

# Listing of Proposed Goals of Policies

**Purpose:** For your convenience, the Goals and Policies for the Environmental Planning and Conservation Element are listed below without the background text. To make comments, you may copy and paste this section into your Word Processing software, or ‘save as’ as a separate document, to make comments, recommendation and edit. Then, you may email this section back to [bcaravona@flagstaffaz.gov](mailto:bcaravona@flagstaffaz.gov) such that the Planners can prepare for the meeting.

## 3. Climate

**Goal: To integrate the best available science about climate change and its projected regional effects into all policies governing the use and conservation of Flagstaff’s natural resources, including development of adaptation strategies to promote sustainable use of energy, water, air, ecosystems, and wildlife for current and future generations.**

- a) To integrate the best available science about climate change and its projected regional effects into all policies governing the use and conservation of Flagstaff’s natural resources, including development of adaptation strategies to promote sustainable use of energy, water, air, ecosystems, and wildlife for current and future generations.
- b) Needs two goals. Suggests the following: (EF: N. White, B. Higgins, R. Scott)
  - a. Adapt (to climate change)
  - b. Mitigate (do what we can to decrease our contribution to the problem)
- c) Declare an overarching goal to “Conserve natural resources.” (EF: R. Scott)

**Comment [SL1]:** M. Jackson most accurate scientific information

**Comment [SL2]:** M. Jackson and conservation of water and energy resources, and to preserve local ecosystems and environmentally sensitive lands, wildlife diversity and habitats, and water and air quality.

**Comment [SL3]:** N. White, B. Higgins, R. Scott Need two Goals: 1. Adapt (to climate change) 2. Mitigate (do what we can to decrease our contribution to the problem)

### Policies:

**1. Develop water use policies which attempt to integrate current best projections of climate change effects on the Colorado Plateau’s water resources, emphasize conservation and water harvesting, and minimize the energy-intensive transport and pumping of water .**

- a) Develop water use policies which attempt to integrate current best projections of climate change effects on the Colorado Plateau’s water resources, emphasize conservation and water harvesting, and minimize the energy-intensive transport and pumping of water.

**Comment [SL4]:** from R. Miller and encourage cooperation with our neighbors.

**2. Encourage energy efficiency and conservation in the public, commercial and residential sectors through policies that promote more efficient lighting, better insulation, and increased use of alternative energy for generation of electricity.**

- a) Encourage energy efficiency and conservation in the public, commercial and residential sectors through policies that promote more efficient lighting, better insulation, and increased use of alternative energy for generation of electricity. (EF:)

**Comment [SL5]:** Expert Forum: strategies such as weatherization,

**3. Promote management strategies such as the Four Forests Restoration Initiative to increase the resiliency of our ecosystems to the effects of climate change, including thinning and other restoration techniques for**

our ponderosa pine forests to reduce their vulnerability to catastrophic wildfire and insect pest outbreaks.

- a) Promote management strategies such as the Four Forests Restoration Initiative to increase the resiliency of our ecosystems to the effects of climate change, including thinning and other restoration techniques for our ponderosa pine forests to reduce their vulnerability to catastrophic wildfire and insect pest outbreaks. (EF: R. Miller)

Comment [SL6]: R. Miller while maintaining natural diversity of plants and animals

4. Promote transportation options such as increased public transit and more bike lanes that will reduce congestion, fuel consumption, and overall carbon emissions.

- a) Promote transportation options such as increased public transit and more bike lanes that will reduce congestion, fuel consumption, and overall carbon emissions. (EF: M. Jackson)

Comment [SL7]: M. Jackson traffic

5. Maintain and restore important wildlife corridors throughout the planning area to allow wildlife to find suitable habitat in the face of climate change by moving along vegetational and elevational gradients.

- a) Maintain and restore important wildlife corridors throughout the planning area to allow wildlife to find suitable habitat in the face of climate change by moving along vegetational and elevational gradients. (EF: M. Jackson)

Comment [SL8]: M. Jackson and urban growth

6. Revisit relevant Policies and Strategies in this element as better knowledge of the likely effects of climate change for the region's resources is developed.

7. Add new policy: "Encourage concentrated development following an urban village concept to conserve resources and open space." (EF: R. Miller)

8. Add new policy: "Continue to promote cooperation between levels of governments, the public and business." (EF: R. Miller)

## 4. Ecosystem Health

Goal 1: Improve and restore ecosystem health across all land ownerships in the Flagstaff region.

Improve and restore ecosystem health across all land ownerships in the Flagstaff region.

- a) Improve and restore ecosystem health and maintain plant and animal community diversity... (EF: R. Miller)
- b) Improve, restore and maintain ecosystem health and plant and animal community diversity... (EF: E. Nelson)

Comment [SL9]: R. Miller and maintain plant and animal community diversity

Comment [SL10]: E. Nelson Improve, restore, and maintain ecosystem health and plant and animal community diversity

Policies:

1. Recognize the region's ponderosa pine forest is a fire-dependent ecosystem and strive to restore more natural forest composition, structure, and processes.

(a) Recognize the region's ponderosa pine forest is a fire-dependent ecosystem and strive to restore more natural forest composition, structure, and processes.

**Comment [SL11]:** M. Jackson  
Encourage public awareness that

**Comment [SL12]:** M. Jackson  
and sustainable

**2. All landowners and land management agencies are encouraged to emphasize forest ecosystem restoration and fire risk reduction for the lands under their respective jurisdictions.**

(a) All landowners and land management agencies are encouraged to emphasize forest ecosystem restoration and fire risk reduction for the lands under their respective jurisdictions.

**Comment [SL13]:** B. Higgins  
as well as flood and

**Comment [SL14]:** Marie Jackson  
through the following strategies

**3. The City of Flagstaff and Coconino County support the efforts of the U.S. Forest Service to manage dispersed camping, campfires, off-road motor vehicle travel, and other forms of recreation consistent with resource protection and community fire risk reduction.**

**4. Community residents, property owners, and other agencies are encouraged to participate in forest planning, management, and restoration efforts as opportunities arise.**

(a) Community residents, property owners, and other agencies are encouraged to participate in forest planning, management, and restoration efforts as opportunities arise.

**Comment [SL15]:** M. Jackson  
Encourage all landowners and land management agencies to emphasize forest ecosystem restoration and

**5. Residents, property owners, and government agencies are encouraged to pursue opportunities for interagency cooperation and community collaboration to accomplish natural resource goals that might not be accomplished individually.**

(a) Residents, property owners, and government agencies are encouraged to pursue opportunities for interagency cooperation and community collaboration to accomplish natural resource goals that might not be accomplished individually.

**Comment [SL16]:** M. Jackson  
Encourage community residents

**Comment [SL17]:** M. Jackson  
(delete)

**6. Promote conservation and ecological restoration of the region's diverse ecosystem types including grassland, pinyon-juniper, wetland, and ponderosa pine forests on both public and private lands in a landscape context.**

(a) Promote conservation and ecological restoration of the region's diverse ecosystem types including grassland, pinyon-juniper, wetland, and ponderosa pine forests on both public and private lands in a landscape context.

**Comment [SL18]:** E. Nelson  
and associated animals

**7. Support and encourage collaborative multiple-stakeholder riparian restoration efforts along the Rio de Flag and other watercourses, including the return of native vegetation, channel structure and, where possible, preservation of in-stream flows.**

**8. Preserve Flagstaff's wetland areas and discourage inappropriate development on adjacent lands that may adversely affect wildlife habitat, recreational opportunities, viewsheds, and ecosystem health.**

a) Preserve Flagstaff's wetland areas and discourage inappropriate development on adjacent lands that may adversely affect wildlife habitat, recreational opportunities, viewsheds, and ecosystem health.

**Comment [SL19]:** M. Jackson  
Recognize the high value of riparian lands and preserve Flagstaff's wetland areas through discouraging development

**Comment [SL20]:** R. Miller  
and-ecosystem health, and environmentally sensitive land.

## 5. Noxious and Invasive Weeds

**Goal:** Control populations of invasive noxious weeds, eradicate where possible, and prevent new infestations.

**Policies:**

1. The City and County will cooperate with the SFPWMA to inventory, eradicate, and control invasive non-native weeds, including those required for compliance with State regulations; prevent establishment of new infestations through public awareness and education; and restore disturbed areas with native species.
2. Weed management plans shall be required for new development projects where applicable to control existing populations and prevent new infestations.
3. The City and County will adopt weed control measures to be applied to road and utility infrastructure construction and maintenance projects, and will pursue aggressive weed-control strategies in public rights-of-way and other City and County-owned properties.
4. The City and County Parks and Recreation Departments will pursue opportunities with other agencies and volunteer groups to control the spread of non-native invasive plants and noxious weeds on public park lands and natural areas.
5. Landscaping for new developments shall emphasize the use of native plants and drought-tolerant species appropriate to the area. Disturbed areas shall be restored and revegetated with native species to the greatest extent possible.
6. The City and County will support public education programs to help residents learn how to identify and control the spread of noxious weeds and invasive plants on private property.
  - a) The City and County will support public education programs to help residents learn how to identify and control the spread of noxious weeds and invasive plants on private property.
7. Insert new policy: Need a policy stating explicitly that any decision to introduce a biological control (i.e. tamarisk beetle) be preceded by thorough research. Point to state and any other existing laws on this issue. (EF: R. Scott)

**Comment [SL21]:** Expert Forum insert "and eradication"

## 6. Wildlife

**Goal:** Protect wildlife populations, localized and larger-scale wildlife habitats, ecosystem processes, and wildlife movement areas throughout the planning area.

- a) Protect wildlife populations, localized and larger-scale wildlife habitats, ecosystem processes, and wildlife movement areas throughout the planning area.

**Comment [SL22]:** M Jackson indigenous

**Comment [SL23]:** R. Miller diversity and

**Policies**

1. Encourage local development that protects, conserves, and when possible enhances and restores important wildlife habitat through proactive planning, creative design, and flexible zoning, e.g. by allowing higher-than-zoned housing density in one area of a parcel in exchange for maintenance of open space with high value for wildlife.

- a) Encourage local development that protects, conserves, and when possible enhances and restores important wildlife habitat through proactive planning, creative design, and flexible zoning, e.g. by allowing higher-than-zoned housing density in one area of a parcel in exchange for maintenance of open space with high value for wildlife.

**Comment [SL24]:** S. Golden: delete "important" (use of "important" may serve as a way to allow policies that would harm habitat because "important" is not defined - the Open Space Commission can set the priority guidelines for what is important habitat)

2. Use open space acquisition to conserve important wildlife habitat, and consider the effects of proposed recreational uses of open space on a variety of wildlife species. Explore the development of a conservation lands system as a means to achieve comprehensive open space conservation across the planning area.

- a) Use open space acquisition to conserve important wildlife habitat, and consider the effects of proposed recreational uses of open space on a variety of wildlife species. Explore the development of a conservation lands system as a means to achieve comprehensive open space conservation across the planning area.

**Comment [SL25]:** Expert Forum  
Make this a separate policy.

**Comment [SL26]:** S. Golden: delete "Explore the possibility of" and replace with "Begin the process of developing"

**Comment [SL27]:** S. Best  
add "for the entire County"

3. Protect sensitive and uncommon habitats such as ephemeral wetlands, riparian habitats, springs and seeps, rare plant communities, and open prairie ecosystems including the physical elements such as water sources and soil types on which they depend.

4. Protect populations of rare and sensitive animal species and their habitats, including threatened and endangered species and species of special conservation concern.

- a) Protect populations of rare and sensitive animal species and their habitats, including threatened and endangered species and species of special conservation concern.

**Comment [SL28]:** Expert Forum  
"Support, restore, and protect"

5. Identify, conserve and manage important wildlife movement corridors for a broad range of species through planning and open space conservation, and when possible integrate wildlife passage structures such as overpasses and culverts into roadway, bridge and culvert design.

6. Support the control and removal of exotic and invasive plants and animals, both terrestrial and aquatic, which can alter and degrade wildlife habitat, and develop targeted educational strategies to help prevent their introduction.

- a) Support the control and removal of exotic and invasive plants and animals, both terrestrial and aquatic, which can alter and degrade wildlife habitat, and develop targeted educational strategies to help prevent their introduction.

**Comment [SL29]:** E. Nowak  
Forbid releasing aquatic pets.

**Comment [SL30]:** Expert Forum  
add "and feral"

**Comment [SL31]:** E. Nowak  
I would ground the notion of "pest" in supporting biological data, or use some other specific term, like "overpopulation of large ungulates that is likely a factor in preventing aspen regeneration."

7. Use a combination of proactive planning, public education, and enforcement of existing regulations to limit the negative impacts of domestic pets and the size of populations of "pest" wildlife species, and minimize human-wildlife conflicts by discouraging the feeding of wildlife.

- a) Use a combination of proactive planning, public education, and enforcement of existing regulations to limit the negative impacts of domestic pets and the size of populations of "pest" wildlife species, and minimize human-wildlife conflicts by discouraging the feeding of wildlife.

**Comment [SL32]:** E. Nowak  
people should be educated on how to safely recreate in bear/rattlesnake/lion country, in a way that emphasizes safe human behavioral responses to potential predators and venomous snakes; a response that does not result in the killing or long-distance translocation of individual animals as a way to mitigate potential conflicts.

8. Encourage developers to avoid or minimize impacts to Gunnison’s prairie dog colonies whenever possible and encourage the humane relocation of prairie dogs to suitable habitat when necessary. Promote public awareness of the positive “keystone” role of prairie dogs in grassland ecosystems and consider the development of a mitigation policy to obtain suitable habitat for prairie dog translocation with financial support from project developers.

- a) Encourage developers to avoid or minimize impacts to Gunnison’s prairie dog colonies whenever possible and encourage the humane relocation of prairie dogs to suitable habitat when necessary. Promote public awareness of the positive “keystone” role of prairie dogs in grassland ecosystems and consider the development of a mitigation policy to obtain suitable habitat for prairie dog translocation with financial support from project developers.

**Comment [SL33]:** Expert Forum add “institutions, and public agencies”

**Comment [SL34]:** S. Golden delete “whenever possible” (it’s *always* possible, and this policy is only encouraging - not requiring anything)

**Comment [SL35]:** S. Golden delete “when necessary” (it’s arguable that it is *never* necessary, and this policy is only encouraging - not requiring anything)

**Comment [SL36]:** S. Golden add “and comply with relevant guidelines established by Arizona Game and Fish Department.”

9. Update maps of wildlife movement corridors and species and habitat distributions included in this plan on an ongoing basis as new research data become available from sources such as federal, state and local agencies, Northern Arizona University’s GRAIL laboratory, and local biologists.

- a) Update maps of wildlife movement corridors and species and habitat distributions included in this plan on an ongoing basis as new research data become available from sources such as federal, state and local agencies, Northern Arizona University’s GRAIL laboratory, and local biologists.

**Comment [SL37]:** R. Miller Use those maps and the maps of environmentally sensitive lands from the next section to encourage discussion of impacts of development on quality of life in the Flagstaff area as part of all zoning decisions.

## 7. Environmentally Sensitive Lands

**Goal:** Preserve and enhance the natural qualities of environmentally-sensitive lands.

- a) Preserve and enhance the natural qualities of environmentally-sensitive lands.

**Comment [SL38]:** R. Miller Where possible and with greater frequency than the average for this area, preserve

**Policies:**

1. The City and County encourage the preservation and restoration of natural wetlands, floodplains, riparian areas, seeps and springs, distinctive landscape features, and other environmentally-sensitive lands.
2. Development projects shall be designed to minimize the alteration of natural landforms and maximize conservation of distinctive natural features.
3. Development proposals and other land management activities shall be assessed in a broad landscape context.

- a) Development proposals and other land management activities shall be assessed in a broad landscape context.

**Comment [SL39]:** R. Miller including the community value of any environmentally sensitive lands affected.

4. The City and County favor the use of all available mechanisms for the preservation of environmentally-sensitive lands, including but not limited to public acquisition, conservation easements, transfer of development rights, or cluster development with open space designations.

**5. Development proposals affecting natural wetlands shall require a wetland delineation by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers prior to the public review process in order to provide complete and essential information for decision makers.**

- a) Development proposals affecting natural wetlands shall require a wetland delineation by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers prior to the public review process in order to provide complete and essential information for decision makers.

Comment [SL40]: R. Miller  
larger than one acre or ¼ acre for a single site

**6. Integrated conservation design practices, such as open space dedication, conservation subdivisions, and cluster development are encouraged for new developments in order to conserve sensitive and unique natural areas.**

- a) Integrated conservation design practices, such as open space dedication, conservation subdivisions, and cluster development are encouraged for new developments in order to conserve sensitive and unique natural areas.

Comment [SL41]: M. Jackson  
(delete)

7. New Policy: Encourage residents, property owners and government agencies to pursue opportunities for interagency cooperation and community collaboration to accomplish natural resource goals that might not be accomplished individually. (EF. R. Miller)

8. New Policy: Promote conservation and ecological restoration of the region's diverse ecosystems types including grassland, pinyon-juniper, wetland, and ponderosa pine forests on both public and private lands in a landscape context. (EF. R. Miller)

9. New Policy: Work with governmental agencies, organizations, landowners and residents to promote and accomplish conservation of the most sensitive areas. (EF. R. Miller)

## 8. Soils

**Goal: Protect soils through conservation practices**

**Policies:**

**1. Development projects shall be reviewed for soil and dust mitigation practices.**

1. Development projects shall be reviewed for soil and dust mitigation practices.

Comment [SL42]: M. Jackson  
conservation,

**2. County Policy: In areas of shallow or poor soils where standard on-site wastewater systems are not feasible, very low density development, integrated conservation design, a centralized treatment facility and/or technologically advanced environmentally sensitive systems shall be preferred.**

3. Add policy: Construction projects shall employ strategies to minimize soil compaction or destruction of vegetation. [From the ERI book: ]"... If mechanized equipment is to be used, soil moisture content should be monitored closely before treatment in order to avoid operation on overly saturated soil."

4. Add policy: Areas where prescribed fires will be conducted should be prepared adequately to keep the fire cool and fast-moving in order to avoid damaging or sterilizing the soil.

- 5. Add Policy: Encourage slope stability practices to reduce the effects of erosion and soil transport into ephemeral stream drainages during periods of high
- 6. Add Policy: Grassy openings shall be evaluated and conserved with the same care devoted to forested areas.

## 9. Water Quality

(Being reviewed. Update to be emailed shortly.)

## 10. Air quality

**GOAL: Proactively improve and maintain the region's air quality for continued compliance with National Air Ambience Quality Standards**

### Policies:

- 1. Engage public agencies concerned with the improvement of air quality, and implement state and regional plans and programs to attain overall federal air quality standards and in particular ozone, particulate matter and carbon monoxide on a long-term basis.
- 2. Pursue reduction of total emissions of high priority pollutants from commercial and industrial sources and area-wide smoke emissions
- 3. Reduce vehicle miles travel by promoting land-use that incorporates walkable, mixed-use, compact development.
  - i. Reduce vehicle miles travel by promoting land-use that incorporates walkable, mixed-use, compact development.
- 4. Promote the use of alternative modes of transportation such as ridesharing, bicycling, walking, and transit throughout the region.
- 5. Where locally desired, formation of road improvement districts, dust control districts and road maintenance districts shall be encouraged as a means of solving dust problems and allocating costs to those affected.
  - a) Where locally desired, formation of road improvement districts, dust control districts and road maintenance districts shall be encouraged as a means of solving dust problems and allocating costs to those affected.
- 6. All new City roads shall be paved to prevent fugitive dust.
- 7. Attract through economic development activities and incentives, clean, non-polluting industry and commercial enterprises
  - a) Attract through economic development activities and incentives, clean, non-polluting industry and commercial enterprises

**Comment [SL43]:** M. Jackson policies

**Comment [SL44]:** M. Jackson encourage the

**Comment [SL45]:** M. Jackson (delete)

**Comment [SL46]:** M. Jackson ("allocating costs to those affected" needs clarification)

**Comment [SL47]:** low-water use,

## 8. Seek feasible alternatives to prescribed burns.

- a) Seek feasible alternatives to prescribed burns.

**Comment [SL48]:** M. Jackson to alleviate the smoke produced through prescribed burns, through encouraging thinning of overgrown forest.

## 11. Dark Skies

**Goal:** Preserve Dark Skies as a natural resource, urban character and economic generator to a thriving astronomy, planetary and space science industry

### Policies:

I. "Maintain Dark Skies". Recommended first policy statement by EF.

**1. Balance needs of astronomical research and industry needs with community character, growth and sustainability.**

*(Expert Forum questions the terms "Balance" and "industry needs." These terms should be clarified/made more specific.)*

**2. Research and employ emerging, energy efficient, illumination technologies and update regulations as necessary**

**3. Mandate new uses, zone changes and retrofits be compliant to lighting code.**

**4. Promote the benefit of dark skies through outreach.**

**5. Any regional plan amendment within the Zone I district shall include a preliminary Lumen Analysis calculating potential maximum lumens permissible.**

**6. Add new Policy: City and County shall vigorously enforce existing lighting codes. (EF:)**

**Comment [SL49]:**

## 12. Natural Quiet

**Goal:** Preserve natural quiet, soundscapes through reduction of noise pollution.

### Policy:

**1. Recognize urban environment soundscape differs greatly from rural areas through the creation of applicable noise ordinance with respective criteria.**

- a) Recognize urban environment soundscape differs greatly from rural areas through the creation of applicable noise ordinance with respective criteria.

**Comment [SL50]:** M. Jackson that the

**Comment [SL51]:** M. Jackson and create applicable noise ordinances to preserve natural quiet in residential neighborhoods and open space preserves.

2. Major commercial and industrial land use and transportation proposals adjacent to residential and natural areas shall be evaluated as to their potential noise impacts utilizing criteria to be established by the City of Flagstaff and Coconino County. Criteria shall include mitigation provisions of the adverse impacts of noise on existing and proposed land.

- a) 2. Major commercial and industrial land use and transportation proposals adjacent to residential and natural areas shall be evaluated as to their potential noise impacts utilizing criteria to be established by the City of Flagstaff and Coconino County. Criteria shall include mitigation provisions of the adverse impacts of noise on existing and proposed land.

Comment [SL52]: M. Jackson  
Evaluate major...

Comment [SL53]: M. Jackson  
(delete)

Comment [SL54]: M. Jackson  
"existing and proposed land" is not clear

DRAFT