

**WILDLIFE HABITAT ASSESSMENT
PROPOSED PEACOCK RANCH SUBDIVISION
PEACOCK PROPERTY (PARCEL RP05N46E070755)
TETON COUNTY, IDAHO**



Prepared For

Harmony Design & Engineering

**18 North Main Street, #305
Driggs, ID 83422**

Prepared By



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July 14, 2023

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**WILDLIFE HABITAT ASSESSMENT
PROPOSED PEACOCK SUBDIVISION
TETON COUNTY, IDAHO**

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

Biota Research and Consulting, Inc. prepared this Wildlife Habitat Assessment (WHA) for the proposed Peacock Subdivision in Teton County, Idaho. The project area is comprised of a 20.7-acre tract owned by Jerry Peacock Family Trust (Parcel: RP05N46E070755). This analysis was not included with the NRA conducted on the property in 2022 because the property did not fall within the original Teton County Wildlife Habitat (WH) Overlay. A WHA is now required by Teton County because the property is located within the revised Wildlife Habitat (WH) Overlay for big game seasonal range and migration corridors as amended by Teton County in 2023. Information provided in the WHA is necessary to assess the possible adverse effects of proposed development on wildlife and to facilitate compliance with Title 9 of the Teton County, Idaho Code. Because the project area lies entirely within the WH Overlay for big game migration corridors and seasonal range, the project is subject to the Title 9 Wildlife Overlay regulations. These regulations require the following documentation:

- Wildlife Habitat Assessment;
- Impact Analysis; and
- Mitigation/Land Management Plan

In addition, the following maps are also required:

- Big game winter range on or within 1-mile of the proposed subdivision;
- Information pertinent to the Wildlife Habitat Assessment;
- Proposed impacts to wildlife or indicator habitat; and
- Proposed mitigation treatment areas and treatment measures.

Per the Title 9 WH Overlay regulations, this wildlife habitat assessment is focused on the indicator species for habitat depicted on the WH Overlay map for the application parcel as well as indicator habitats for these species. The indicator species for mapped big game migration corridors and seasonal range are elk and mule deer, and the indicator habitat for these species as defined in Title 9 is mountain shrublands.

Existing development within the project area consists of a residential structure, a driveway, and several relic irrigation ditches. Fieldwork associated with the WHA was conducted in July 2023, with efforts focused on investigating wildlife habitat, use, and movement patterns.

LOCATION AND PHYSIOGRAPHY

The project area is located northeast of the city of Driggs in Teton County, Idaho (05N, R46E, Section 7; Appendix 1-Exhibits 1 and 2). Access to the property is gained by traveling north from Driggs on Highway ID-33 for about 4.0 miles, then east on W 4000 N for about 2.0 miles, then south on N 1500 E for about 300 feet. The project area is surrounded by privately-owned lands.

The project area is predominantly comprised of a relatively flat agricultural meadow. A narrow (approximately 100-foot-wide) finger of the project area extends to the southeast and encompasses a

portion of the Dry Creek floodplain. This area is isolated from existing development due to a substantial elevation difference. Elevations within the project area generally range from 6,287 and 6,297 feet, and the drainage pattern is primarily northeast-to-southwest.

PROJECT SUMMARY

The western portion of the project area is undeveloped except for several relic irrigation ditches, and the eastern portion contains a residential structure and driveway. County road N 1500 E bisects the project area. Based on the current preliminary project plans provided by Harmony Design and Engineering (Figure 1), the proposed project involves the development of a 5-lot subdivision with parcels ranging in size between 3.23 and 6.58 acres. The largest parcel is the easternmost one, which is the only parcel that extends down onto the historic Dry Creek floodplain. A new shared driveway would be constructed within a 50-foot access and utility easement along the northern boundary of Lots 1 and 2, and the existing driveway east of N 1500 E would be upgraded to meet local road standards and provide access to Lots 3-5.

VEGETATION

Mapped habitat types in the project area are depicted on Appendix 1-Exhibit 1. The project area is comprised of disturbed areas, disturbed-landscaped areas, and agricultural meadow (both irrigated and dryland) that is dominated by a near monoculture of smooth brome, a non-native grass (Appendix 2-Photo 1). None of the plant associations from *A Field Manual for Classified Vegetation in the Upper Snake River Valley* (Merigliano 2009) correspond to the identified habitat types; therefore, plant associations are not provided.

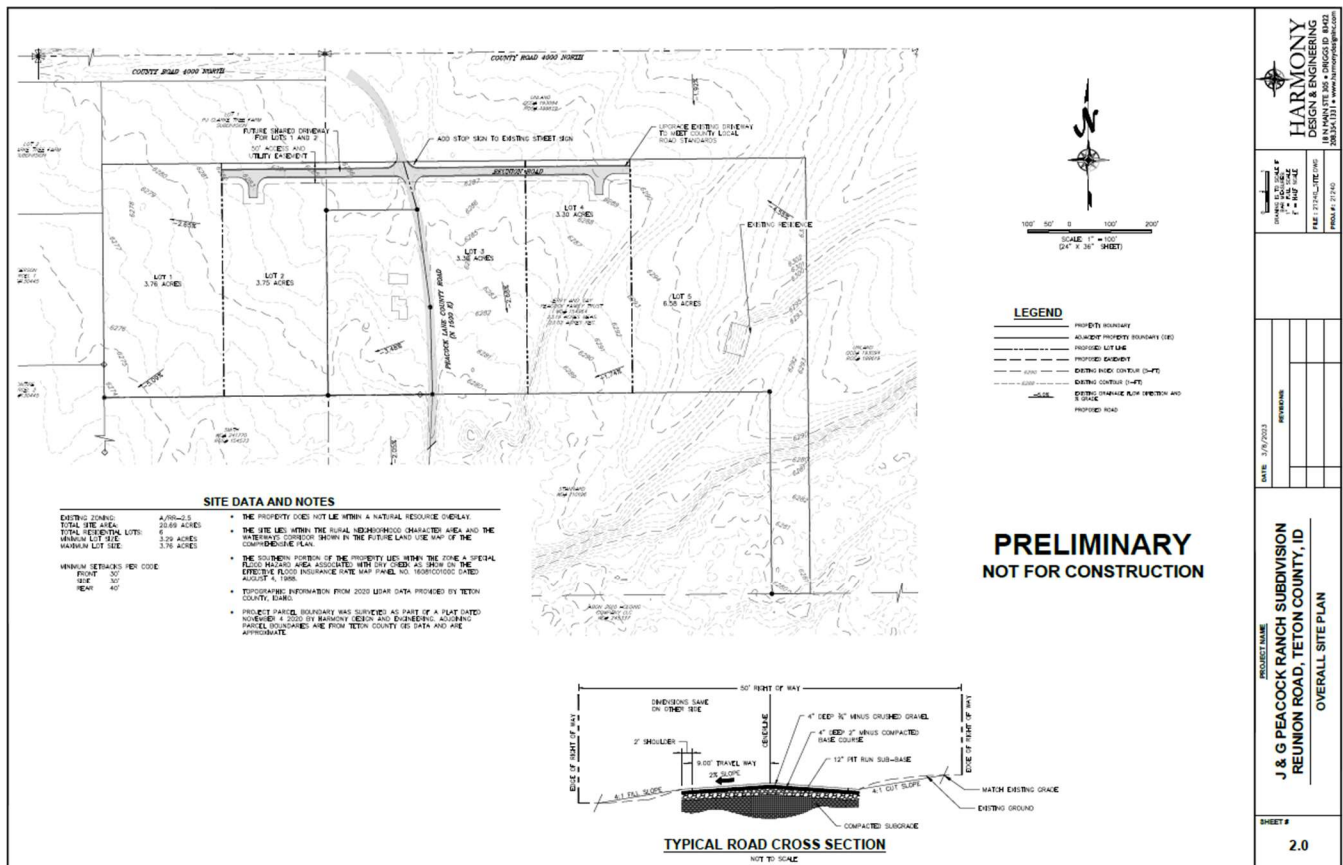


Figure 1. Preliminary Peacock Subdivision plans (provided by Harmony Design and Engineering).

Table 1. Habitat types in the Peacock Ranch Subdivision project area, Teton County, Idaho.

Habitat Type	Acres	Sq Ft	% of Project Area
Agricultural Meadow	19.63	854,976	94.9
Disturbed-Landscaped	0.138	6,019	0.7
Disturbed	0.922	40,165	4.5
Totals	20.69	901,160	100.0

KEY HABITAT TYPES

The project area is entirely comprised of disturbed areas and pastureland, and no indicator habitat (i.e., mountain shrublands) for wildlife indicator species is present. The indicator habitat for big game migration corridors and seasonal range, as defined in Title 9, is mountain shrublands. An aspen/tall shrub habitat type that meets the functional definition of indicator habitat occurs along the Dry Creek riparian corridor south and east of the project area (Appendix 2-Photo 2). This habitat type does not occur within the project area but does provide high quality escape and thermal refuge for elk and mule deer.

The project area itself is a near monoculture of smooth brome that provides low to moderate value foraging habitat and little to no hiding/escape/thermal cover for big game. The primary value of the project area as big game habitat lies in the undeveloped open space it currently provides and its proximity to the Dry Creek riparian corridor. The portions of the project area that are further away from the residence and associated human presence, specifically down on the Dry Creek floodplain, are more valuable as big game habitat because of the secluded open space they provide.

WILDLIFE INVENTORY

Per the current Title 9 regulations, the wildlife inventory focuses on the indicator species (elk and mule deer) for Big Game Migration Corridors and Seasonal Range.

Big Game

To investigate elk and mule deer use of habitat in the project area, Biota performed a field investigation in July 2023 and consulted with the landowner regarding any knowledge of use/movement of these species in and around the project area. As with all of the major Teton River tributaries, the nearby Dry Creek drainage and associated riparian corridor serves as an important movement corridor for a diversity of wildlife including big game indicator species (i.e., mule deer and elk). Although there is no indicator habitat present in the project area, it is situated near this corridor and serves as transient habitat for mule deer and elk. IDFG staff have previously confirmed that the low elevation habitat along Teton River tributaries and in the ecotones between forested and shrub-dominated hillside habitats on the east side of Teton Valley serve as important winter and transitional habitat for large ungulates, including deer and elk.

Evidence of deer (likely white-tailed) use in the form of 3 bedding sites was observed in the small finger of land on the Dry Creek floodplain in the far southeastern portion of the project area during site investigations for this report (Appendix 2-Photo 3). A browsed willow was also observed north of the existing residence (Appendix 2-Photo 4). The landowner confirmed that the project area provides habitat for deer, and she occasionally sees “handfuls” of deer in and around the lower portion of the property on the Dry Creek floodplain, especially in the wintertime. The entirety of the project area is comprised of disturbed areas and agricultural meadow that has low to moderate value as wildlife habitat due to the lack of structural complexity and cover and presence of noxious weeds. Although some moderate quality forage may be available in the spring and early summer when the smooth brome is young and palatable, the value of the project area as big game habitat primarily lies in its proximity to the Dry Creek riparian

corridor and the fact that it is currently undeveloped open space. Deer and elk likely move through the project area on an occasional basis. Minimal mid-winter habitat is likely available due to deep snow and no cover or thermal refuge.

OTHER SPECIES OF NOTE

Although not required for the habitat assessment, it is worth mentioning moose and black bear due to their use of habitat in the vicinity of the project area. Moose likely utilize the forested habitat along the Dry Creek riparian corridor just south of the property on a year-round basis. Black bears also likely utilize habitat along the riparian corridor, especially in the spring and fall. Measures should be taken to reduce the risk of bear problems associated with the proposed subdivision (e.g., ensure bears do not obtain food rewards and become habituated). A suite of precautionary measures to minimize human-bear conflicts are outlined in the Wildlife-Related Land Use Recommendations presented in Appendix 3.

THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES

A report generated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) Information, Planning, and Conservation (IPaC) System for the property identified one species listed as threatened (grizzly bear) and one proposed threatened species (North American Wolverine) and one candidate species (Monarch butterfly) under the ESA that may occur in the vicinity of the subject property. Background research on the current status of these species in the region was performed, and several site investigations were conducted in 2022 and 2023 to investigate habitat potential.

GRIZZLY BEAR

Grizzly bears currently inhabit much of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem (GYE), including portions of Yellowstone National Park, Grand Teton National Park, and Bridger-Teton, Shoshone, Caribou-Targhee, Gallatin, and Custer National Forests, but at a relatively low density. Grizzly bears were originally listed as threatened under the ESA in the lower 48 states in 1975. The GYE Distinct Population Segment (DPS) of grizzly bears was briefly delisted by the USFWS in 2017 and then relisted in September 2018 due to a federal court decision. The most suitable habitat for grizzly bears in the GYE occurs in areas with large tracts of undisturbed habitat and minimal human presence. The core population of grizzly bears in the region is centered in Yellowstone National Park, but they have expanded their range in recent years and are known to travel from Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Park to areas south. Historic observations confirm that the project area is within grizzly bear habitat. Extensive home ranges of grizzly bears (more than 100 mi²) and the availability of berries and prey such as deer, elk, and moose in the vicinity of the project area, suggests that grizzly bears may occasionally be present in the vicinity of the project area; however, consistent use of the project area is not expected due to a lack of quality habitat. Grizzly bear use of the project area would principally occur during dispersal or travel between areas of higher quality habitat. All available measures to minimize bear attraction, such as those outlined in the Idaho Yellowstone Grizzly Bear Management Plan (2002) and in the attached General Land Use Recommendations, should be implemented.

NORTH AMERICAN WOLVERINE

Wolverines are rare and wide-ranging, occurring mainly in the high elevation, alpine portions of western Wyoming. In February 2013, the distinct population segment of the North American wolverine occurring in the contiguous United States was proposed for listing as a threatened species under the ESA. Home ranges of this species are notoriously large, and adult males generally cover the greatest distances. Adult male wolverines in the GYE generally have average home ranges in excess of 300 square miles. Given their large ranges, wolverines can be found in a wide variety of habitats in these areas, particularly boreal

conifer forests. Suitable habitat is defined by a combination of cold temperatures and reliable winter precipitation, where deep persistent snow at high elevations is available late into the spring and early summer. It is reasonable to assume that the project area lies within one or more home ranges of wolverines, but due to lack of habitat and intensity of human use in the vicinity of the project area, neither direct nor indirect impacts to wolverine are expected to result from the proposed project.

MONARCH BUTTERFLY

The monarch butterfly is a candidate for listing under the ESA. The monarch butterfly requires milkweed to complete its life cycle. Monarchs lay eggs on the underside of the milkweed leaves, and the resulting caterpillars subsequently eat the leaves. No milkweed is present in the project area; however, monarchs are known to fly through the area during their annual migrations. Monarchs may be present in the project area for brief periods during their migrations in the summer and fall, but the project area does not provide long-term habitat for Monarchs. The proposed project is not expected to impact monarch butterflies.

DEVELOPMENT IMPACT ANALYSIS

The conceptual design for the subdivision provided by Harmony Design and Engineering includes 5 parcels that vary in size from 3.23 and 6.58 acres and access roads along the northern boundary of the parcels that provide access from N 1500 E. Future development of the subdivision would result in impacts to previously disturbed areas and agricultural meadow within the project area.

Development of the subdivision will have both direct impacts via habitat loss and indirect impacts via increased human and domestic pet presence. The extent of existing development and associated human and pet presence near the project area along with agricultural conversion of the land have diminished the habitat quality in the project area. As mentioned, the value of the project area as big game habitat primarily lies in its proximity to the Dry Creek riparian corridor and the fact that it is currently undeveloped open space. Due to the size of the parcels and plan to incorporate wildlife-friendly fencing practices, wildlife including big game are expected to continue to use habitat in and around the subdivision. Project proponents have committed to developing design criteria or CCR language that prohibits development in the portion of the project area on the Dry Creek floodplain, which is the highest value habitat in the project area. Because of this, the proposed development as a stand-alone project is likely to have minimal adverse impacts on indicator species.

BIG GAME IMPACTS

Future development within the proposed subdivision will result in a direct loss of low to moderate quality forage habitat and transitional habitat for elk and mule deer as well as indirect impacts to these species via increased human and domestic pet presence. An assessment of consequences of the proposed development on big game indicator species is provided below. The assessment uses the following impact measure, duration, and intensity definitions.

Impact Measures - Four impact measures are examined including habitat loss, mortality, habitat fragmentation, and human-caused disturbance.

- Habitat Loss - Implementation and perpetuation of all or part of the project would result in a direct loss of habitat.
- Mortality - Implementation and perpetuation of all or part of the project would result in the death(s) of individuals.
- Habitat Fragmentation - Implementation and perpetuation of all or part of the project would result in the fragmentation of habitat.

- Human-caused Disturbance - Implementation and perpetuation of all or part of the project would result in the displacement of individual animals.

Duration of Impact - A short-term impact would have a duration less than or equal to 3 years and a long-term impact would have a duration greater than 3 years following implementation.

Intensity of Impact - Impact thresholds are defined in Table 2.

Table 2. Impact threshold definitions for the development impact analysis, Peacock Ranch Subdivision project area, Teton County, Idaho.

Impact Threshold Definitions				
Measures	Negligible	Minor	Moderate	Major
Habitat Loss	A small number of individual animals and/or a small amount of their respective habitat may be adversely affected via direct or indirect impacts associated with a given alternative. Populations would not be affected, or the effects would be below a measurable level of detection. Mitigation measures are typically not warranted.	Adverse impacts to individual animals and/or their respective habitats would be more numerous and detectable. Populations would not be affected, or the effects would be below a measurable level of detection. Mitigation measures may be needed and would be successful in reducing adverse effects.	Effects to individual animals and their habitat would be readily detectable, with consequences occurring at a local population level. Mitigation measures would likely be needed to reduce adverse effects and would likely be successful.	Effects to individual animals and their habitat would be obvious and would have substantive consequences on a regional population level. Extensive mitigation measures would be needed to reduce any adverse effects and their success would not be guaranteed.
Mortality				
Habitat Fragmentation				
Human-caused Disturbance				

Impacts to Mule Deer

Proposed development is expected to reduce the availability of mule deer spring-summer foraging and transitional habitat in the project area. Increased human and domestic pet activity associated with the buildout of the subdivision may also alter mule deer use. It appears that deer primarily utilize habitat on the Dry Creek floodplain. Although no development will be allowed on the Dry Creek floodplain, deer movement and use patterns may be altered as a result of the proposed development. Existing development in the vicinity is relatively sparse and porous, and mule deer are expected to adapt to the new development and associated use patterns. The proposed development by itself is expected to have negligible adverse and long-term impact on mule deer. Project impacts are not expected to have a measurable effect on the Teton Valley mule deer population. Although difficult to predict, the cumulative impact of the proposed subdivision and future subdivisions that may be developed in the area may elevate the mule deer impact threshold.

Impacts to Elk

Elk likely occasionally use the project area as transitional habitat and to a lesser degree for foraging. Proposed development will reduce the availability of a small amount of elk habitat and will likely negatively affect a few individual elk. Increased human and pet activity within the project area will likely alter elk use patterns, but the movement corridor along the Dry Creek floodplain will remain undeveloped. The proposed development by itself is expected to have negligible adverse, long-term impacts on elk. The project is not expected to have a measurable effect on the Teton Valley elk population. Although difficult

to predict, the cumulative impact of the proposed subdivision and future subdivisions that may be developed in the area may elevate the elk impact threshold.

MITIGATION AND LAND MANAGEMENT PLAN

Per guidance provided in Title 9, avoidance and minimization of impacts to indicator species and indicator habitat is the preferred approach to mitigate adverse impacts to these species. Efforts were made by the applicant to minimize impacts to indicator species. In addition to minimization of impacts, the applicant has proposed the following measures to assist in mitigating project-related impacts to indicator species and habitat: noxious weed management, wildlife-friendly fencing, and a designated building envelope for Lot 5 that will preclude development in the portion of Lot 5 on the Dry Creek floodplain. This will effectively establish a development-free buffer zone that encompasses all of the project area that is within 300 feet of Dry Creek.

Use restrictions and habitat protection mechanisms will be incorporated into the neighborhood CCRs to require wildlife-friendly fencing. All existing barbed wire fencing will be upgraded to meet the wildlife-friendly fencing guidelines provided in Appendix 3. The applicant will also initiate weed management efforts to control noxious weeds that currently exist in the project area. Weeds (e.g., Canada thistle) were observed within the project area during field investigations for this report, and a robust noxious weed management effort is planned. Weed management efforts will be carried out on an as-needed basis in a manner that minimizes negative impacts to indicator species and habitat and avoids harm to natural resources.

SUMMARY

This Wildlife Habitat Assessment has been prepared because the project area is located within the revised Wildlife Habitat (WH) Overlay for big game seasonal range and migration corridors as amended by Teton County in 2023. Although the project area lies entirely within the wildlife habitat overlay, no indicator habitat or intact areas of native vegetation occur within the project area. The project area is entirely comprised of previously disturbed areas and agricultural meadow dominated by a near monoculture of smooth brome. The project area provides poor to moderate foraging habitat and has little to no hiding/escape/thermal cover for big game. The value of the project area as big game habitat lies in its proximity to the Dry Creek riparian corridor and the open space it provides. The southeastern portion of the project area is the most valuable big game habitat in the project area due to its proximity to the riparian corridor and relative isolation from development and human use. Development of the proposed subdivision will undoubtedly reduce the amount of open space available to big game and likely alter their movement and use patterns; however, the proposed development is not expected to disconnect wildlife habitats. The proposed development is expected to have negligible adverse, long-term impacts on mule deer and elk. The applicant will implement the following measures to mitigate development-related impacts on big game: perform noxious weed management, modify all fences to meet wildlife-friendly fencing guidelines outlined in Appendix 3, and establish a building envelope on Lot 5 to protect the portion of the project area on the Dry Creek floodplain from development. Although proposed development and associated human use are likely to change deer and elk movement and use patterns, they are expected to adapt to the proposed development and associated increase in human use and continue to utilize open space in and around the proposed subdivision and along the Dry Creek riparian corridor.

The Dry Creek riparian corridor along with the other riparian corridors in Teton Basin serve as important movement corridor for a diversity of wildlife including big game indicator species. While the proposed development is not likely to sever big game habitat connectivity, cumulative impacts from this along with

possible future developments in the area could sever or severely impact connectivity if an unknown disturbance threshold is reached.

APPENDIX 1 – EXHIBITS
WILDLIFE HABITAT ASSESSMENT
PROPOSED PEACOCK SUBDIVISION, TETON COUNTY, IDAHO

- 1) Location and Topography, Peacock Subdivision Project Area, Teton County, Idaho.
- 2) Existing Conditions, Peacock Subdivision Project Area, Teton County, Idaho.
- 3) Habitat Types, Peacock Subdivision Project Area, Teton County, Idaho
- 4) Teton County Wildlife Habitat Overlay, Peacock Subdivision Project Area, Teton County, Idaho

NATURAL RESOURCE ANALYSIS

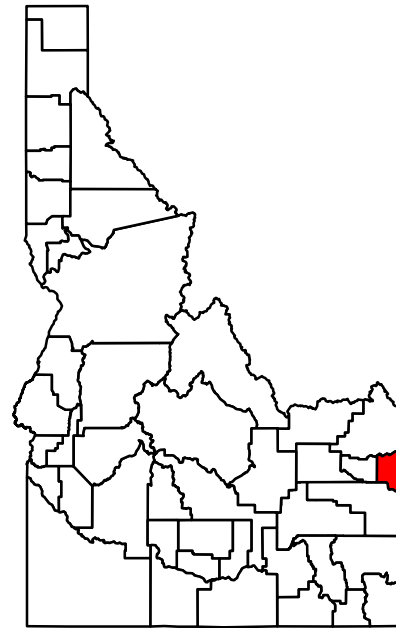
Peacock Ranch Subdivision Project Area

Teton County, Idaho

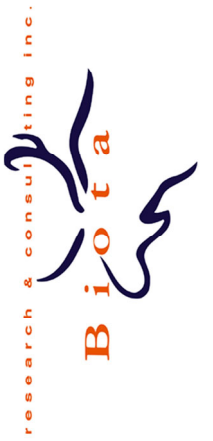
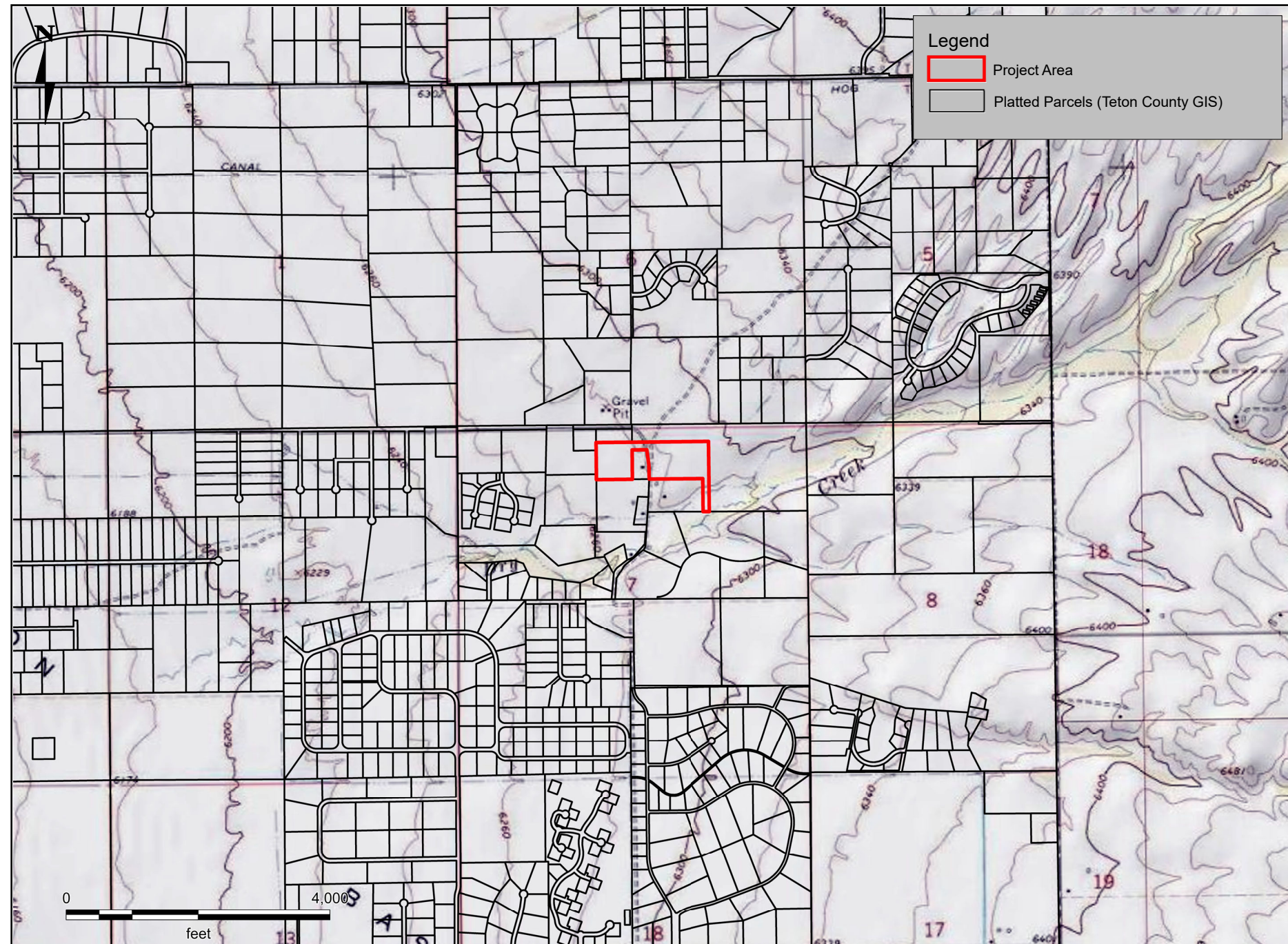
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Harmony Design & Engineering

SHEET INDEX

- SHEET 1 Location and Topography
- SHEET 2 Existing Conditions
- SHEET 3 Habitat Types
- SHEET 4 Wildlife Habitat Overlay



TETON COUNTY, IDAHO



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Location and Topography



Peacock Ranch Subdivision Project Area
Teton County, Idaho

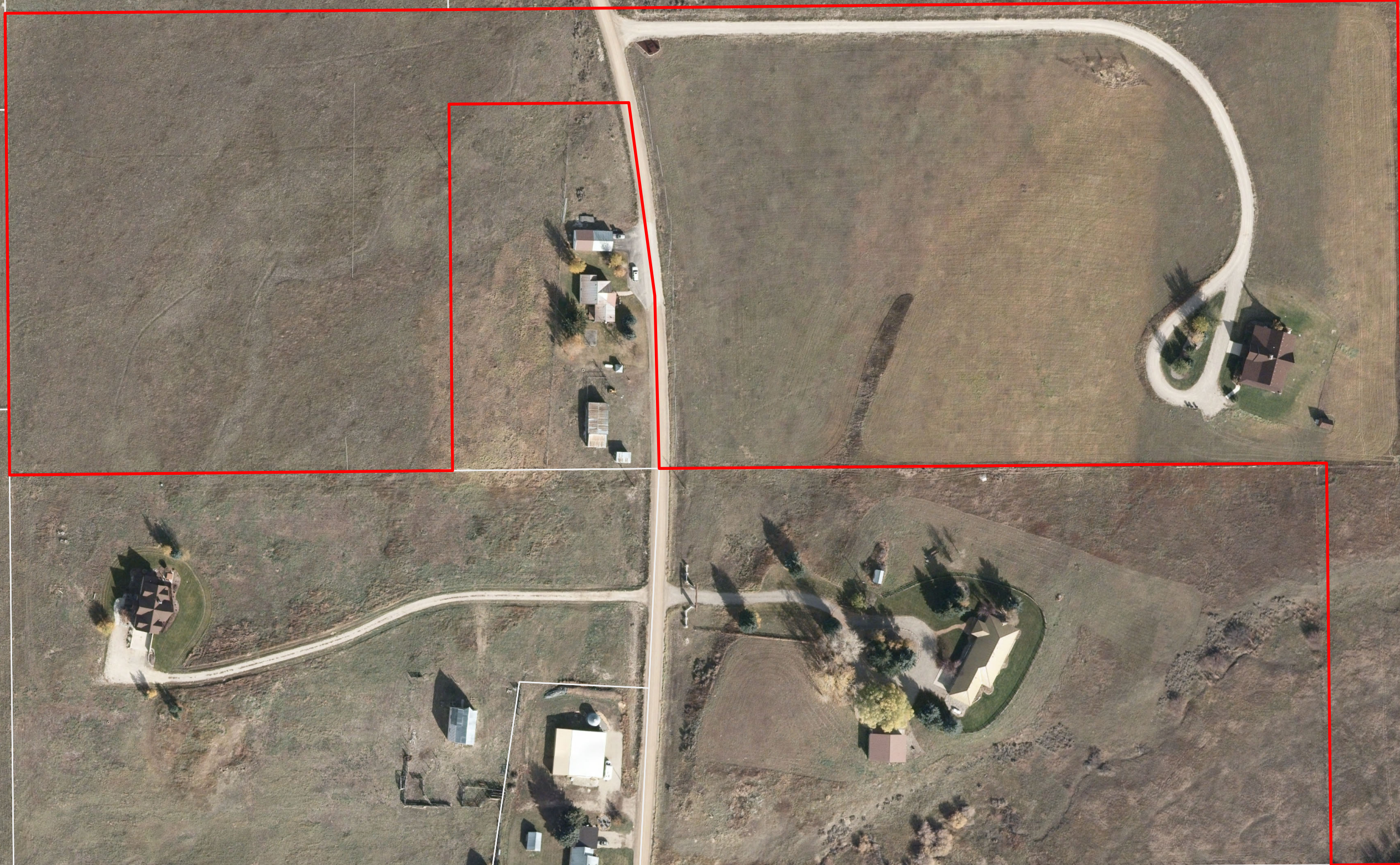
REV	DATE	BY	DESC
0	10/10/2022	CK	NRA Results

SCALE: 1 INCH = 2,000 FT
UNITS: US FOOT
BASEMAP: ESRI USA TOPO MAPS

EXHIBIT 1

Legend

-  Project Area
-  Platted Parcels (Teton County GIS)



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Existing Conditions
 Peacock Ranch Subdivision Project Area
 Teton County, Idaho

REV.	DATE	BY	DESC
0	10/10/22	CK	NRA Results

SCALE: 1" = 130'
 UNITS: US FOOT
 BASEMAP SOURCE:
 2021 AERIAL IMAGERY

Drawing:

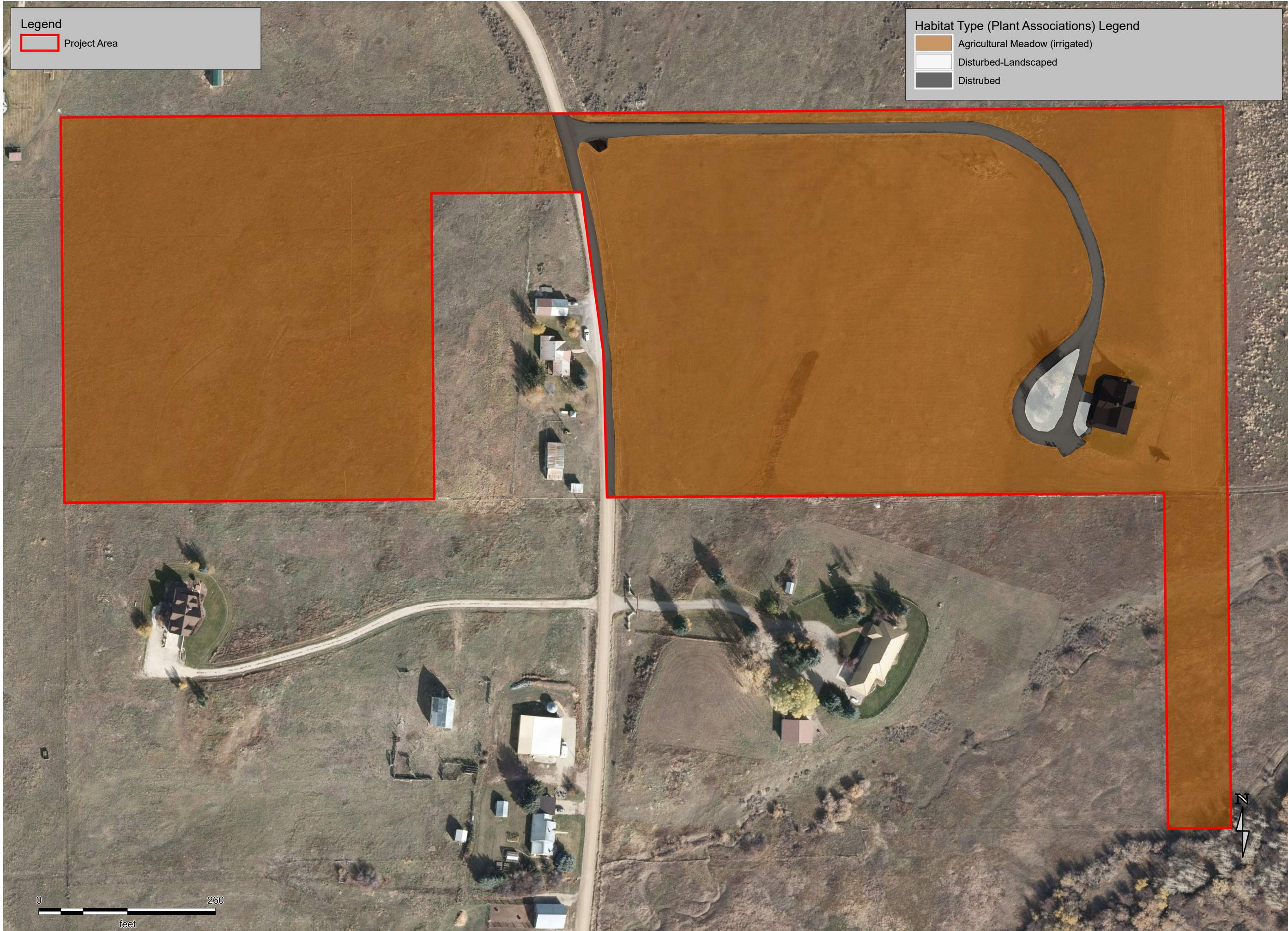
EXHIBIT 2

Legend

Project Area

Habitat Type (Plant Associations) Legend

- Agricultural Meadow (irrigated)
- Disturbed-Landscaped
- Disturbed



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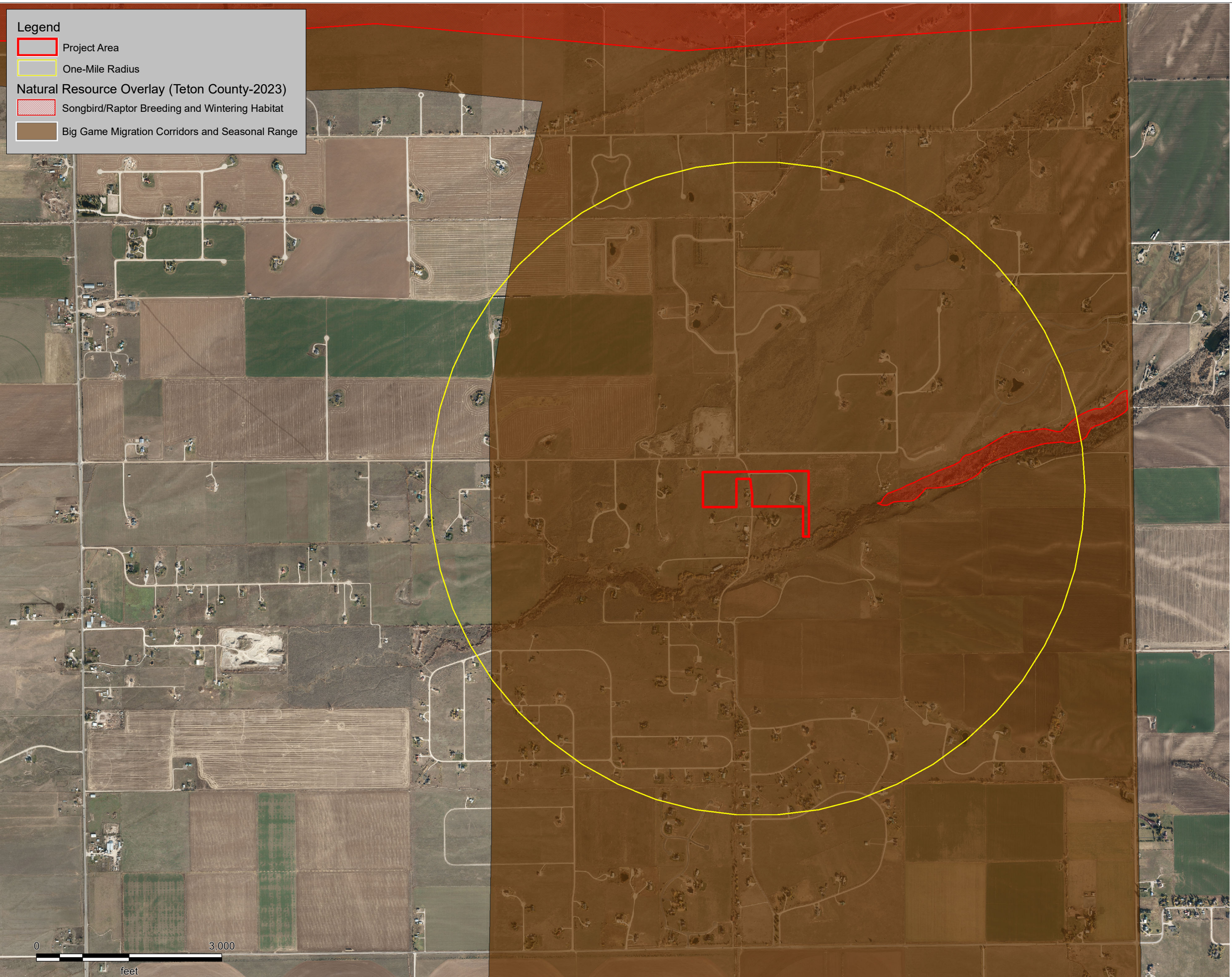
Habitat Types
Peacock Ranch Subdivision Project Area
Teton County, Idaho

REV.	DATE	BY	DESC
0	10/10/22	CK	NRA Results

SCALE: 1" = 100'
UNITS: US FOOT
BASEMAP SOURCE:
2021 AERIAL IMAGERY

Drawing:

EXHIBIT 3



Legend

- Project Area
- One-Mile Radius

Natural Resource Overlay (Teton County-2023)

- Songbird/Raptor Breeding and Wintering Habitat
- Big Game Migration Corridors and Seasonal Range



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Teton County Wildlife Habitat Overlay
 Peacock Ranch Subdivision Project Area
 Teton County, Idaho

REV.	DATE	BY	DESC
0	05/15/23	CK	NRA Results

SCALE: 1" = 1,500'
 UNITS: US FOOT
 BASEMAP SOURCE:
 2021 AERIAL IMAGERY

Drawing:

EXHIBIT 4

APPENDIX 2 – PHOTOGRAPHIC DOCUMENTATION



Photo 1. The northeastern portion of the project area in July 2023, looking south. Note the smooth brome monoculture.



Photo 2. The southeastern portion (“finger”) of the property that extends down onto the Dry Creek floodplain, looking south. Note the aspen/tall shrub (mountain shrubland) habitat along Dry Creek south of the property.



Photo 3. Deer bedding sites in the far southeastern portion of the property near the Dry Creek riparian corridor.



Photo 4. Evidence of browse on a willow located north of the existing residence, looking east.

APPENDIX 3 – WILDLIFE-RELATED LAND USE RECOMMENDATIONS

Proposed Peacock Ranch Subdivision, Teton County, Idaho

The following recommendations, if implemented, would aid in protecting, preserving, and improving the wildlife and habitat values associated with the property.

1. **Fences.** Fences can disrupt movement patterns and discourage wildlife use of areas and can present hazards to wildlife, and fence use should be avoided or minimized. If they are not necessary, perimeter fences around the subdivision should be removed. If perimeter fences are necessary, they should be constructed or modified in such a way so as to reduce their potential negative impacts to wildlife. Unless fences are intended to exclude wildlife (e.g., for gardens) or restrain domestic pets, fence construction should closely adhere to the recommendations provided below for wildlife-compatible fences.

Recommendations for any fences internal to or around the parcel are provided below:

- 1) The preferred fence design is a combination of pressure-treated posts, wire strands, and a pressure-treated top pole. This design effectively controls livestock while promoting wildlife movements.
- 2) The spacing of fence posts should be on 12-foot centers.
- 3) The overall height of the fence should not exceed 42 inches; the preferred height is 38 inches in most situations and 40 inches if problems develop.
- 4) Installed fence posts should have extra height to allow raising or lowering top pole 38-42 inches above the ground.
- 5) The bottom wire should consist of smooth twisted wire located 16-17 inches above the ground. This will allow small and medium-sized mammals, such as moose/ elk calves and deer fawns, to crawl under the fence.
- 6) The second and third wire strands can be barbed wire (if necessary) and spaced evenly over the 26-27 inches distance between the bottom strand and the top of fence (e.g., the second strand is at 25 inches and the third strand is at 34 inches). It may be that only one strand of wire is actually needed and could be placed at about 29 inches. Spacing between the top pole and the first strand of wire also varies between 6 in on 38-in high fence and 10 inches on 42-inches fence.
- 7) The top pole spiked to the side of the fence posts will facilitate animals attempting to jump the fence and protect them from injuries resulting from rubbing or becoming entangled in a top strand of wire. The top pole should be set at either 38 or 42 inches due to alternating top rails.
- 8) Gates should be constructed of wire with an optimal height of 38 inches. The gates should be installed at least every 450-foot of continuous fence. The spacing of the wires should be the same as that on the fence (i.e., bottom at 16-17 inches above ground, top at no more than 42 inches, and either one or two strands spaced evenly between). The top and bottom strands should be of smooth-twisted wire. The middle strand(s) can be barbed wire, if necessary. Opening gates will allow wildlife access to the property during periods when livestock control is unnecessary. Gates should be left opened whenever possible to facilitate ease of wildlife movement.

These recommendations generally follow guidelines developed by the Wyoming Game and Fish Department and the Bureau of Land Management. If adhered to, the fences resulting from these recommendations will be “wildlife friendly” and promote the continued use of the important wildlife habitat found on the parcel. In particular, crucial wildlife winter habitats will be easily accessible to animals, especially if efforts are taken to lower top poles or open gates when livestock are not present.

2. **Domestic Pets.** Free-roaming, unrestrained domestic pets disturb wildlife. Unrestrained pets can easily disrupt wildlife use on parcels and must be controlled. Dogs will readily chase, harass, and even kill both small and large mammals, as well as birds. Although less conspicuous than dogs, free-roaming cats can be as damaging to wildlife as dogs. Cats are effective predators of small birds, and mammals and free-roaming cats have a high potential (both short- and long-term) for disturbing many wildlife species.
3. **Wildlife Feeding.** Intentionally feeding moose, deer, and elk anywhere in Teton County, Idaho is illegal.
4. **Wildlife Harassment.** Mule deer, elk, and potentially moose may be present in the project area at various times of the year. This is because important habitats for these ungulates are found on and in the vicinity of the property. The presence of these and other wildlife species should be expected and tolerated. People residing or owning property within the subdivision should be both respectful of and sensitive to wintering wildlife and not purposefully harass these animals as they struggle to survive harsh winter conditions. Moose, in particular, can be expected to browse upon landscaped

vegetation and this activity can sometimes cause significant damage to shrubs and trees. Project proponents should make a concerted effort to educate themselves and future residents on how to minimize wildlife harassment.

5. **Human-Bear Conflicts.** The project area is located in bear habitat, and black bears are known to frequent the area in the spring and fall. Care should be taken to minimize bear attractants in the neighborhood. The following precautions have been adapted from IDFG recommendations for living in bear country. These precautions can help minimize bear encounters and prevent bears from accessing human foods:

- 1) Garbage and Recyclables - Bear-resistant garbage and recycling containers should be used. Ensure that bear-resistant containers are properly closed and latched, and never tamper with the latching mechanism. If non bear-resistant containers are used, they should be stored inside an enclosed building or bear-resistant enclosure until the morning of waste/recycling pick-up, and promptly returned to secure storage after waste pick-up. Never leave trash/recycling outside overnight, and don't let garbage pile up or develop strong odors that can attract bears.
- 2) Compost Piles - If you must have a compost pile, enclose it with electric fencing. Don't put meat, fish, melon rinds and other pungent/smelly scraps in the pile. Better yet, compost only leaves and grass, not kitchen scraps. Keep the pile aerated and properly turned. Add lime to promote decomposition and reduce odor.
- 3) Bird Feeding - Do not feed birds, including hummingbirds, during the active bear season (March-November), and clean up any spilled bird seed.
- 4) Pet Food - Keep pet food inside at all times.
- 5) Fruit Trees/Shrubs - If fruit trees/shrubs are present, fruit should be picked promptly when it begins to ripen. Remove any fruit that has fallen to the ground as soon as possible.
- 6) Food storage - Do not keep coolers, refrigerators or freezers outside or on porches.
- 7) BBQ Grills - Thoroughly clean BBQ grills and smokers after each use. If possible, store grills and smokers inside a garage or shed when not in use.