



Board of County Commissioners - Staff Report

Meeting Date: July 3, 2018
Submitting Dept: Commissioners

Presenter: Mark Newcomb
Subject: SHIFT Resolution

Statement / Purpose:

Consideration of Adoption of a Resolution Supporting the SHIFT Principles of Outdoor Recreation and Conservation

Background / Description (Pros & Cons):

SHIFT is a local festival held each Fall in Teton County. SHIFT has been working to bring together outdoor recreationists and conservationists. Through multiple meetings, summits and festivals, SHIFT has formulated what is being called the SHIFT Principles of Outdoor Recreation and Conservation. The attached resolution would have the Teton County Board of County Commissioners adopt the SHIFT Principles of Outdoor Recreation and Conservation.

Stakeholder Analysis & Involvement:

SHIFT has brought together many of the leading conservationists and outdoor recreationalists in our community and nation to formulate these principles.

Fiscal Impact:

None.

Staff Impact:

Non.

Legal Review:

Gingery

Attachments:

Resolution to Adopt the SHIFT Principles.

Suggested Motion:

I move to approve the Resolution to Adopt the Shift Principles for Outdoor Recreation and Conservation

RESOLUTION # _____

(Resolution Adopting the SHIFT Principles for Outdoor Recreation and Conservation)

WHEREAS, Outdoor recreation in natural settings is and always has been an indispensable part of conservation. Active engagement with the outdoors has produced some of the country's most inspiring conservation leaders. Our natural places and the recreational activities they provide are essential to us mentally, spiritually, and physically. By immersing people in the natural world, outdoor recreation builds support for conservation of the places we come to love and helps to develop the next generation of stewards. Outdoor recreation offers a remarkable opportunity to reinvigorate conservation efforts by engaging younger generations and diverse populations.

WHEREAS, Outdoor recreation adds economic stability, diversity, resilience, and prosperity to communities across the country while creating a broader constituency for protecting our natural resources. Outdoor recreation is a sustainable enterprise when practiced within ecosystem-based carrying capacities, is the third largest economic sector in the United States, and fosters human health and well-being.

WHEREAS, When unmanaged or poorly managed, outdoor recreation can adversely affect our public lands, as well as the quality of experiences and the numerous benefits they provide. The rapid growth of recreational use on public land, and the evolving nature of this use, often raises concerns that the quality of the lands and waters on which this recreation depends is being degraded. It also stresses the integral relationship between conservation and recreation.

WHEREAS, Outdoor recreation and conservation have evolved in tandem in Jackson Hole, and the partnership lies at the heart of our community's environment, economy and character.

WHEREAS, During the 2014 SHIFT Festival in Jackson Hole, The SHIFT Roundtable on Land Conservation, Wilderness Advocacy & Human-Powered Outdoor Recreation, which sought to develop stronger partnerships between natural allies for the benefit of conservation, identified the reduction of division among such allies as a key to successful conservation efforts.

WHEREAS, In June 2015, The Conservation and Recreation Summit, held in Grand Teton National Park at The Murie Center, used this observation as the starting point for a conversation between fifteen outdoor recreation enthusiasts, conservation advocates and public land managers who had convened to explore ways to better protect America's outdoor heritage.

NOW, THEREFORE, having duly met at a regular meeting and considered the matter, the Teton County Board of County Commissioners hereby resolve as follows:

RESOLVED, the Teton County Board of County Commissioners do hereby endorse and adopt the resulting **Principles for Outdoor Recreation and Conservation, also known as The SHIFT Principles**, as a unified framework for natural allies to reduce internal conflict and increase success in the protection of our public lands, waters and wildlife.

THE SHIFT PRINCIPLES

1. Outdoor recreation and conservation require that a diversity of lands and waters be publicly owned, available for public access, and well-stewarded. The uniquely American public land heritage is a privilege and a birthright. Stewardship of our public lands – including waters and wildlife – is our responsibility. Private landowners are partners in this stewardship, as private lands compliment public lands by increasing connectivity and promoting full-landscape solutions.

2. Outdoor access in urban areas is key to the future of our public lands. 85% of Americans live in urban areas. Without an initial introduction to nature and the benefits provided by open spaces and trails, these Americans will never become invested in the protection of our lands and waters.

3. Recreation and conservation need each other. Both are beneficial to economic well-being, quality of life and personal health. Outdoor recreation helps people understand the importance of healthy, intact ecosystems, which builds support for their protection and stewardship. Conservation protects the natural resources and wild places upon which outdoor recreation depends. Responsible recreation – which fosters and is informed by a conservation ethic while promoting diverse, inclusive and next-generation engagement – is essential for future protection and use of our lands and waters.

4. Diversity and inclusion are integral to the successful promotion of conservation, engagement and activism among outdoor recreationists. A coalition of stakeholders broad enough to insure the health and wellbeing of our lands and waters requires that recreation and conservation be relevant to all Americans. Diversity allows onramps for all people, regardless of ability, race, gender identity, sexual orientation, military service, or political belief into the recreation/conservation dialogue. Inclusivity creates a safe space for all people to transcend labels, value differing cultural perspectives, and focus on a common sense of place.

5. Outdoor users are responsible for avoiding and minimizing the impacts of their use. All recreation has impact. Ethical outdoor behavior that demonstrates respect for lands, water, and wildlife and that respects the value of connecting all people to the outdoors is critical and must be developed in all users and in future generations.

6. Proactive, professional planning and management, combined with public education, is necessary to care for the land and provide a diversity of quality recreation opportunities. Active public engagement in crafting solutions is necessary to ensure solutions are fair and can be effectively implemented. A broad landscape approach is necessary to make better decisions about which activities are best suited for which locations and provide a spectrum of opportunities to serve diverse interests.

7. Physical, biological and social science must inform the management of recreation. Management decisions should be grounded in the best available scientific information to ensure the protection of natural areas and the sustainability of resources while maintaining and enhancing the quality of outdoor recreation experiences.

8. Stable, long-term, and diverse funding sources are essential to protect the environment and support outdoor recreation. Land management agencies need adequate funding from federal, state, and local government sources, supplemented by (but not replaced by) new and non-traditional funding from private and nonprofit sources.

ADOPTED AND APPROVED on this _____ day of _____,
2018.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
TETON COUNTY, WYOMING**

Mark Newcomb, Chair

(Seal)

Attest:

Sherry L. Daigle, Teton County Clerk