

Chapter 3: Action Plan

OBJECTIVES

For each focus area and shared goal, see a subset of high-level objectives. The objectives are intended to be broad, so that they offer flexibility in implementation. The following Implementation section provides information about how the objectives will be prioritized over time.

APPROACHES

In shaping the scope and objectives of the Community Planning program at the Land Trust, the leaders in local government identified five approaches through which they welcome our support and partnership. Every objective adopts one of the following approaches::



ENGAGE:

Centering the community, the “engage” approach describes how the Land Trust will listen to, share information with, and involve stakeholders in land use planning. On various levels and through a mix of mediums, we will facilitate and host conversations about how to steward a more livable future for the people and wildlife of Blaine County.



EVALUATE:

The “evaluate” approach prioritizes access to up-to-date information. Reliable and relevant data is necessary to respond to the community’s concerns, inform planning decisions, and prioritize solutions. Importantly, accurate information can also help build consensus. We see where there are gaps in knowledge and understanding, then collaborate with partners to investigate the dynamics behind community needs and potential solutions.



EDUCATE:

When community issues or needs arise, they generally stem from a complex combination of factors. Ecological, hydrologic, geographic, economic and social trends influence the baseline characteristics of the Community Planning focus areas– summed up in our lived experience. Education supports us to understand the complexity of our lived experience, including the challenges we need to resolve and the solutions that support our shared goals.



ENCOURAGE:

The Land Trust recognizes the remarkable alignment between its vision for conservation and the shared goals of our leading partners, in local government. All the while, the Land Trust understands the pressures of competing priorities and developmental markets that threaten to compromise the bountiful environment and quality of life that the local community cherishes. The Land Trust is prepared to encourage its partners to act in alignment with our core values, when it’s most important to do so.



COORDINATE:

When the community needs a leader to address a community need or problem, the Land Trust is poised to coordinate solutions. Coordination involves going between people and groups to organize deliberation, resolution and action. Being flexible– plus overseeing a service area that is regional, not just local– the Land Trust is well positioned to work up and down the valley, between jurisdictions. Coordination is needed to coexist and make efficient use of resources.

HABITAT CONSERVATION

Ideal: Smart growth preserves the open space that affords Blaine County’s natural beauty, agricultural lands, wildlife habitats and environmental resilience.

SHARED GOALS	OBJECTIVES
H.1 - To preserve open space and the natural features unique to the Blaine County communities, accommodate growth with infill and compact development.	H.1.a - Engage the community and governmental partners to embrace compact development, envisioning and mapping growth boundaries.
	H.1.b - Educate homeowners and the wider community about the environmental benefits of compact development, including its relevance to open space preservation.
	H.1.c - Educate the community about the driving forces, characteristics and consequences of sprawling development.
	H.1.d - Evaluate land use regulations in the floodplain and canyons to clarify the environmental impacts and trade-offs.
	H.1.e - Evaluate land use efficiency broadly, including opportunities for infill and redevelopment on vacant and underutilized land, within city limits and impact areas.
	H.1.f - Encourage incentives to preserve agricultural lands.
H.2 - Minimize the impact of development on habitats and wildlife, especially in the floodplain and on hillsides.	H.1.g - Encourage a revamp of the Transfer of Development Rights program to incorporate a bank, communications hub, and the south valley cities.
	H.2.a - Encourage projects and programs that minimize human-wildlife conflicts.
	H.2.b - Encourage incentives to preserve open space near critical and sensitive areas.
	H.2.c - Coordinate incentives for river, tributary, and floodplain reconnection.
	H.2.d - Coordinate incentives to replace rip rap on streambanks with natural treatments.
	H.2.e - Coordinate incentives to support backyard habitats.
H.3 - Reduce the risks of natural disasters–such as avalanches, wildfires, and floods–through site and community design.	H.2.f - Coordinate incentives to remove fencing that is not wildlife-friendly
	H.3.a - Engage homeowners associations to mitigate hazards on their properties.
	H.3.b - Engage community partners to build capacity for hazard mitigation.
	H.3.c - Educate the community about the importance of open space and compact community design to community resilience.
	H.3.d - Educate the community about how natural flood treatments can mitigate the risks of flooding.
	H.3.d - Coordinate incentives to mitigate the risks of wildland fire on private property, including fuels reduction and home hardening.