

1. **BLM Parcel 9/10 (320 acres, ~1.5 mi of river frontage) is located north of Emily Steven's Pond and Hwy 22. What is your vision for future public uses at this parcel? How much, if any development should occur on this site?**

My understanding of the disposal of these lands via the Recreation and Public Purposes Act (R&PPA) prevents the lands from being used as open space. As a Teton County Commissioner my job would be to ensure proper oversight that the process which has been set in place is carried out in a fair and open manner. The process should recognize the interests of the various user groups and respect all of the interests. I recognize that as soon as the word "wildlife is mentioned, there are some who will jump on the bandwagon that this is the last of prime wildlife habitat and no human foot or eye should set itself upon the ground"...that position the R&PPA would not support. With stakeholders' interests and inputs, I support future public uses at this parcel in the hope we end up with a community treasure. I strongly believe that there's a healing value afforded to those of us who spend time in nature. The majority of people living in our county depend upon public access to the wonderful wild and pristine places in our community. I hope we end up with the parcel which provides:

- a place that provides our rafters and fishermen reasonable access to the snake*
- a place for families to picnic and play and experience the healing that comes from watching and enjoying oneself along moving waters.*

If we are careful and mindful all of our human access points, we should be able to enable the wildlife use of the acreage also.

2) Last week was the 50th anniversary of the passage of the Wild & Scenic Rivers Act. Next year will be the 10th anniversary of the Snake River Headwater designation as a Wild & Scenic River (over 400 river miles in Teton County, WY). The Wild & Scenic Rivers Act provides for a free-flowing river, water quality protection and maintaining Outstandingly Remarkable Values (Recreation, fisheries, wildlife, Scenic, values).

Teton County is facing its first documented case of unpermitted river bank stabilization within the Wild & Scenic corridor. What role does local government play in supporting the intent, process and standards of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act?

The owners of the Snake River Sporting Club, a luxury development, have recently been accused of manipulating the banks of the Snake River. Because the Snake River, as it runs by the Sporting Club, is classified as "scenic" under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, any work on the banks up to the high-water mark must pass "permission" with the Bridger-Teton National Forest and faces restrictions imposed by the Snake River Headwaters Legacy Act.

So what role should local government take in supporting the intent, process and standards set forth by the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act? Both Teton County and the Town of Jackson need more engagement to be better stewards of facilitation and management of this magnificent

waterway. In order to accomplish this, there are opportunities for basic funding paradigm adjustments that can be made by our local leadership – becoming more of an active “Partner” and “cooperator” with federal land managers – reviewing plans and maintaining a careful watch on development projects such as the Snake River Sporting Club. In this situation the Forest Service did not find a violation; however, Teton County’s LDR’s were involved and the county’s LDR’s regarding rivers/streams were enforced.

3. The fisheries section of the “Water Resources White Paper” describes how Snake River cutthroat trout are native to the Upper Snake River in Teton County, WY – essentially, Jackson Hole’s very own native trout – and how the Upper Snake watershed is unique for having robust native fish populations.

What legacy would you like to leave to future generations with respect to native trout and their coldwater habitat in Jackson Hole?

One of the roles of an elected official is to serve as public “cheerleader” for cohorts in the community that are providing public value. We are fortunate to have very well-organized groups like Trout Unlimited, Friends of the Teton River, and Friends of Fish Creek who work in concert with our federal, state and local land management agencies to protect our fisheries.

We have a duty to ensure that our natural resources are protected so they can flourish. We have our native fish populations because people have collaborated to reduce and mitigate the threats against our native fish populations. I appreciate the work of our Teton Conservation District in their efforts to gather data to address water quality and watershed issues.

I want a legacy of having worked with like-minded community members who had the vision and commitment to create a culture of collaboration, creativity and community resolve to protect our very own JH trout and their habitat.

4. The fisheries section of the “Water Resources White Paper” describes how Teton County, WY, hosts some of the finest native, naturally reproducing fish populations in the United States – and outlines current and future threats to this fishery including migration barriers, habitat degradation, nonnative fish species, water quality impairments, and warming stream temperatures.

With respect to identifying and addressing migration barriers to native fish, the recently- adopted Teton County Wildlife Crossings Master Plan noted that “while this document primarily focuses on terrestrial crossings priorities and opportunities, we strongly recommend that an aquatic passage prioritization effort and County-wide policy be further explored as described in the report, as mitigation measures at aquatic crossings may prove very feasible and cost-effective to implement, and will likely be well supported by the public”. It further suggests in Strategy 13 – Aquatics Crossings Prioritization and Policy: “Continue to work with aquatics-focused agency and nonprofit stakeholders on a 1) road-stream crossing prioritization to guide future replacements and 2) adoption of a County-level policy to consider fish passage (through stakeholder outreach) when making any changes to stream or river crossings associated with roads and levees”.

What is your level of support for the Teton County Wildlife Crossings Master Plan’s recommendations for a future aquatic passage prioritization effort and County policy to consider fish passage when updating roads and levees? As an elected official, what would you personally do to advance this effort?

Follow up: Are there any other policies, regulations, or other tools that you believe could further protect our native fisheries on private lands?

My University Extension background has framed my approach to problems. I will want to see the data and understand the science behind the data. Certainly, we need to be mindful of unintended consequences when we are addressing habitat for any species. I do not profess to be an expert in fisheries; however, I know where to get expert information. It is essential for commissioners to have the intellectual curiosity to become schooled in the issues that are before us.

Education on the effectiveness as well as the cost of creating fish passages would be a top priority. The county has to consider the costs associated with all mitigation measures and balance the costs with the benefits. What will I personally do as an elected official? Both the data and science teach us that additions of more roads and levees tend to create a critical situation for a species. These are critical to our communities' natural capital including our fish. I will commit to work to find the resources to enable our community to be the best stewards of our natural resources and protectors of our community's safety.

5. The "Water Resources White Paper" states, "Teton County, WY, hosts some of the finest native, naturally reproducing fish populations in the United States... Yellowstone and Snake River cutthroat trout are icons of the Greater Yellowstone Region... In the Teton River drainage on the West side of the Tetons, interbreeding between native cutthroat trout and non-native rainbow trout is seriously threatening the long-term persistence of the cutthroat trout..."

The National Park Service notes, "In the recent past, fishing for cutthroat trout has supported a \$36 million annual sport fishery [in Yellowstone]." <https://www.nps.gov/yell/learn/nature/Yellowstone-Cutthroat-Trout.htm>

Given that recreation associated with Yellowstone and Snake River cutthroat trout provides significant cultural and economic value to the region, what do you see as the role of your desired office in ensuring the persistence and proliferation of this species here in Teton County, Wyoming?

As a commissioner, I will seek information from resource experts and act within the restraints of the office of a Commissioner to assist groups and agencies who are working to ensure the protection and management of our fisheries. With development growth in our County, come challenges to ensuring protection of our natural fisheries species with threats like:

- *Culverts*
- *Dewatered stream reaches*
- *Diversions to tributaries*
- *Impaired water quality from street and highway stormwater runoff*
- *Warming water temperatures*
- *Shallow stream reaches*
- *Microplastic accumulations*

All these things contribute to the concern of long-term health to our fisheries. These elements contribute to the sustainment of our riparian habitat as well.

What can I do as a Commissioner? Perhaps it's time to not allow property owners to build so close to creeks and rivers; perhaps we need to re-examine our building and development codes; perhaps we need the engagement of our many realtors to be required to inform buyers of the existing problems when they purchase property on a creek or waterway.

Perhaps on areas like Flat Creek, permits may be required for floaters making them adhere to certain authorized entry areas to the creek and assessing fines for littering the creek. I dislike creating a "police-state" for this type of recreation; however, if steps like these ensure better health for our fisheries and wildlife, we need to examine these.

6. The "Water Resources White Paper" states that "efforts to protect [riparian habitats] have been piecemeal at best" despite the fact that riparian habitats are "more important to more species in the valley than all other habitat types combined."

Sarah Bates, Senior Fellow with University of Montana's Center for Natural Resources and Environmental Policy, observes that "land use planning and decision-making is the responsibility of local officials, while water allocation happens through the decisions of many individuals who develop water based on their immediate and projected needs..."

Despite the many disconnects between water and land use planners, there is now widespread recognition of the need to think about these resources in a more integrated way: water-conscious land use planning and community-conscious water planning."

<http://lawschool.unm.edu/nrj/volumes/52/1/bates.pdf>

What do you see as the role of your desired office in water-conscious land use planning and community-conscious water planning? If elected, how will you address gaps in governance like those surrounding riparian habitat protections in Teton County, Wyoming?

"Water is the driving force of all nature" ...Leonardo DaVinci

The term "riparian area" has been one on my radar for decades. I understand it to be the vegetation, habitats or ecosystems associated with bodies of water. More simply put, riparian areas include the green ribbons of trees, shrubs and grasses growing along water courses. They are rich in biodiversity and play an important role in protecting water quality and stream ecosystem health.

Considering all the benefits that healthy, natural riparian zones provide to streams and other surface waters, these areas need to be protected. We need to ask ourselves, are properties being developed without knowledge or consideration of the importance of the riparian zone? During the development process, are riparian areas becoming degraded when vegetation is removed? Is the terrain being graded or plowed? Are utilities being installed? Are structures being built and what size are they? Are setbacks being adhered to? Are some areas being

paved? These changes to the landscape and subsequent human activity in the riparian zone have consequences on stream ecosystem health; nutrients from fertilizers, pet wastes, and cattle grazing wastes, contaminants from cars and roads, and soils from eroded areas are among some of the pollutants that wash into and degrade streams and other surface waters. More oversight is needed by the County and Town planning permit processes.

I've been pondering how the addition of water features throughout the county has been impacting not only the species that take up habitat in those new ecosystems, but the impacts of the drainage and resultant nutrients into the groundwater, streams and rivers.

I am not a riparian expert, nor am I a water expert; however, as we become more aware of changes and additions of waters into our county, we need to look at the science, study the findings of the experts and have honest discussions as landowners, water consumers and water recreationists about best practices to ensure we maintain healthy riparian systems, as these riparian systems feed directly into and impact our fisheries, and can impact our own sources of adequate clean water. Water is essential to all life.

7. The "Water Resources White Paper" suggests that wastewater is a primary source of contamination in Teton County, WY. Additionally, our drinking water aquifer has very limited natural protection from surface and groundwater discharge of wastewater. Yet, there is no comprehensive vision for wastewater management within Teton County, especially as it pertains to sewer and community level waste treatment infrastructure. ***If elected, what stance would you take regarding the establishment of a formal agreement of roles and responsibilities between the Town of Jackson and Teton County, WY, regarding waste treatment, and would your stance be that the County should have an elevated role?***

Most of us flush the toilet and never think about the systems that single flush triggers!

I have toured our Town of Jackson wastewater plant on several occasions and understand that we are indeed fortunate to have the system we have in place. Our waste management plant has the largest solar system in the state - a solar system that has significantly reduced the amount of energy from fossil fuels needed to treat our waste. That being said, the TOJ, and special districts in the county use the waste management system we have in place. The TOJ manages our wastewater plant, and it seems to me that supporting the TOJ's leadership in the waste water plant makes sense. Aspens/Pines, and Teton Village have special districts which operate their own waste water systems.

I believe the concern the county may need to address are the number of older septic systems in place throughout the county. For the life of me, having a well next door to my neighbor's septic system does not make sense. Our public health department's environmental health department tests well water regularly—having the ability to get our well water tested locally is a tremendous service the county provides.

My leadership background informs me to believe that all of us are better than one of us...I don't think the county needs to elevate itself over the town regarding waste....working together benefits all of us. The TOJ wastewater plant is capable of expansion at its present site in order to accommodate more development and even districts that want to hook up.

8. Wastewater from septic systems and the excessive use of landscape fertilizer are two well documented human derived sources of nutrients into our surface and ground waters. The "Water Resources White Paper" indicates that nutrient contamination (nitrogen and phosphorus) is likely contributing to nuisance levels of algae and aquatic plants, as well as contamination of drinking water in the Upper Snake River watershed. Voluntary measures, such as the Clean Water Coalition's "Trout Friendly Lawn Program", are attempting to reduce nutrient pollution from these sources. **Knowing that these sources of nutrients are degrading our local water resources and have the potential to seriously harm water quality and aquatic habitat, do you believe that voluntary measures are enough to curb nutrient inputs into our surface and groundwater?**

Follow up: Do you see regulation playing in role in reducing nutrient pollution from these sources?

People don't know what they don't know. Education on "best management practices" is a critical need to help people understand the basics of how we can all do our part to reduce nutrient pollution. For years I've been part of providing pesticide certification in the county. I worked with educating the public about the benefits of using brickets for mosquito control rather than broadly spraying chemicals. Our citizenry wants to do what is right... education is the key.... I have for over four decades seen first-hand how our residents will do what they can to live gently on the land. They simply need access to the information.

VOLUNTARY BEST PRACTICES for MITIGATION need to be educated to our ranchers, golf course managers, and developers. These can be better communicated through our building permit process and a required education for existing property owners. These BEST PRACTICES INCLUDE:

- *Learning alternative methods and reduced toxics of fertilization for lawns and golf course greens;*
- *Keeping grazing cattle a longer distance from our waterways;*
- *Limiting excessive landscaping on private properties;*
- *Taking responsibility for your trash after floating, boating, fishing, hunting, etc.- packing it out and removing it in a responsible manner.*

Education would be a far better route to take than creating "regulations" that would require policing.

9. The “Water Resources White Paper” indicates that wintertime flooding due to ice formation in Flat Creek is exacerbated due to the minimal development setback that have been required in the past and are sometimes allowed through exemptions. **Considering the large financial costs associated with flooding issues and the large degree of time and energy put towards such problems, if data could be used to show that existing setbacks would put said development at risk due to wintertime flooding would you support increasing setback distances from water courses for future development?**

I read the studies conducted on Flat Creek and was intrigued that to learn that because its proximity to Snow King, Flat Creek doesn't get the sun light to warm its shallow waters as other rivers of its type in the state do. I was also intrigued by the fact that affected landowners on the creek do not always cooperate to address flooding. I reviewed the Flat Creek Water Improvement District's website and found helpful education on mitigation ideas when that creek does flood.

I would hope that any future individual interested in building on Flat Creek would be aware of the annual freezing situation and frazil ice accumulation and would want to build at a safer setback. Knowledge is power, stupid does what stupid does.....the County cannot legislate against stupid. Future development along areas like Flat Creek need building codes revised that increase the setback distances from water courses.

However, since existing Flat Creek properties were not required to build a further distance from the Creek, it is important to exercise proper oversight to help property owners in times of flooding, educating them, as the Flat Creek Water Improvement District (FCWID) is doing. They recommend and explain how sand bags can be on hand during the winter to protect the flooding of homes along the creek; they have also been doing several on-the-ground mitigation projects to help curtail the ice dams and create a better, constant flow for that Creek.

10. The Riparian Habitat section of the “Water Resources White Paper” describes the importance of areas with intact vegetation and hydrologic function adjacent to streams. Within the Town of Jackson, WY, intact riparian areas are extremely limited. **Karns Meadow** has been identified as the one of the most intact riparian areas left along Flat Creek.

The Town of Jackson's purchase of Karns Meadow established a vision for this area, which includes pathways, bridges, groomed and lighted cross-country skiing, and a park facility.

Given the high importance of Karns Meadow for its natural resource values, but also, the vision by which this area was established as a Town Park, what would your vision be for the development of Karns Meadow and its recreational uses?

Once again, I don't expect that my vision as a Commissioner is what should drive the development of a community asset. I would expect that a fair process is established, administered by our county/city planning departments, honoring promises made to the

landowners that donated the land, and would include community stakeholders to develop a plan(s). That plan(s) would be presented for public input. The Commission will hear from staff and the public and make a decision, and considering the financial resources available, make a decision.

Karns Meadow is a natural value within Jackson and along Flat Creek. Why? It is able to accommodate winter flooding by “storing” significant water (in the form of ice) and then melts in the spring, enhancing the riparian wildlife beyond the reach of the creek. Karns Meadow is habitat for lots of wildlife making it an important asset to our community. If it is turned into a one large park, it risks disturbing the wildlife habitat. However, there are many in our community who don’t/can’t access Grand Teton National Park, having access to a local park would enable additional appreciation of the uniqueness of this place.

Teton County and the Town of Jackson need to protect this valuable land and honor the vision of the landowners who donated the land. A balance should be created – with perhaps scenic pathways for walking with restrictions to stay on that pathway allowing for open riparian wildlife areas to exist. Dogs should be leashed, and owners should be required to pick up their dog’s waste. Overnight camping should not be allowed.

11. Flat Creek is the only stream in Teton County, WY, currently listed as „impaired“ by State and Federal Management Agencies. Stream habitat alteration and stormwater runoff (runoff from streets and developed areas) have been cited as the cause of this impairment. **As an elected official, how would you value reduction of water contamination from developed areas compared with topics like additional housing density, affordability of commercial development, and staff time constraints? What types of directives would you give to your staff to address stream pollution from developed areas?**

I believe clean water is an important asset to our county. There are many interested organizations monitoring the waters in our county. As we discover contamination sources we need to be thoughtful about reducing the contamination.

Types of directives will include: Monitoring, education, communication and collaboration. I would expect our county staff to utilize all of these avenues to help ensure we can help improve the quality of Flat Creek. Greater effort needs to be placed with working with the Town and County Planning Departments to: 1) decrease the allowable amount of impervious surface in new projects; 2) more attention paid to directing inevitable surface runoff into systems that will eliminate both the suspended and dissolved particles; 3) charge the developer for these costs.

Floaters on Flat Creek: One of the primary disturbances to our creeks (especially Flat Creek) is the growing use of rafts, kayaks and tubes. It disturbs the terrestrial wildlife during the late spring and summer months. Flat Creek is the only source of surface water for any wildlife using

the Snow King Mountain area for its habitat. Floaters need managing and curtailment. They litter the creeks with their beer cans, dirty diapers, and noise. Our waterways are a natural capital which deserve our respect and expert care.