



May 31, 2018

Teton County Board of County Commissioners
Jackson Town Council

Subject: Safe Wildlife Crossings as a top SPET priority

Dear Commissioners, Mayor and Town Councilors,

We've all seen too many dead animals on the side of the road-in this county, we estimate that over 500 animals a year are killed on our roads. A history of development within wildlife habitat has left movement corridors severed by highways, creating a danger for our wildlife and for ourselves and our families. In Wyoming, 1 in 5 collisions involve wildlife, 1 in 50 collisions with injuries involve wildlife, and 1 in 100 fatal collisions involve wildlife. These are real threats to our safety, but the good news is that they are largely preventable.

Effectively and efficiently implement the Teton County Wildlife Crossings Master Plan with a \$15 million SPET measure.

With the upcoming Special Purpose Excise Tax (SPET) election, we have the opportunity to bring local dollars to the table to solve this problem and implement the Teton County Wildlife Crossings Master Plan as adopted by the County in 2018. By ensuring a wildlife crossings measure on this November's SPET ballot, we can allocate community dollars to fund wildlife crossing structures and mitigation efforts, and in doing so, increase the safety of our roads for both wildlife and humans. **We believe that a \$15 million investment expressly allocated toward wildlife crossings appropriately reflects our community's values and priorities.** Though these projects will require up-front investment, they will last our lifetimes (most structures last up to 75 years) and pay for themselves in benefits to our community.

Our community deserves to vote on one of our top core values - wildlife

We believe a measure to address our top community priorities will receive strong, bipartisan support from likely voters and our coalition of nonprofits, community influencers, and volunteers are prepared to dedicate the time and resources to a robust grassroots campaign needed to ensure a wildlife crossings measure will pass. We know from our Comprehensive Plan that our community values wildlife and protecting our ecosystem. Wildlife, our public lands, and our wild waterways are the bedrock of our community and our economy, and yet a close inspection of past SPET ballot measures does not reflect this community priority. As voters, we've rarely had the opportunity to vote on conservation or wildlife measures, to put our money where our values are. With a **wildlife crossings stand-alone SPET ballot measure**, we have the unique opportunity to directly and positively impact the stresses put on our wildlife species from physical development. Please place a \$15 million wildlife crossing measure on this year's ballot to find solutions, not only for wildlife, but also for the safety of our families and community.

Sincerely,

Chris Colligan
Wildlife Program Coordinator
Greater Yellowstone Coalition

Jon Mobeck
Executive Director
Jackson Hole Wildlife
Foundation

Leah Zamesnik
Conservation Policy Manager
Jackson Hole Conservation
Alliance