreation management.

The OTAK Plan outlines an ambitious vision for recreation facilities at this site. While some stakeholders may not be comfortable with the scale and cost of the proposed improvements, it is clear that the development of some level of river access facilities is needed and highly supported. The Task Force has not endorsed the OTAK Plan. However, the OTAK Plan includes phasing options that should be considered. Additionally, it is very important that Teton County and the other management partners engage the Wyoming Department of Transportation immediately to convey their commitment to public use facilities at this location, and their willingness to work with the Wyoming Department of Transportation to ensure implementation.

The Wyoming Department of Transportation is currently developing a somewhat controversial Environmental Impact Statement for highway improvements in this area. It is imperative that the highway access components of potential facility improvements on this parcel are included in the agency's preferred development alternative. Not only will this ensure that highway access is designed, analyzed, and potentially funded, it will also improve opportunities for Wyoming Department of Transportation to mitigate other, more controversial elements of its development plans.



PARCEL SUMMARY TABLE

Parcel	Acres	Management Emphasis	Ownership	Resource Management
3	12	Habitat conservation, public use, and Snake River camp pilot program	Bridger-Teton National Forest with a Reversionary Clause	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ River camp monitoring ▪ Signage ▪ Noxious weeds ▪ Habitat management ▪ Incompatible uses
4	5	Public river access	Teton County with a Reversionary Clause	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Monitoring
6	25	Habitat conservation, public use, and Snake River camp pilot program	Bridger-Teton National Forest with a Reversionary Clause	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ River camp monitoring ▪ Signage ▪ Noxious weeds ▪ Habitat management ▪ Encroachment/ Incompatible use ▪ Public use
7	78	Habitat conservation, public use, and Snake River camp pilot program	Bridger-Teton National Forest with a Reversionary Clause	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ River camp monitoring ▪ Signage ▪ Noxious weeds ▪ Habitat management ▪ Encroachment ▪ Public use
8	41	Habitat management	Wyoming Game and Fish Commission with a Reversionary Clause and Conservation Easement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Dump cleanup ▪ Noxious weeds ▪ Habitat management ▪ Grazing ▪ Fencing and vehicle access ▪ Signage ▪ Public access ▪ Incompatible uses
9/10	320	Public use and habitat management	Teton County with a Reversionary Clause and Conservation Easement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Public use facilities ▪ Signage ▪ Grazing ▪ Habitat conservation ▪ Gravel mining area ▪ Noxious weeds ▪ Master/Management planning
11	<1	Short-term monitoring	Disposal to adjacent private landowner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Monitoring
12	6	Habitat monitoring	Teton County with language allowing transfer to private property	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Monitoring

Parcel	Acres	Management Emphasis	Ownership	Resource Management
13	11	Public use and habitat management	Teton County with a Reversionary Clause and Conservation Easement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Signage ▪ Camping ▪ Noxious weeds ▪ Habitat management ▪ Master/Management planning
14	5	Habitat buffer	Teton County with a Reversionary Clause and Conservation Easement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Monitoring
15/16	72	Habitat conservation	Wyoming Game and Fish Commission with a Reversionary Clause and Conservation Easement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Monitoring
17/18	44	Habitat conservation	Wyoming Game and Fish Commission with a Reversionary Clause and Conservation Easement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Monitoring ▪ Signage
19	144	Habitat conservation	Wyoming Game and Fish Commission with a Reversionary Clause and Conservation Easement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Monitoring ▪ Signage
21	61	Habitat conservation	Wyoming Game and Fish Commission with a Reversionary Clause and Conservation Easement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Monitoring
23	89	Public use and habitat management	Wyoming Game and Fish Commission with a Reversionary Clause and Conservation Easement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Public access ▪ Signage ▪ Noxious weeds ▪ Habitat management ▪ Grazing ▪ Maintenance and law enforcement
24	2	Limited monitoring	Bureau of Land Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Periodic monitoring
26	23	Public recreation area and Snake River management	Teton County with a Reversionary Clause and Conservation Easement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Monitoring ▪ Signage

IMPLEMENTATION CONSIDERATIONS



IMPLEMENTATION CONSIDERATIONS

PARCEL DISPOSAL OPTIONS

The BLM's Snake River Resource Management Plan (RMP) calls for the disposal of parcels from BLM administration, while ensuring that the lands remain in public ownership and available for recreation, public access, open space, and wildlife habitat. This section outlines disposal options and protection mechanisms considered in the planning process. In general, the BLM will dispose of all parcels fee title. A land withdrawal may be used for parcels disposed of to the Bridger-Teton National Forest. A reversion of title will likely be included with all patent transfers. To preserve scenic values, wildlife habitat, and open space, a conservation easement has been recommended for consideration with most parcels (see the *Parcel Analysis* section).

BLM Retains Ownership

While it was not specifically identified in the Snake River RMP, the evaluation in this planning process did consider the option of the BLM retaining ownership and management responsibility of the parcels.

Management-Only Transfer

The Snake River RMP also allows the possibility of the BLM retaining ownership of the actual land surface, while other partners assume responsibility for management of public uses. Each management entity would need to implement appropriate resource management prescriptions, and maintain the parcels for public access, recreation use, open space, and wildlife habitat. The concept of management-only transfer is not discussed further in this plan.

BLM Disposal to Private Parties

In some cases, the option of sale, trade, or transfer of certain parcels or portions of parcels to private parties (e.g., neighboring landowners) was considered. This option is not consistent with the Record of Decision (ROD) for the Snake River RMP. However, this option may be possible through an amended RMP for some

parcels if such a sale, trade, or transfer contributes to the overall public access, recreation use, open space, and wildlife habitat resource values along the Snake River corridor.

Fee-Title Transfer to Another Public Land Management Agency

Fee title, also called "fee simple," is a real estate term that means the type of ownership giving the owner the maximum interest in the land, entitling the owner to use the property in any manner consistent with federal, state and local laws and ordinances. For example, most homeowners own their land in fee title. For many types of land, including land preserved for wildlife habitat and/or scenic values, fee title ownership is a very valuable preservation tool. Entities eligible for fee-title transfer based on the ROD and considered in this plan include Teton County, the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission, and the Bridger-Teton National Forest.

Withdrawal

Withdrawals are a management tool in real estate used to implement resource management planning prescriptions or as a means to transfer administrative jurisdiction from one federal agency to another. A withdrawal creates a title encumbrance on the land restricting an agency's ability to manage its lands under multiple use management principles. The restrictions generally segregate the lands from some or all the public land laws and some or all of the mining and mineral leasing laws for a specific period of time, generally 20 years for post Federal Land Policy and Management Act withdrawals. Withdrawals must accomplish one or more of the following:

- Transfer total or partial jurisdiction of federal land between federal agencies.
- Close (segregate) federal land to operation of all or some of the public land laws and/or mineral laws.
- Dedicate federal land to a specific public purpose.

Within the framework of this plan, a withdrawal could be used to transfer land from the BLM to the Bridger-Teton National Forest.

ADDITIONAL PROTECTION MECHANISMS

Reversion of Title

It is not uncommon for conveyances to include a reversionary clause should the land cease to be used for the purpose it was conveyed for or for a violation of other conditions required by the donor. A reversionary clause would consist of wording in the conveyance from the BLM to the effect that if the property ceases to be used for the purpose stated (or should other stated conditions be violated), the title automatically reverts to the BLM. The reversion may be automatic or state a course of action to rectify the conditions violated. In general, all parcel deeds transferred from the BLM will be accompanied by a clause (i.e., reversionary provision) requiring that if the land is not used for public access, recreation use, open space, and wildlife habitat, ownership will revert to the BLM.

Deed Restriction

Deed restrictions designed to protect resources can be included in the language of a deed conveying property or can be outlined in an accompanying document. Deed restrictions included in a separate document provide more flexibility, for example, allowing for adjustment of the restrictions in light of changed circumstances. Deed restrictions are not heavily regulated by statute. Most of the legislation imposes some limitation on the duration of the restrictions or regulates the consequences of the enforcement mechanism built into the restriction.

Enforcement mechanisms for deed restrictions usually include at least one of the following: (1) a possibility of reverter, (2) a right of entry, or (3) an action for specific performance. These mechanisms all require some element of active monitoring to determine whether there is a violation at all and then to enforce the restriction. Absent some involvement by the benefited party, an unenforced restriction may ultimately be construed by the courts as unenforceable due to a pattern of waiver and noncompliance.

Ultimately, there is no practical way of ensuring enforcement in the absence of ongoing, vigilant, methodical monitoring and enforcement efforts by some nonprofit or public agency. There is no “self-enforcement” component to these. The beneficiary of the restriction will bear the responsibility to identify a violation and initiate whatever enforcement mechanism is in place at its own expense. While enforcement may be expensive and time-consuming, initiation of the restriction is relatively simple and inexpensive.

Conservation Easements

As outlined in the ROD for the Snake River RMP, “Any sale, exchange, or transfer of public land will include, where appropriate, the use of conservation easements to prohibit development and preserve scenic values, wildlife habitat, and open space” (BLM 2004).

A conservation easement is a restriction placed on a piece of property to protect its associated resources. The easement is either voluntarily donated or sold by the landowner and constitutes a legally binding agreement that limits certain types of uses or prevents development from taking place on the land in perpetuity.

In a conservation easement, the landowner voluntarily agrees to sell or donate certain rights associated with the property - often the right to subdivide or develop - and a private organization (e.g., Jackson Hole Land Trust) or public agency (e.g., Teton County) agrees to hold the right to enforce the landowner’s promise not to exercise those rights. In essence, the rights are forfeited and no longer exist.

An easement selectively targets only those rights necessary to protect specific conservation values, such as water quality or migration routes, and is individually tailored to meet a landowner’s needs. A conservation easement is legally binding. Because use is permanently restricted, land subject to a conservation easement may be worth less on the open market than comparable unrestricted and developable parcels.

The Jackson Hole Land Trust and The Nature Conservancy are private nonprofit land trusts that hold conservation easements along the Snake

River corridor, while Teton County holds easements through the Teton County Scenic Preserve Trust. If the Jackson Hole Land Trust or another qualified organization accepts an easement on land, it is obligated to oversee and enforce the easement's terms and conditions. For example, an organization has the right to enter and inspect the property (usually once a year) to ensure that the terms of the agreement are being upheld. Except in unusual circumstances, these visits are scheduled with the landowner.

MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

Organizational Structure

A unique opportunity exists to implement this plan in a manner that results in seamless recreation and natural resource management along the Snake River Corridor. Proactive leadership and cooperation are needed to pool resources and experiences and achieve this management framework for the Snake River Corridor.

A simple organizational structure has been proposed to guide the process. The structure is not based on directives or a single authority. Rather, it is built on a foundation of good will, coordination, and partnering. The Task Force is aware that there are a number of highly effective public and private sector, as well as non-profit entities already working in the Snake River Corridor. The goal is to coordinate and enhance these efforts.

The Task Force proposes continuing as an official coordinating group to oversee implementation of this plan; to develop and implement a Snake River Corridor Management Plan (SRCMP) (see page 108); and to make recommendations on behalf of stakeholders to elected officials and public land management agencies. The Task Force would continue to meet at least annually to discuss joint planning efforts and proposals. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) outlining this organizational structure appears in Appendix E. Resources and responsibilities of each Task Force member are highlighted below.

Task Force Resources and Responsibilities

Each Task Force member has unique resources available and with those resources inherent responsibilities. These resources and general responsibilities are presented here and outlined in more detail in the MOU in Appendix E.

Bureau of Land Management

The BLM provides background data, information, and analysis as it pertains to the parcels. The BLM also provides feedback to keep the implementation on track to meet the ROD objectives. Under the MOU, the BLM would:

- Manage all resources in the Snake River Corridor (SRC) on BLM-administered lands until their ultimate transfer.
- Provide background data, information, and analysis as it pertains to the SRC; assist with funding sources within the context of what is prescribed by the objectives and actions prescribed by the ROD for the Snake River RMP.
- Collaborate with other cooperating agencies ("Partners") to complete and implement the Snake River Corridor Management/Transfer Plan in order to meet the objectives of the ROD.
- Participate in and provide review of recreation management carried out on the lands and waters within the SRC to ensure that it is consistent with the goals and objectives of the ROD.
- Enforce applicable federal laws and regulations pertaining to the SRC.
- Ensure that all federal mandates and acts are followed.
- Provide other Partners with current copies of all acts, policies, regulations, and handbooks that are specified in the MOU.
- Provide site assessment and remediation (Phases I, II, and III) on properties prior to transfer.

Snake River Fund

The Snake River Fund provides expertise in river conservation and recreation guidelines and acts as a conduit to the public through meetings and open houses. Under the MOU, the Snake River Fund would:

- Provide the on-ground “lead” organization responsible for coordinating implementation of the MOU.
- Provide appropriate conservation and recreation guidelines; act as a conduit to the public via meetings and open houses.
- Provide administrative assistance for the process, assisting in identifying, seeking, and securing funding sources.
- Act as the point of contact for the Partners for the general public and the media.
- Work with the Partners to establish river recreation activity capacities and regulate commercial river recreation use as specified in a SRCMP.
- Participate in resource monitoring and enhancement actions to include all cooperative efforts with all other Partners.

Bridger-Teton National Forest

The Bridger-Teton National Forest has one full-time employee and several seasonal employees designated to river recreation management; has a visible presence on the Snake River; and maintains patrol boats and other river management infrastructure. The Bridger-Teton National Forest provides expertise for recreation management, resource management, and operations. Under the MOU, the Bridger-Teton National Forest would:

- Provide recreational management and facilities maintenance expertise, and operational assistance, assisting in identifying, seeking, and securing funding sources.
- Participate in and provide review of recreation management and use of the SRC to ensure that Forest Plan Direction is carried out on all lands and waters within the Forest.
- Continue to enforce applicable federal laws and regulations pertaining to the SRC.
- Ensure that applicable federal mandates and acts are followed.

Teton County

Teton County provides recreational management and facilities maintenance expertise, operational assistance, and guidelines with regards to conservation, recreation, and resource management. Under the MOU, Teton County would:

- Provide recreational management and facilities maintenance expertise, and operational assistance, assisting in identifying, seeking, and securing funding sources.
- Provide appropriate guidelines with regard to conservation, recreation, and resource management.
- Ensure compliance with the Teton County Comprehensive Plan and Land Development Regulations and any amendments thereto with respect to lands within the SRC to which Teton County takes title.
- Prepare final construction plans to implement the conceptual plans for Teton County lands that are indicated in a SRCMP and obtain input from the Partners and the public on these plans through the appropriate environmental compliance process.

Wyoming Game and Fish Department

The Wyoming Game and Fish Department has resource specialists with expertise in big game management, nongame species, fisheries, law enforcement, and other disciplines, and is instrumental in providing expertise associated with current and future management of the parcels. Under the MOU, Wyoming Game and Fish Commission would:

- Work cooperatively with the Partners in the development of any proposed regulations for the SRC.
- Implement and enforce applicable state laws and regulations on public lands within the SRC. These generally involve wildlife regulations, safety, littering, resource protection, and public conduct.
- Seek involvement and consensus of the other Partners prior to undertaking any anticipated or planned parcel management actions, to include identifying appropriate planning guidelines and actions, to facilitate future mission accomplishment for all Partners.

- Act as the lead and cooperate with other Partners in managing wildlife and all recreation on lands controlled by the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission within the SRC.
- Provide the “lead” on-ground presence in managing wildlife related activities on lands and waters within the recreation area. Work cooperatively with other Partners within the SRC to implement wildlife-related management activities, which includes hunting, fishing, and watchable wildlife.

Jackson Hole Land Trust

The Jackson Hole Land Trust provides conservation easement expertise and assists in identifying, seeking, and securing funding sources. Under the MOU, the Jackson Hole Land Trust would:

- Work cooperatively with the Partners to hold and monitor conservation easements for the SRC.
- Participate in resource monitoring and enhancement actions to include all cooperative efforts with all other Partners.
- Assist in identifying, seeking, and securing funding sources.

IMPLEMENTATION STEPS

This section details the general parcel transfer requirements that have been outlined by the BLM, as well as the specific steps that need to be taken to implement this plan. These steps include approvals and agreements that need to be completed to establish a management framework, and steps that are specific to each agency that is recommended to acquire various parcels: Bridger-Teton National Forest, Teton County, and the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission.

General Parcel Transfer Requirements

The general process for parcel transfers from the BLM to other entities is outlined in the ROD for the Snake River RMP (BLM 2004). General requirements include the following:

1. **Proposal** - Parcel-specific proposals to the BLM are required from each acquiring agency. Such proposals should be completed by each agency as part of the process to approve this plan.

2. **NEPA Analysis** - National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analysis, including public comment periods, will need to be completed for each parcel or groups of parcels to be transferred to a particular agency (i.e., Teton County or Wyoming Game and Fish Commission). The NEPA process is anticipated to include the following clearances:

- a. **Cultural Resources** - Site-specific inventories for cultural resources will be required before the start of surface-disturbing activities, or if BLM-administered lands are proposed to be transferred out of federal ownership.
- b. **Threatened and Endangered Species** - Evaluation of potential impacts to species listed under the Endangered Species Act that occur along the Snake River corridor.
- c. **Hazardous Materials** - Parcels contaminated with hazardous wastes will be reported, secured, and cleaned up according to federal and state laws, regulations, and contingency plans.
- d. **Trespass** - Situations involving trespass on public land will be resolved, so the lands can be transferred unencumbered to other agencies or entities.

3. **Transfer Documents** - Transfer documents will complete the ownership transfer of individual parcels from the BLM to the acquiring agency. Transfer documents that include any specific restrictions or other provisions such as a reversionary clause that will be required for each parcel. Depending on the local government or agency making the acquisition proposal, an appropriate method of conveyance will be determined.
4. **Conservation Easements** - The ROD for the Snake River RMP stipulates that where appropriate, any transfers of public land will include the use of conservation easements to prohibit development and preserve scenic values, wildlife habitat, and open space. The Jackson Hole Land Trust will work with the BLM and the acquiring agency to develop and finalize a conservation easement for each appropriate parcel.

Other transfer requirements are described in detail in the ROD for the Snake River RMP (BLM 2004).

Management Framework Implementation Steps

Successful implementation of this plan will also require specific steps to ensure that the Management Framework described above is achieved. Implementation steps include:

1. **Snake River Corridor Management/Ownership Transfer Plan Approval** - Final approval and endorsement of this plan by the officials who oversee the Task Force member agencies and organizations.
2. **Memorandum of Understanding** - Establish a cooperative partnership between the entities for the management of the public land resources in the Snake River corridor.
3. **Interim Management Agreement** - If necessary, an interim Management Agreement between the BLM and the Task Force member organizations would provide the acquiring agencies the basis and authority to begin planning for their respective parcels during the NEPA and property transfer processes.
4. **Snake River Corridor Management Plan** - Building off of the ownership and transfer recommendations in this plan, a follow-up corridor management plan will identify specific management objectives for recreational programs and natural resource protection and restoration along the Snake River corridor. Those entities that are party to the *MOU for Providing Cooperative Management of the Snake River Corridor* (Appendix E) will ultimately be responsible for completion of the management plan.

Bridger-Teton National Forest Parcel Transfer

Transfer of parcels 3, 6, and 7 to Bridger-Teton National Forest will require the following implementation steps:

1. **Surveys** - Complete boundary surveys for parcels 3 and 6.
2. **NEPA Analysis** - Complete an Environmental Assessment or other appropriate NEPA compliance on the parcel transfer.
3. **Withdrawal** - Complete a withdrawal of the parcels from the BLM to the Bridger-Teton National Forest.

4. **Baseline Evaluation** - Complete a baseline resource evaluation of each parcel, documenting noxious weeds, significant natural resources, and human disturbances.
5. **Resource Management** - Begin implementing parcel-specific resource management recommendations described above, and address other resource management issues identified in the baseline evaluation, and conduct routine monitoring.
6. **River Camp Pilot Program** - Work with the Snake River Fund, other Task Force members, adjacent landowners, and other stakeholders to begin a Snake River Camp Pilot Program. Designate appropriate camping sites and begin implementation and monitoring.

Teton County Parcel Transfer

Transfer of parcels 4, 9/10, 12, 13, 14, and 26 to Teton County will require the following implementation steps:

1. **Surveys** - Complete boundary surveys for parcels 4, 12, and 14.
2. **NEPA Analysis** - Complete an Environmental Assessment or other appropriate NEPA compliance on the parcel transfer.
3. **Patent Transfer** - Complete the patent transfer of the parcels from the BLM to Teton County.
4. **Baseline Evaluation** - Complete a baseline resource evaluation of each parcel, documenting noxious weeds, significant natural resources, and human disturbances. A baseline inventory will be required for each parcel that will be covered by a conservation easement.
5. **Resource Management** - Begin implementing parcel-specific resource management recommendations described above, and address other resource management issues identified in the baseline evaluation, and conduct routine monitoring.
6. **Conservation Easement** - Work with the BLM and the Jackson Hole Land Trust to develop and complete conservation easements for appropriate parcels, complete a baseline inventory/evaluation, and coordinate ongoing easement monitoring.

7. **Master/Management Planning** - Develop parcel-specific facilities master plans and resource management plans for parcels 9/10, 13, and 26.
8. **Master/Management Plan Implementation** - Begin development of facilities and implementation of management actions on each respective parcel or complex of parcels.

Wyoming Game and Fish Commission Parcel Transfer

Transfer of parcels 8, 15/16, 17/18, 19, 21, and 23 to the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission will require the following implementation steps:

1. **Surveys** - Complete boundary surveys for parcels 15/16 and 17/18.
2. **NEPA Analysis** - Complete an Environmental Assessment or other appropriate NEPA compliance on the parcel transfer.
3. **Patent Transfer** - Complete the patent transfer of the parcels from the BLM to the State of Wyoming.
4. **Baseline Evaluation** - Complete a baseline resource evaluation of each parcel, documenting noxious weeds, significant natural resources, and human disturbances. A baseline inventory will be required for each parcel that will be covered by a conservation easement.
5. **Resource Management** - Begin implementing parcel-specific resource management recommendations described above, and address other resource management issues identified in the baseline evaluation, and conduct routine monitoring.

6. **Conservation Easement** - Work with the BLM and the Jackson Hole Land Trust to develop and complete conservation easements for appropriate parcels, complete a baseline inventory/evaluation, and coordinate ongoing easement monitoring.

BLM Disposal to Private Parties

Parcel 11 is small is located where it does not provide public recreation or wildlife habitat benefits. The BLM should dispose of this parcel to the adjacent private landowner, or other appropriate entity. The following implementation steps would apply:

1. **Surveys** - Complete boundary surveys for parcel 11.
2. **Landowner Discussions** - Initiate contact with adjacent landowner or other interested parties to discuss the terms of the parcel disposal.
3. **NEPA Analysis** - Complete an Environmental Assessment or other appropriate NEPA compliance on the parcel transfer.
4. **Parcel Disposal** - Complete the disposal of this parcels to private party.

BLM Retain Ownership

Parcel 24 is currently within the main channel of the Snake River. A determination needs to be made by the agency whether this parcel will continue to be under BLM ownership as the Snake River continues to shift.

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Management Framework Implementation Steps									
SRCMOTP Approval	<div></div>								
Memorandum of Understanding	<div></div>								
Interim Management Agreement	<div></div>								
Snake River Corridor Management Plan	<div></div>								
Bridger-Teton National Forest Parcel Transfer (3, 6, and 7)									
Surveys (3 and 6)	<div></div>								
NEPA Analysis	<div></div>	<div></div>							
Withdrawal		<div></div>	<div></div>						
Baseline Evaluation		<div></div>							
Resource Management			<div></div>						
River Camp Pilot Program			<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>		
Teton County Parcel Transfer (4, 9/10, 12, 13, 14, and 26)									
Surveys (4, 12, and 14)	<div></div>								
NEPA Analysis	<div></div>	<div></div>							
Patent Transfer		<div></div>	<div></div>						
Baseline Evaluation			<div></div>						
Resource Management			<div></div>						
Conservation Easement			<div></div>						
Master/Management Planning		<div></div>	<div></div>						
Master/Management Plan Implementation			<div></div>						

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Wyoming Game and Fish Commission Parcel Transfer (8, 15/16, 17/18, 19, 21, and 23)									
Surveys (15/16 and 17/18)									
NEPA Analysis									
Patent Transfer									
Baseline Evaluation									
Resource Management									
Conservation Easement									
Bureau of Land Management Disposal to Private Party (11)									
Survey (11)									
Landowner Discussions									
NEPA Analysis									
Parcel Disposal									
Bureau of Land Management Retain Ownership (24)									

• – Specific decision, agreement, or action

– Task Force action

– BLM action

– Snake River Corridor Partnership Management (see MOU in Appendix E) or individual acquiring agency action

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APPENDIXES

Appendix A. Descriptions of Task Force Member Organizations

Appendix B. Conceptual River Camp Program

Appendix C. Estimated Capital and Management Unit Costs

Appendix D. River Corridor Case Studies

Appendix E. Memorandum of Understanding

Appendix F. Parcel Analysis Report on CD



APPENDIX A -

DESCRIPTIONS OF TASK FORCE MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS



APPENDIX A - DESCRIPTIONS OF TASK FORCE MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

This appendix provides an overview of the Snake River Task Force member organizations. The Task Force was convened to implement the Bureau of Land Management's Snake River Resource Management Plan Record of Decision (ROD). The development of this plan is a first step in the long-term implementation of the ROD. The following descriptions include background information on each organization, specific resources that each brings to the process, and contact information for the current Task Force representative.

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), an agency within the U.S. Department of the Interior, administers over 260 million surface acres of public lands located primarily in 12 Western States. The BLM is charged with sustaining the health, diversity, and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. The Pinedale Field Office in Wyoming, which completed the Snake River Resource Management Plan, is located about 80 miles southeast of the planning area, and manages over 900,000 acres of federal surface/federal minerals and almost 300,000 acres of private surface/federal minerals. Major uses of the public lands administered by the Pinedale Field Office involve oil and gas activity, recreation, and livestock grazing.

Implementation Resources

- Background data, information, and analysis for the each parcel
- Oversight to ensure that this plan and its ultimate implementation is consistent with the ROD
- Technical knowledge and authority to ensure that transfer mechanisms are effective, efficient, and are consistent with federal laws and agency policies
- Lead agency on National Environmental Policy Act procedures and compliance with other federal laws

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Snake River Fund

The Snake River Fund is a private 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization with the mission to, “promote stewardship of and recreational access to the Snake River Watershed in Wyoming with an emphasis on partnerships, education, and outreach efforts to the public.” Since its founding in 1998, the voluntary, donation-based, grass-roots organization has focused on supplying funding to support river personnel, facilities upkeep, river volunteers, safety training, law enforcement, guide education, and other river user services. Along the Snake River, the Snake River Fund has developed a unique partnership with the Bridger-Teton National Forest that serves as a model to other river systems with management challenges.

The Snake River Fund operates with a part-time Executive Director, a part-time staff assistant, and an active Board of Directors. An active corps of volunteers is also available to assist with hands-on implementation projects. The Snake River Fund has an operating budget of about \$125,000, with about \$50,000 going to Bridger-Teton National Forest to support river management operations.

Implementation Resources

- Existing operational relationship with Bridger-Teton National Forest, BLM, and Teton County
- Existing public and media contact for river management issues
- Local expertise in river conservation and recreation management
- Ability to work with various agencies and the public across jurisdictional boundaries
- Experience with education and outreach to landowners and the general public
- Community-based organization that has flexibility in fundraising and expenditures

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BRIDGER-TETON NATIONAL FOREST

The Bridger-Teton National Forest (BTNF) is a unit of the United States Forest Service under the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The BTNF comprises a large part of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, the largest intact ecosystem in the lower 48 United States. The Teton Division of the BTNF, consisting of the Jackson and Buffalo Ranger Districts, manages about 1.4 million acres surrounding Jackson, including river recreation along the Snake River below the South Park boat ramp. The BLM parcels in the planning area are not adjacent to any forest lands administered by the BTNF, and the BTNF currently has no lands in the Snake River corridor planning area.

The BTNF maintains staffing and infrastructure (boats, vehicles, and equipment) to conduct routine river patrols and manage recreation on the Snake River. Staffing typically includes the program supervisor, a crew leader, and two seasonal river rangers. Most of the funding for this program (about \$50,000/year) comes from the Snake River Fund.

Implementation Resources

- Existing operational relationship with the Snake River Fund
- Existing Snake River management presence (below South Park Bridge)
- Experience managing natural resources and public recreation facilities under a multiple-use mandate
- Staff dedicated to river recreation management
- Experience with permit allocation and fee collection

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TETON COUNTY

Teton County is a political subdivision of the State of Wyoming. Powers and duties of the county and that of the Board of County Commissioners are authorized in Title 18 of the Wyoming Statutes. The Teton County Board of County Commissioners consists of five elected officials whose primary responsibilities include setting policy regarding: annual budget for revenues and expenditures, as well as other fiscal policies; public health and safety; and land use. The mission of the Teton County government is to support the well-being of its residents by providing responsive and efficient services; providing programs that contribute to public health, safety, and welfare; and supporting the community's goals as expressed in the Teton County Comprehensive Plan.

Within this framework, Teton County manages a number of developed and natural parks, including the Emily Stevens Park adjacent to the Snake River near the Wilson Bridge. Teton County has a strong track record of receiving funding through the Specific Purpose Excise Tax (SPET) to complete capital improvement projects on park property. This helps free up the fluctuating annual operations and maintenance budgets of Teton County. Under the auspices of the Teton County Scenic Preserve Trust, Teton County holds a number of conservation easements in the planning area.

The primary county departments that will be involved in efforts along the Snake River include Engineering, and Parks and Recreation. Other county agencies and departments that are relevant to planning and management efforts along the Snake River include Road and Levee, Planning and Development, Weed and Pest, Teton County Sheriff, and the Geographic Information System.

Implementation Resources and Responsibilities

- Existing recreational management and facilities maintenance expertise
- Existing levee management, weed management, and law enforcement expertise
- Conduit to Teton County Commissioner approval and oversight
- Ability to effectively engage other Teton County departments and resources
- Ability to raise public funding (SPET) for specific recreation facility development
- In-house design and construction implementation expertise

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WYOMING GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT

The Wyoming Game and Fish Department (WGFD) is a state agency that is responsible for the control, propagation, management and protection, and regulation of all wildlife in Wyoming. The agency is supervised and directed by the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission (WGFC). The WGFC leases and owns and manages several hundred acres in the planning area as wildlife habitat management areas. The WGFD receives most of its revenue from license fees, nonresident application fees, and conservation stamps. General funds or state tax dollars are used to fund a portion of the department.

Statewide, the WGFC maintains about 413,000 acres of land under deed, lease, or agreement. Lands within the Snake River corridor that are owned and managed by the WGFC include the 1,200-acre South Park Wildlife Habitat Management Area, eight miles south of Jackson. This site is one of several elk feeding grounds in the Teton and Hoback areas, and is also available for fishing access and waterfowl hunting.

Existing staffing capacity in the Jackson region include:

- 1 supervisor/regional wildlife
- 1 regional/aquatic wildlife supervisor
- 2 wardens
- 3 fisheries biologists
- 1 aquatic habitat biologist
- 1 terrestrial habitat biologist
- 1 non-game biologist
- 4 wildlife biologists
- 1 information and education coordinator

Implementation Resources:

- Existing staffing and expertise in wildlife and habitat management, law enforcement, and other disciplines
- Authority and expertise related to bald eagle habitat and protections
- Lead agency regarding hunting and on-the ground wildlife management
- State-wide experience as public stewards of wildlife and wildlife habitat

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JACKSON HOLE LAND TRUST

The Jackson Hole Land Trust (JHLT) is a private 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that was established in 1980. The JHLT works to preserve open space and the scenic, ranching, and wildlife values of Jackson Hole by assisting landowners who wish to protect their land in perpetuity. The JHLT has a team of natural resource and legal professionals dedicated to the long-term monitoring, documentation, and defense of the easements they hold. The organization is comprised of three departments: the protection department works with willing landowners to protect important conservation values on their property; the development department coordinates fundraising, communications and public education/outreach; and the stewardship department is responsible for perpetual monitoring and ecological enhancement of owned land and conservation easement protected properties.

As an experienced easement holder, the JHLT knows how to work with a variety of landowners to protect the conservation values of a property. JHLT has many allies among the large private landowners in the Jackson area; thus, they have a good sense of issues affecting landowners and the social ties amongst landowners. In Jackson Hole, 85 landowners have donated more than 100 conservation easements to the JHLT on almost 16,000 acres of land in the planning and surrounding areas.

Implementation Resources

- Ability to develop, hold, and monitor conservation easements on transferred parcels
- Existing relationships with numerous landowners along the Snake River corridor
- Ability to work cooperatively with various agencies and landowners as an independent and objective community-based organization
- Ability to seek and secure outside funding sources

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APPENDIX B -
CONCEPTUAL RIVER CAMP PROGRAM



APPENDIX B - CONCEPTUAL RIVER CAMP PROGRAM

During the planning process for the Snake River Corridor Management/Ownership Transfer Plan for the BLM parcels, many Task Force members, stakeholders, and members of the public expressed an interest in a managed river camping program on the Snake River. Such a program, as envisioned, would allow limited overnight boat-access camping at designated sites along the Snake River. River campsites would generally consist of open areas within the cottonwood riparian forest that would be accessible only from the river. In order to evaluate the long-term feasibility of river camping, a pilot program would be established.

This appendix outlines the general structure of a river camping program, as well as some of the specific issues that would need to be considered prior to implementation.

PILOT PROGRAM

An initial, five-year pilot program should be developed to test the river camp concept on a limited scale, identify management issues, test various management scenarios, and evaluate the overall feasibility of the program. The pilot program would be developed and managed with the full input and supervision of all Task Force members, as well as the National Park Service, which operates the boat ramp at Moose.

A Snake River camping program would likely entail a series of designated campsites on public land parcels along the Snake River. Users would reserve a camp site, for a fee, prior to their trip. The program would be coordinated and managed by the Snake River Fund, with input, staff, and technical assistance from Snake River Task Force members. Coordination and management tasks may include establishing and signing campsites, river patrols, resource management and mitigation, administration of a campsite reservation system, and ongoing outreach to adjacent landowners, stakeholders, and the general public.

PROPOSED RIVER CAMP LOCATIONS

The reach of the Snake River between Grand Teton National Park and the Wilson Bridge is the most appropriate area to establish a pilot river camp program. This reach has limited commercial use and has more of a “wilderness” feel to it. By using the boat launch at Moose, within Grand Teton National Park, the pilot program would capitalize on an established management presence and ethic that places an emphasis on managed recreation and resource conservation.

Potential locations for river campsites are described below. Prior to the establishment of any river campsites, certain factors such as bald eagle management zones, non-game species habitat, vegetation, adjacent land use, and river channel conditions will need to be considered in detail. The most suitable parcels, and some of the key attributes that would influence their use for river camping, are described as follows.

Parcel 3

- Located immediately south of Grand Teton National Park
- Available land area may decrease or disappear due to shifts in Snake River
- Adjacent State Trust parcel has a conservation easement that precludes camping
- Currently within bald eagle zone 2

Parcel 6

- Large parcel with several suitable camping sites
- Upland connection and use near adjacent subdivision
- Currently within bald eagle zone 2

Parcel 7

- Contains three islands with upland areas suitable for campsites
- Currently within bald eagle zones 1 and 2
- Potential impacts to nearby landowners

Guidelines for Specific Camp Sites

Unlike some other river systems where the availability of potential camping sites is much greater, this system would most likely require pre-determined, designated campsites. Several sites could be located in a “cluster” on appropriate public land parcels along the river. River camp users could reserve a specific spot (e.g., “B-3”), or could reserve access to one of several designated spots on a particular land parcel (e.g., one of five spots within “Cluster B”). The Task Force management group would identify and designate specific campsites at the outset of the program. Each parcel might contain between two and six designated and marked campsites that fit the following general criteria:

- Stable, upland area that would not be prone to frequent flooding
- Within 200 feet of a floatable river channel
- Adequate distance from sensitive wildlife habitat
- Separated from other sites by 100 to 200 feet, depending on vegetation and other conditions
- Area that is not visible from nearby residences

Campsites should be monitored frequently for impacts to resources, trash and human waste, and complaints from surrounding landowners or river users. Some sites may need to be closed or rotated out of the system for one or more seasons to facilitate resource recovery or protect sensitive wildlife habitat. If immediate problems occur with a particular site, the management of the river camp system needs to be able to accommodate moving or even closing campsites on that parcel.

PROPOSED RESERVATION SYSTEM

A successful river camp program must include a clear and efficient reservation system to give potential users a fair opportunity to reserve campsites, and to ensure that no parties with camp reservations are left on the river without a place to camp. In most cases, considering the effort and equipment that is needed to arrive at a river campsite and the overall ethic of the river community, the “honor system” is sufficient to ensure that campsites go to the party with a reservation. Camping fees can be charged on a per-person or per-group basis. Revenues would help offset the cost of program management and river patrols.

Models for simple and effective reservation systems can be found on other rivers, as well as with backcountry ski hut systems. These use a combination of web-based calendars, updated regularly, that allow users to view the number of spaces that are available on a given day. Actual reservations are then handled over the phone and are confirmed with an email or a fax, which serves as proof of a reservation. Examples of this type of system include:

- Westwater Canyon of the Colorado River private boating permit system in Utah
- Tenth Mountain Division Hut Association backcountry hut reservation system in Colorado

Given the small scale of the proposed Snake River camping program and limited number of sites, this type of “hybrid” system would probably be sufficient.

A more sophisticated web-only system would allow users to identify open sites, reserve sites, provide payment, and receive a confirmation email entirely online. This type of system would be more difficult and

expensive to set up and maintain, but would also require less staff time once it is functioning. Examples of this type of system include:

- Backcountry camping permits at Grand Teton National Park, Wyoming
- State Park camping reservations in Colorado and Wyoming

PROPOSED USE REGULATIONS

The following general regulations should be considered for the river camp program:

- **Proof of reservation** - Each party must carry a copy of their reservation confirmation, and be willing to show their reservation to river rangers or other campers upon request.
- **Non-commercial use only** - Campsites are for private boaters only.
- **Party size** - Permits should limit the number of people that can camp at a site. The specific size limitation would be set at the outset of the program, but should not exceed four to six people per site.
- **Human waste** - Each party must carry and use a portable and leak-proof toilet system to contain and carry out solid human and dog (if dogs are allowed) waste.
- **Fire** - If open fires are allowed, each party should be required to carry and use a firepan to contain campfires. The fire pans should have at least three inch sides, and be large enough to prevent fire and ashes from spilling onto the ground. All ash must be carried out.
- **Safety equipment** - Each party must have approved life vests for all members of the party, as well as a first-aid kit, boat repair kit, and other standard safety equipment.
- **Garbage disposal** - All garbage must be carried out and disposed up properly. Burning garbage will not be permitted. Each party must have a wire mesh strainer for straining food particles from dishwater into the river.

Other, more specific regulations should be considered with the pilot river camp program, and should be adapted as needed to address changing conditions and management issues.

IMPORTANT MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

Any river camp management strategy would need to consider a variety of issues, including the following issues that have been raised during the planning process.

Bald Eagle Habitat

The Snake River corridor provides important nesting and foraging habitat for the bald eagle, and many potential river campsites are located within or near sensitive bald eagle habitat (Zones 1 and 2). However, nest locations may change over time, and the sensitivity of individual birds to disturbance may vary based on cover, habitat conditions, nearby land uses, and other factors. As a general rule, river camp locations should be based on updated bald eagle nesting data and input from Wyoming Game and Fish Department nongame biologists, should not be allowed within Zone 1 (one-half mile radius of an occupied nest), and should be carefully considered within Zone 2.

Habitat Degradation

Most of the suitable campsites along the Snake River occur in small clearings in the riparian forest that are vegetated with grasses and low shrubs. Repeated human use of these areas would likely result in vegetation trampling, soil exposure, and increased erosion. Secondary impacts may include a proliferation of social trails, loss of small trees or snags for firewood, and an increase in noxious weed infestations. Long-term use of the same site (or the single occurrence of an over-sized group) could result in an ever-expanding footprint of impacts.

Waste Management

Human waste disposal is an important element of river camp management. In order to protect water quality, human health, and visual aesthetics, all solid waste must be packed out. Burying waste is not appropriate in a river setting. Each group must be required to carry and use a portable and leak-proof toilet system that allows for the storage and disposal of solid human waste. If pets are allowed at river camps, the same rules for solid waste should apply. All garbage, including fire ashes, will need to be packed out.

Neighboring Landowner Concerns

Many of the potential river campsites are within close proximity to private residences and subdivisions. Some of these landowners have expressed concerns that the introduction of river camping would disturb wildlife, scenic views of the river, and natural sound. In order to address the concerns of nearby landowners, river camp sites should be situated in areas designed to mitigate these impacts.

APPENDIX C -

ESTIMATED CAPITAL AND MANAGEMENT UNIT COSTS



APPENDIX C - ESTIMATED CAPITAL AND MANAGEMENT UNIT COSTS

The table on the following pages presents estimated parcel management costs. The items and costs presented in the table represent a cross-section of typical items and associated expenses that the Task Force may need to consider when developing a budget for specific parcels.

Typical Line Item	Item Definition or Assumptions	Estimated Cost
Developing a Parcel-Specific Management Plan		
Baseline Inventory	Documentation of existing conditions and conservation values on a given parcel under conservation easement.	\$800 to \$3,000 per parcel
Management Plan	Guides the ongoing management of an individual parcel, including assessment, implementation, and monitoring.	\$5,000 to \$20,000
General Resource Issues and Management Guidelines		
Threatened and Endangered Species		
Biological Assessment (BA)	A specific process required as part of an environmental assessment. An evaluation of potential effects of a proposed project on proposed, endangered, threatened, and sensitive animal and plant species and their habitats.	\$15,000 to \$25,000
Wildlife		
Migratory Bird Nest Survey (MBTA)	The MBTA decrees that all migratory birds and their parts (including eggs, nests, and feathers) are fully protected. A survey should be considered before conducting any work (especially tree removal) during the nesting season.	\$2,000 to \$3,000
Wetlands (see also Revegetation)		
Wetland Delineation and Report	Determination by wetland scientist whether jurisdictional wetlands are present. If wetlands are identified, wetlands are delineated and mapped using a Global Positioning System (GPS). Onsite review of wetland boundaries with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.	\$2,500 to \$5,000
Permit Application	Permit to impact wetlands or Waters of the U.S. (e.g., boardwalk or boat ramp).	\$3,000 to \$15,000
Revegetation		
Herbicide Spraying		Materials: Milestone \$30/acre
Seeding (Upland)		Varies widely, but averages \$150 per acre
Seeding (Wetland)		\$0.30 per square foot
Wetland Herbaceous Plants	Herbaceous plants include rushes and sedges, for example.	\$2.50 per plant; 1,200 plants per acre (planted on 6-foot centers) would be \$3,000
Willow Cuttings	Willow cuttings are often used to rapidly revegetate eroding streambanks and damaged riparian zones.	\$2.00 per cutting
Tree Planting	Labor for 1.5-inch caliper tree.	\$50 per tree

Typical Line Item	Item Definition or Assumptions	Estimated Cost
Historic and Cultural Resources		
File Search	Conducted anytime Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office is asked to supply information concerning cultural resources or cultural resource surveys in a specific location.	\$35 per section
Recreation		
Boat Launch	12 to 14 feet wide; concrete	\$20,000
Picnic Facilities	Tables and grill	\$3,500
Parking Improvements	Includes curb and gutter	\$850 per space
Hand Tool Purchase	10-inch McLeod	\$75
	Fiberglass handle Pulaski	\$65
Signs	Aluminum sign with reflective lettering	\$15 per square foot
Trail Construction	Using mechanized equipment (SWECO Dozer or similar - assumes ownership) on relatively flat land.	\$5.00 per linear foot for materials to build new trail.
	Natural surface trail (3-foot width) constructed by trail crew.	\$5.00 per linear foot
Fencing	Wildlife-friendly fencing.	Approximately \$10 per linear foot on flat ground plus the costs of ends and/or corners (about \$225 each).
Cattle guard	14-foot steel cattle guard (does not include installation cost).	\$1,000 to \$1,600
Special Use Authorization	Formalize river camp on National Forest Lands.	\$1,000 to \$2,000
Hazardous Materials		
Phase I	Environmental Site Assessment	\$2,600
Phase II	Site Characterization (soil or water samples to identify contaminants)	\$1,000 for one sample \$1,500 for three samples
Education and Interpretation		
Primary Interpretive Overlook	Sign frame 1 EA \$1,000 Ornamental log railing 25 LF \$125 Grading 1 LS \$1,000 Log surface edging 25 LF \$50 Interpretive sign 2 EA \$5,000 Elevated composite lumber with non-slip surface texture 130 SF \$40 \$21,575	
Secondary Interpretive Sign	Sign frame 1 EA \$1,000 Grading 1 LS \$1,000 Interpretive sign 1 EA \$5,000 Crusher fines surfacing 65 SF \$10 \$7,150	

APPENDIX D -
RIVER CORRIDOR CASE STUDIES



APPENDIX D - RIVER CORRIDOR CASE STUDIES

This appendix presents four case studies for river corridor management in the western United States. For each river corridor, the following information is presented: a description of the management area, current status of planning efforts, the desired condition, challenges, members of any any management partnership, and funding.

ARKANSAS HEADWATERS RECREATION AREA

Location

Leadville to Pueblo Reservoir, Colorado

Description

The Arkansas River corridor within the Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area (AHRA) is one of the most diverse and attractive river corridors in Colorado. The AHRA is a partnership between the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the State of Colorado's Department of Natural Resource's Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation (CDPOR) to manage recreation resources and activities along 148 miles of the river from its headwaters near Leadville down to Pueblo Reservoir.

A Recreation Area Management Plan for management of recreation use on public lands adjacent to the Arkansas River was completed by the BLM in 1982. While several elements of that original plan were implemented in the form of facility development, maintenance improvements and visitor information materials, much still remained to be done. A planning process, which began in 1986, was completed in 1989 with the finalization of a comprehensive river management plan, Arkansas River Recreation Management Plan (ARRMP).

The AARMP was a product of a very comprehensive public involvement process and established the partnership between the BLM and the CDPOR. Sixteen governmental entities and two citizen groups were involved in the original planning effort. Various recreational user groups, environmental organizations, conservation districts, industry associations and area residents also participated. The majority of the planning decisions within the 1989 plan have been implemented to the degree that on a national basis this partnership is looked at as an exemplary success story in river management between a state and a federal entity.

Current Status

A plan revision effort initiated in 1998 as a revision of the ARRMP was completed in 2001. This plan expands the scope of the recreation management partnership to include the U.S. Forest Service (Forest Service) and the Colorado Division of Wildlife (CDOW). This plan revision matched the initial effort with an extensive series of public involvement efforts. The AHRA Citizens Task Force largely guided, led, and extensively participated in the plan revision process.

The plan revision incorporates a description of the river corridor setting, a mile-by-mile discussion of the river segment resources, a summary of recreation use along the river, the purpose and need for the revision, a listing of the public involvement steps for this revision, a summarized discussion of the issues covered, a description of the role of the Citizens Task Force, an analysis of alternatives considered, and various other applicable subjects. A cooperative management agreement was drafted to fully implement the revised ARRMP.

Desired Condition

In addition to the plan revision preamble, a vision statement was developed to act as a guide for what river management until 2011 should bring to the Arkansas River corridor.. The vision statement outlines:

- Management of the AHRA to emphasize natural resources, resource sustainability, and the standards for public land health.
- Recognition and respect of private property.
- Balance of the many uses that preserve the existing natural settings and conditions, as well as recognition of existing agriculture, rural and urban conditions throughout the river corridor.
- Individualized management through different sections of the river, in recognition of varying natural and manmade influences.

Challenges

The corridor has remained remarkably pristine despite the fact that it has been modified by a railroad, a major highway, and substantial agricultural, residential and commercial development along much of its length. The Arkansas River has a significant and vital impact on the valley economy and beyond because of water rights for irrigation, municipal and industrial purposes and for the sale and storage of water. Also, because of its natural beauty, biological productivity, steep gradient and diversity of river environments, the Arkansas River is much beloved by avid recreationists. The challenge for the AHRA is to satisfy recreational needs and at the same time maintain environmental quality as well as the quality of experiences along the river.

Members

The AHRA is partnership between the BLM, CDPOR, Forest Service, and CDOW. The partnership maintains a Citizens Task Force (CTF) sponsored by the Colorado Department of Natural Resources. The CTF is comprised of no more than 14 members to serve as representatives of the seven public interests (i.e., angler, commercial permittee, private boater, environmental, water user, river front property owner, and Upper Arkansas Council of Government). Major user-interest groups are asked to nominate prospective members to the CTF.

Funding

Revenues for the AHRA are generated primarily from park pass sales, camping reservations, registrations, and special use permits. These revenues were about \$820,000 in 2005. Expenditures for CDPOR only were about \$988,000 in 2005.



AMERICAN RIVER PARKWAY

Location

Sacramento, California.

Description

The 23-mile American River Parkway (Parkway) is known as the “jewel of Sacramento.” More than 5 million visitors annually enjoy this unique wildlife and recreation area. Fishing, boating and rafting opportunities lure water enthusiasts. Access to the Parkway is available at various points off of Highway 50. Amenities along the Parkway include beaches, parks (developed and natural), trails, ponds, boat ramps, and raft launches.

The Parkway has long been recognized as a valuable natural and recreational resource for the Sacramento area. By the early 1900s, planners were suggesting various parkway concepts for establishing cooperation between agencies with jurisdiction along the river. Early planning efforts along the river culminated in the 1962 approval of a master plan that included the 23-mile Parkway from Nimbus Dam to the confluence with the Sacramento River.

Between 1949 and 1955, Sacramento, followed by the State of California, purchased the first parkland along the river. After the 1959 formation of the County of Sacramento Department of Parks and Recreation, the County established the Parkway from Nimbus Reservoir to the confluence with the Sacramento River. In 1974 the Parkway’s trail system was designated a “National Recreational Trail,” and in 1980, the County completed the Jedediah Smith Memorial Bridge, linking the existing portions of the bicycle trail and four Regional Parks.

The Parkway has grown to comprise 4,615 acres, providing a variety of open space and recreation opportunities for residents of the region. Establishment of the Parkway is an accomplishment recognized throughout California and the West and has become a model that many have tried to emulate without success.

Current Status

Adopted in 1962 and revised in 1985, the American River Parkway Plan is currently being updated. The 2006 American River Parkway Financial Needs Study Update reviews and updates the established benchmarks, reviews unmet funding needs, and identifies new funding needs and possible funding alternatives.

Desired Condition

The vision as stated in the 1985 American River Parkway Plan highlights:

- a) Preserving naturalistic open space and protecting environmental quality within the urban environment.
- b) Contributing to the provision of recreational opportunity in the Sacramento area. The components include:
 1. On-going management of the Parkway’s natural resources.
 2. Accommodation of the demand for passive, unstructured, river-oriented recreational pursuits in a natural environment, which are not normally provided by other county recreational facilities, in a manner that minimizes the impact on the environment.
 3. Limitation on the use of the Parkway to prevent overuse and preserve environmental quality thereby ensuring the availability of the Parkway for future users.
 4. Coordination and cooperation in the Parkway planning and management efforts.
 5. Balance of the preservation of naturalistic open space and habitat within the urban area with the provision of active recreational facilities to serve the recreational needs of the community.

Challenges

The Parkway is experiencing problems with funding, development encroachment, an increase in use, and habitat degradation.

Members

Sacramento County Department of Parks and Recreation, Sacramento County Planning Department, City of Sacramento Planning

Department, Sacramento County Sheriff's Department, Sacramento City Police Department, Local Fire Districts, State Water Resource Control Board, Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board, Flood Control Agencies, Reclamation District 100, Attorney General of the State of California, California Department of Transportation, California State Department of Parks and Recreation, State Department of Fish and Game, California State Lands Commission, Cal Expo, U.S. Department of the Interior, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. Besides these members, the parkway also has three affiliated non-profits: American River Parkway Foundation (education, funding, and volunteers), American River Parkway Preservation Society (political), and Save the American River Association (volunteers).

Funding

Expenditures are divided into operating expenses and debt financing for land acquisition and major capital improvements. The 2005-2006 budget for the Parkway was \$7.5 million, with about \$5 million of that in operations and maintenance. Most of the funding comes from county general fund allocation, local occupancy tax, grants, and state and local bond monies. In addition, the American River Parkway Foundation assists with funding smaller projects through monies that are raised.



MIDDLE FORK OF THE SNOQUALMIE RIVER

Location

The Middle Fork of the Snoqualmie River is closest to the town of North Bend, Washington about 30 miles southeast of Seattle, along the I-90 corridor.

Description

Despite the quality of the river as a recreational resource, formal public access was never provided and over the years many of the ad hoc access points for kayakers and rafters have been closed. In 1997, after more than a decade of effort, a plan to address access and management issue was finally developed. This plan, the Middle Fork River Corridor Concept Plan (Plan) was paid for by King County and a grant from the Washington State Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation (IAC). The Mountains-to-Sound Greenway sponsored and facilitated the effort. It represented a collaborative effort to come up with a blueprint for future management of human activity in the Middle Fork valley.

The Plan provides recommendations and has been a persuasive tool whenever land managers like the Washington State Department of Natural Resources, the U.S. Forest Service (Forest Service), and King County make decisions about the valley, and when non-governmental groups like the Greenway and the Cascade Land Conservancy decide where to use money and resources.

Current Status

The Cascade Land Conservancy continues to make great progress on acquisitions in the Middle Fork Snoqualmie River Valley. Several years ago, it began an initiative to acquire and protect the last remaining private in-holdings in this region. To date a total of 1,220 acres in the Middle Fork Basin have been protected. Of that total, 780 acres have been resold to the Forest Service, which will manage the land long term. The latest acquisition of 120 acres is one of the last in-holdings in the upper valley and includes over 1 mile of riverfront. The acquisition will help the Forest Service in its effort to keep vehicles out of sensitive areas.

Desired Condition

The River Corridor Public Use Concept (Concept), Phase II of the Middle Fork of the Snoqualmie River Study, develops the use and management framework established in Phase I. It recommends the location, scale and level of facility development for day and overnight recreation use within one mile of the river corridor, from the mouth of the Valley to Dingford Creek. It proposes an interagency organizational structure-the Middle Fork River Council and a river coordinator-to coordinate project development, management activities and investment in the Valley. It also identifies tasks and responsible parties for implementation of Concept elements over a 5-year period. Finally, the Concept provides general recommendations for facilities financing and operations, and preliminary budget opinions for facilities development.

Phase II, funded by IAC resources, included the same participants as in Phase I-the Middle Fork Task Force and the project planning team. In Phase II, a Steering Committee composed of Middle Fork Task Force members-landowners, resource managers, representatives of user groups, and the Mountains-to-Sound Greenway-worked closely with the planning team in a series of work and field sessions to develop the Concept.

Challenges

As the Seattle area continues to develop, the Middle Fork River corridor sees more pressure from users and from development on adjoining private lands.

Members

Forest Service, Washington State Department of Natural Resources, King County, and North Bend. A total of 25 user groups were involved when the regional partnership was established.

Funding

King County has done much of the land acquisition outlined in the Plan. The County has also established a new program called the Association Development and Operation Partnerships (ADOP) Program. Through this program, non-profits can enter into a formal partnership agreement with

King County that provides a mechanism for the creation of new and enhanced facilities on land already owned by King County. For example, the non-profit provides the volunteer resources, expertise, and revenue generating potential to develop and manage the site in a manner consistent with public needs.



SOUTH FORK OF THE AMERICAN RIVER WHITewater RECREATION PROGRAM

Location

El Dorado County, California stretches from the foothills above the Sacramento Valley through rugged mountains to Lake Tahoe.

Description

Since the early 1980s, the El Dorado County has actively managed commercial and non-commercial whitewater recreation on a 20.7-mile segment of the South Fork of the American River to enhance public health, safety, and welfare and preserve environmental values. In response to landowner complaints about noise, trespassing, litter, and inadequate sanitation, the County banned whitewater recreation by ordinance in 1976. This ordinance was later struck down and the County adopted a Stream and River Rafting Ordinance in 1980. Then in 1981, the County began active management of commercial outfitters on the South Fork.

To formulate a river management program, the County embarked on an effort to gather factual information about the use of the river. The County conducted property owner surveys, river user surveys, and began to coordinate with representatives of responsible and interested agencies. In 1984, the County prepared a River Management Plan (RMP) and adopted it as a chapter of its General Plan. This RMP was amended in 1988 and 1992. Many of the amended RMP goals listed below have been met.

- Special use permitting for river access and camps.
- Acquisition and development of Henningsen-Lotus Park. The 51-acre park provides a wide variety of active and passive recreation opportunities. In conjunction with the river program, the park provides a boat launch and beach area. Adjacent to the river is an enclosed pavilion used for a wide variety of activities, classes, weddings, social events, and fundraisers. Rounding out the facility are two soccer fields and a lighted softball/little league complex that provides year-round youth sports. The park is open seven days a week, from 8 A.M. until dusk with a range of fees.

- Bureau of Land Management (BLM) acquisition of river area lands.
- Development of a radio communications system by the El Dorado County Sheriff's Office.

Current Status

In 2001, an updated RMP was adopted. The RMP embodies the County's intent to manage and support whitewater recreation while protecting the natural and social resources of the river. Past and current management goals and objectives form the guiding principles for the RMP. The RMP focuses on the parties responsible for various action items.

Desired Condition

A River Management Advisory Committee (RMAC) was created by the County by resolution. That resolution defines:

- Composition of the committee members
- Nomination and appointment of the members
- Appointment term and conditions
- Powers and duties of the committee
- Matters on which to advise the Board of Supervisors and the Planning Commission
- How meetings will be conducted
- Organization of the committee
- Type of fiscal support the committee will receive
- How communications will be conducted between the committee and the Board of Supervisors or the Planning Commission

Challenges

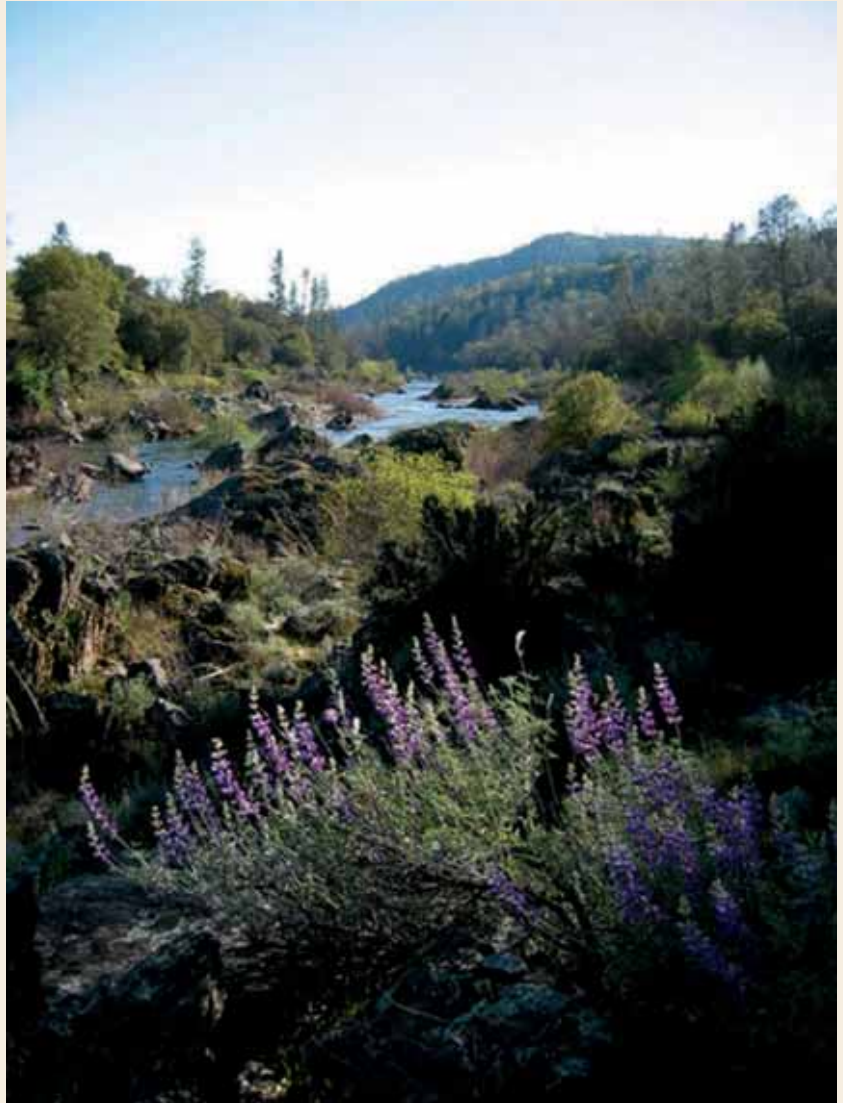
Not all the current members were at the table when the RMAC resolution was created in 2001; however, since that time, current members have joined the committee.

Members

Business, outfitter, non-commercial boater, landowner, members-at-large, California Department of Parks and Recreation, and the BLM.

Funding

The River Trust Fund, created in 1981, is a savings account for the deposit of commercial River Use Permit application fees and user day fees that is used as the basic funding source for improvements in the river corridor, including education programs, land lease/purchase, and other activities as specified in the RMP. If additional funds are needed, the County budgets for the monies. Grants are occasionally used depending on the project.



APPENDIX E -
MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

PROVIDING FOR

COOPERATIVE MANAGEMENT

OF THE

SNAKE RIVER CORRIDOR

Memorandum of Understanding

Between

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Pinedale Field Office

and

Snake River Fund

and

U.S. Department of Agriculture
Forest Service
Bridger-Teton National Forest
Jackson Ranger District

and

Teton County

and

The State of Wyoming
Wyoming Game and Fish Commission

and

Jackson Hole Land Trust

Providing for
Cooperative Management of the Snake River Corridor

PREAMBLE

WHEREAS, The Upper Snake River Watershed is a nationally significant riparian corridor that provides outstanding wildlife and aquatic habitat and a variety of recreation opportunities;

WHEREAS, the Snake River forms the nucleus of a regional concentration of outstanding recreational opportunities and wildlife habitat;

WHEREAS, the Partners seek comments and suggestions from one another with respect to management responsibilities for recreational use and/or conservation management of the Snake River, with the intent that the Partners can share these responsibilities;

WHEREAS, there is a need to coordinate management, including recreation management and natural resource preservation, of Partners' lands so as to best serve the public; and

WHEREAS, the Bureau of Land Management issued a Record of Decision in April 2004 that called for transfer of its public lands within the Snake River Corridor to ensure that they be managed for continued public access and wildlife habitat.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT,

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Snake River Fund (SRF), USDA Forest Service (FS), Teton County (TC), Wyoming Game and Fish Commission (WGFC), and Jackson Hole Land Trust (JHLT), herein referred to as the Partners in this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) seek to:

1. Ensure balanced, equitable and efficient management of the Snake River for BLM, FS, TC, and WGFC lands for habitat conservation and recreation use and facilities along the river;
2. Ensure that the public process protocol with respect to each Partner shall remain in effect;
3. Continue an effective Partnership in management of the Snake River and associated land and water resources; and
4. Ensure that management is carried out by the Partners in light of the mutually agreed to "Mission Statement" relating to management emphasizing natural resources, resource sustainability, and land health standards, recognizing and respecting private property, while embracing numerous recreational, educational, and commercial activities within the river corridor.

MISSION STATEMENT

Recognizing that the Snake River is a natural resource of local, regional, and national significance that is a cornerstone in our quality of life, it is the Partners' mission to comprehensively manage public lands and waters within the Snake River Corridor to protect and improve recreational opportunities while enhancing open space and wildlife habitat through a multi-organizational process of planning and implementation.

I. PURPOSE

A. The purposes of this agreement are to:

1. Establish a partnership to cooperatively manage the public land resources in the Snake River Corridor (SRC) between the south line of the Grand Teton National Park and the South Park Bridge (see attached planning area map) for public recreation access and wildlife habitat as guided by the 2008 Snake River Ownership / Management Transfer Plan (SROMTP). The cooperative effort shall be known as the Snake River Corridor Management Partnership (hereafter referred to as the Partnership).
2. Set forth a framework for cooperation and coordination by the Partners to achieve common goals that shall include but not be limited to:
 - a. Facilitate development and implementation of planning and management decisions as guided by the BLM's Record of Decision, approved on April 5, 2004, as per Federal Decision Record, through a process that best combines the resources and authorities of all Partners to improve conditions in the area;
 - b. Facilitate ongoing future management of the SRC to meet the goals and objectives as set forth by the SROMTP and the Management Partnership;
 - c. Ensure that the outstanding natural features of the area are protected and enhanced and provide sustainable public recreation opportunities consistent with the character and the capacity of the area; and
 - d. Ensure compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA), the Teton County Comprehensive Plan, Teton County Land Development Regulations, and all other applicable federal, state, and local land and water management policies and regulations.
3. Define responsibilities for all Partners on lands and related water within the SRC.
4. Establish the procedural guidelines by which the Management Partnership shall operate.

II. AUTHORITIES AND DEFINITIONS

A. All authorities shall refer to the most recent and current language applicable.

1. Bureau of Land Management

- a. Section 307 (a) and (b) of the FLPMA of 1976.
- b. Recreation and Public Purposes Act (RAPPA) of 1926, as amended, 43 U.S.C. 869 et. seq.
- c. Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965, as amended

2. Snake River Fund

- a. Bylaws.

3. USDA Forest Service

- a. Section 307 (a) and (b) of the FLPMA of 1976.
- b. Section 4 (5) (c) of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965, as amended.
- c. The Organic Administration Act of June 4, 1897.

4. Teton County

- a. Teton County Ordinances.
- b. County Land Development Regulations.
- c. Teton County Comprehensive Plan.

5. Wyoming Game and Fish Commission

- a. Powers and Duties of the Commission, W.S. 23-1-302.
- b. Duties and Authority of the Director of the Department, W.S. 23-1-402.
- c. Authority to Regulate Taking, Possession and Use of Wildlife, W.S. 23-1-302.
- d. Regulation Governing Fee Title Property Right(s) by the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission, W.S. 23-1-302.
- e. Regulation Governing Uses of Lands and Waters Acquired or Administered by the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission, W.S. 23-1-302 and W.S. 23-1-302 (a) (iii).

6. Jackson Hole Land Trust

- a. Bylaws.
- b. Resolution.

7. Definitions

- a. BLM – Bureau of Land Management
- b. FLPMA – Federal Land Policy and Management Act
- c. FS – USDA Forest Service
- d. JHLT – Jackson Hole Land Trust
- e. MOU - Memorandum of Understanding
- f. NEPA – National Environmental Policy Act
- g. NFS – National Forest System
- h. RAPPA – Recreation and Public Purposes Act
- i. ROD – Record of Decision
- j. SRC – Snake River Corridor – see the planning area map
- k. SRF – Snake River Fund
- l. SROMTP – Snake River Ownership / Management Transfer Plan
- m. SRCMP – Snake River Corridor Management Plan
- n. TC – Teton County
- o. WGFC – Wyoming Game and Fish Commission
- p. Partners – all cooperating agencies
- q. Partnership – Snake River Corridor Management Partnership

III. RESPONSIBILITIES AND PROVISIONS

A. BLM Agrees to:

1. Manage all resources in the SRC on BLM administered lands until their ultimate transfer.
2. Provide background data, information, and analysis as it pertains to the SRC; assist with funding sources within the context of what is prescribed by the objectives and actions prescribed by the Record of Decision for the Snake River Resource Management Plan (ROD).
3. Collaborate with other Partners to complete and implement the Snake River Corridor Management / Transfer Plan in order to meet the objectives of the ROD.
4. Participate in and provide review of recreation management carried out on the lands and waters within the SRC to ensure that it is consistent with the goals and objectives of the ROD.
5. Enforce applicable federal laws and regulations pertaining to the SRC.
6. Ensure that all federal mandates and acts are followed.
7. Provide other Partners with current copies of all acts, policies, regulations and handbooks that are specified in this MOU. Updated copies will be provided when changes or amendments occur.
8. Provide site assessment and remediation (Phases I, II, and III) on properties prior to transfer.

B. SRF Agrees to:

1. Provide the on-ground “lead” organization responsible for coordinating implementation of this MOU.
2. Provide appropriate conservation and recreation guidelines; act as a conduit to the public via meetings and open houses.
3. Provide administrative assistance for the process, assisting in identifying, seeking, and securing funding sources.
4. Act as the point of contact for the Partners for the general public and the media.
5. Work with the Partners to establish river recreation activity capacities and regulate commercial river recreation use as specified in a SRCMP.
6. Participate in resource monitoring and enhancement actions to include all cooperative efforts with all other Partners.

C. FS Agrees to:

1. Provide recreational management and facilities maintenance expertise, and operational assistance, assisting in identifying, seeking, and securing funding sources.
2. Participate in and provide review of recreation management and use of the SRC to ensure that Forest Plan Direction is carried out on the NFS lands and waters.
3. Continue to enforce applicable federal laws and regulations pertaining to the SRC.
4. Ensure that applicable federal mandates and acts are followed.

D. TC Agrees to:

1. Provide recreational management and facilities maintenance expertise, and operational assistance, assisting in identifying, seeking, and securing funding sources.
2. Provide appropriate guidelines with regard to conservation, recreation, and resource management.
3. Ensure compliance with the Teton County Comprehensive Plan and Land Development Regulations and any amendments thereto with respect to lands within the SRC to which TC takes title.
4. Prepare final construction plans to implement the conceptual plans for Teton County lands that are indicated in a SRCMP and obtain input from the Partners and the public on these plans from appropriate Partners through an environmental assessment process prior to any surface disturbance.

E. WGFC Agrees to:

1. Work cooperatively with the Partners in the development of any proposed public use regulations for the SRC.
2. Work cooperatively to implement and enforce applicable state laws and regulations on public lands within the SRC. These generally involve wildlife regulations, safety, littering, resource protection, and public conduct.
3. Seek involvement and consensus of the other Partners prior to undertaking any anticipated or planned parcel management actions, to include identifying appropriate planning guidelines and actions, to facilitate future mission accomplishment for all Partners.
4. Act as the lead and cooperate with other Partners in managing the parcels transferred to the WGFC within the corridor.
5. Provide the lead presence for managing wildlife on lands and waters within the corridor. Work cooperatively with other Partners within the SRC to implement the Mission Statement.

F. JHLT Agrees to:

1. Work cooperatively with the Partners to hold and monitor conservation easements for the SRC.
2. Participate in resource monitoring and enhancement actions to include all cooperative efforts with all other Partners.
3. Assist in identifying, seeking, and securing funding sources.

G. All Partners jointly agree to:

1. Participate in a Snake River Partnership for the purpose of cooperative management of the SRC. As part of the Snake River Partnership, the Partners shall:
 - a. Designate an authorized representative to serve as principal contact for this MOU.
 - b. Meet a minimum of once per year.
 - c. Make management recommendations on the SRC parcels on a consensual basis. If a consensus is not possible, a five (5) of six (6) majority vote shall suffice. If only five (5) partners are present, a four (4) of five (5) majority shall suffice.
 - d. Draft and approve by-laws.
 - e. Implement management recommendations unless, in the opinion of the Partner with management and / or ownership responsibilities, there is a compelling reason not to do so.
2. As a long-term goal, jointly develop through the public hearing process a SRCMP in accordance with this Memorandum of Understanding and other regulated processes. The Partners must unanimously approve the SRCMP, and any amendments thereto, in order for the SRCMP to become binding. The SRCMP shall:
 - a. Delineate the goals and objectives to guide management of the SRC.
 - b. Describe how the parcels will be collectively and individually managed to achieve the goals and objectives.
 - c. Be reviewed and evaluated not less than every five (5) years to determine progress in meeting the goals and objectives.
 - d. Provide for timely response to a Partner's request for specific review of site development plans and a Partner's request to complete NEPA compliance requirements to the extent required by law (i.e., complete environmental assessments as needed).

- e. Define all signage requirements ensuring that they adhere to individual Partner's signing regulations and ensuring that the signage adequately represents each Partner's participation.
 - f. Ensure compliance with NEPA, FLPMA, the Teton County Comprehensive Plan, the Teton County Land Development Regulations, and all other applicable federal, state, and local land and water management policies and regulations to the extent required by law.
3. Develop an annual operating plan based on the Snake River ROD and any approved SRCMP and issue an annual report.
 4. Explore revenue generating opportunities to support activities including but not limited to management, resource protection, research, interpretation and maintenance activities related to resource protection and recreation management on lands and waters within the SRC.
 5. Appoint committees as deemed necessary.
 6. Plan, hold, and attend at least one annual public meeting to:
 - a. Assist the Partnership in maintaining a regional focus.
 - b. Allow an open communication link to the communities along the river corridor, the State of Wyoming, and national organizations and associations interested in the preservation of river corridors.
 - c. Provide individual advice and input to the Partners on resource management and development issue priorities along the river corridor.
 - d. Provide support to Partners in the implementation of plan goals and objectives within the BLM's ROD and SRCMP.
 7. Request enforcement of local and state laws by the Teton County Sheriff's Office.

Nothing in this MOU shall be construed as obligating any of the Partners to expend sums in excess of, or for purposes other than, that for which appropriation has been made.

IV. CHANGE OF AGENCY AUTHORITY

In the event any authority of any agency is repealed, modified, or changed to the extent that a SRCMP cannot be effectively continued or implemented, all Partners will meet within 90 days to develop a strategy to acquire the necessary authority. In the event additional authority cannot be acquired within a reasonable time frame, a plan amendment will be initiated to determine the future course of recreation management.

V. TERM

The term of this MOU shall be ten (10) years from the date last signed by the Partners. At the termination of the agreement, all or part of the Partners may agree upon an extension.

VI. REVIEW AND TERMINATION

- A. **TERMINATION.** Any party or parties, in writing, may terminate the instrument in whole, or in part, by doing so in writing at any time before the date of expiration, provided that in order to ensure consistent management, one (1) year's notice shall be required before any such termination becomes effective.
- B. **JOINT REVIEW.** A joint review of this agreement by all Partners shall be undertaken at least annually.
- C. **PARTICIPATION IN SIMILAR ACTIVITIES.** This instrument in no way restricts the Partners from participating in similar activities with other public or private agencies, organizations and individuals.
- E. **NON-FUND OBLIGATING DOCUMENT.** This instrument is neither a fiscal nor a funds obligating document. Any endeavor involving reimbursement, contribution of funds, or transfer of anything of value between the parties to this instrument will be handled in accordance with applicable laws, regulations, and procedures including those for government procurement and printing. Such endeavors will be outlined in separate agreements that shall be made in writing by representatives of the parties and shall be independently authorized by appropriate statutory authority. This instrument does not provide such authority. Specifically, this instrument does not establish authority for noncompetitive award to the cooperator of any contract or other agreement. Any contract or agreements for training or other services must fully comply with all applicable requirements for competition.
- F. **ESTABLISHMENT OF RESPONSIBILITY.** This MOU is not intended to, and does not create any right, benefit, or trust responsibility, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or equity, by a party against the United States, State of Wyoming or Teton County, its agencies, its officers, or any person.
- G. **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT (FOIA).** Any information furnished to the Bureau of Land Management and the USDA Forest Service is subject to the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552). Any information furnished to Teton County and the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission, as well as any information furnished to the Partnership or to the Partners with respect to this MOU, is subject to the Wyoming Public Records Act (Wyo. Stat. §§ 16-4-201 et. seq.).
- H. **MODIFICATION.** Changes within the scope of this instrument shall be made by the issuance of a modification executed by all cooperators.
- I. **SOVEREIGN IMMUNITY.** The Wyoming Game and Fish Commission and Teton County do not waive sovereign immunity by entering into this Agreement, and specifically retain immunity and all defenses available to them as sovereigns pursuant to Wyoming Statute 1-39-104(a) and all other state laws.
- J. **EXECUTION.** This instrument is executed as of the last date shown below.

RECOMMENDED

The BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT



Kellie Roadifer

Planning and Environmental Coordinator

Date:

12/16/08

The SNAKE RIVER FUND



~~Lexey Wauters~~

Program Director

MARLEY VAUGHN

Date:

12/16/08

The BRIDGER-TETON NATIONAL FOREST



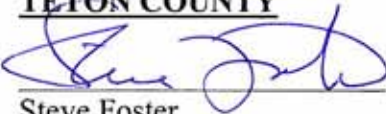
Michael Schrotz

Planning-Lands Staff Officer

Date:

2 December, 2008

TETON COUNTY



Steve Foster

Director / Parks and Recreation Department

Date:

11/6/08

The WYOMING GAME AND FISH COMMISSION




Matthew Fry

Habitat and Access Coordinator

Date:

11-17-08

The JACKSON HOLE LAND TRUST



Michael Rauch

Associate Director

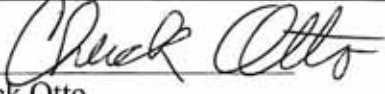
John Shepard

Date:

12/15/08


APPROVED

The BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT


Chuck Otto
Field Manager


Date: Dec. 16, 2008

The SNAKE RIVER FUND


David Pfeifer
Board President

Date: 12.16.08

The BRIDGER-TETON NATIONAL FOREST


Carole "Knifey" Hamilton
Forest Supervisor

Date: 12/4/08

TETON COUNTY

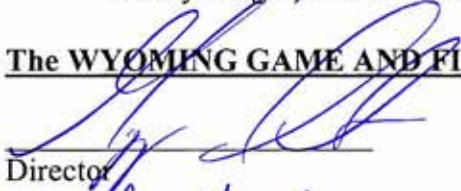
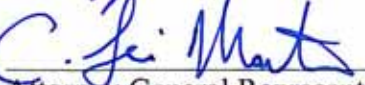

Andrew Schwartz
Chairman / Board of County Commissioners



Attest: 
Sherry Daigle / Teton County Clerk

Date: 12-16-08


The WYOMING GAME AND FISH COMMISSION


Director

Attorney General Representative

Date: 11-20-08

Date: 11/20/08

The JACKSON HOLE LAND TRUST


Laurie Andrews
Executive Director

Date: 12/15/08

APPENDIX F -
PARCEL ANALYSIS REPORT ON CD

