

## Goal and Policy Review

### Combined Public and CAC Comments

#### 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.

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

### 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 **most accurate scientific information** ~~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 **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**, for current and future generations. (EF: M. Jackson)
- b) To integrate ~~the best available science~~ projected regional effects **of climate changes** 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. (N. White)
  - a. *Suggested:* Needs two goals. (EF: N. White, B. Higgins, R. Scott)
    - i. Adapt (to climate change)
    - ii. Mitigate (do what we can to decrease our contribution to the problem)
- c) *Suggestion:* Declare an overarching goal to “Conserve natural resources.” (EF: R. Scott)
- d) *Suggestion:* Either modify goal or delete highlighted policies, which are really about prevention of change.

If change goal, maybe: " To integrate the best available science about climate change and its projected regional effects into development of adaptation strategies to promote sustainable use of energy, water, air, ecosystems, and wildlife **for current and future generations. Contribute to state or national programs and policies aimed at reducing the region's carbon footprint.** (EF: B. Higgins)

### **CAC Recommendation:**

‘Adaptation’ needs to have higher priority.

**Five finger vote: passes**

DRAFT

*Climate 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 **and encourage cooperation with our neighbors. (EF: R. Miller)**

**CAC Recommendation: passes**

*Climate Policies:*

**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 **strategies such as weatherization**, more efficient lighting, better insulation, and increased use of alternative energy for generation of electricity.

(EF:)

b) Encourage energy efficiency and conservation in the public, commercial and residential sectors through policies, **ordinances, codes, and other legally binding tools** that promote **lead to** more efficient lighting, better insulation, and increased use of alternative energy for generation of electricity. (E. Putzova)

**CAC RECOMMENDATION: passes**

Climate Policies:

**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 **while maintaining natural diversity of plants and animals.**

(EF: R. Miller )

b) 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. (E.

Putzova and N White.)

a. ...this is a policy not a judgment on a particular strategy. (N. White)

c) Promote forest management strategies [such as... ]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. (Betsy McKellar)

- d) Promote **forest** management strategies such as ~~Four Forest Restoration Initiative~~ to increase the resiliency of our ecosystems ~~to the effects of~~ climate change, ~~including the thinning.....pine forests~~ and reduce ~~their vulnerability to catastrophic~~ **the potential for landscape level, high severity wildfire and insect pest outbreaks.**  
(S. Hedwall)

**CAC RECOMMENDATION:**

**Adopt with Remove reference to Four Forest Initiatives**  
Adopt language from suggestion a)

Climate Policies:

**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 **traffic** congestion, fuel consumption, and overall carbon emissions. (EF: M. Jackson)
- b) ~~Promote transportation options such as increased~~ **Promote transportation options such as increased** Invest in public transit and more bike lanes that will reduce congestion, fuel consumption, and overall carbon emissions. (E. Putzova)
- c) Promote transportation options such as increased public transit and additional bike lanes that will reduce congestion, fuel consumption, and overall carbon emissions. Comment: May want to re-word....the presence of public transit and bike lanes won't reduce these things, but their use will. (S. Hedwall)

**CAC RECOMMENDATION:**

**Recommend including 'walk ability' in this policy**

Climate Policies:

**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 **and urban growth** by moving along vegetational and elevational gradients. (EF: M. Jackson)
- b) 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~~ **passage** along vegetational and elevational gradients. (S. Hedwall)

**CAC RECOMMENDATION:**

Clarify 'restoration' of wildlife corridor in text

Accept with 'passage' and 'habitat' – PARKING LOT

*Climate Policies:*

**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.**

**Delete policy.** "Plans are by definition reviewed and revised as new circumstances arise and/or planning environment changes. It is unnecessary to include this." (E. Putzova)

**CAC RECOMMENDATION:**

Approve as is

**Additional suggested Climate Policies:**

7. “Encourage concentrated development following an urban village concept to conserve resources and open space.” (EF: R. Miller)

Not adopted

8. “Continue to promote cooperation between levels of governments, the public and business.” (EF: R. Miller)
- a) I think Rick's suggestion is broader than this element.  
(EF: B. Higgins)

**CAC Recommendation: Not adopted**

#### 4. Ecosystem Health

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

##### **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.
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.
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.
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.
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.
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.

## 4. Ecosystem Health

**Goal 1: 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** across all land ownership in the Flagstaff region. (EF: E. Nelson)
- c) Protect, improve and restore naturally diverse healthy ecosystem ecosystem health across all land ownerships in the Flagstaff region. (N. White)

**CAC Recommendation: Accepted with ‘Protect’ and “maintain plant and animal diversity”**

*Ecosystem Health 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~~ **Encourage public awareness** that the region's ponderosa pine forest is a fire-dependent ecosystem and strive to restore more natural **and sustainable** forest composition, structure, and processes. (EF: M. Jackson)

**CAC RECOMMENDATION:**

**Accepted with changes a)**

Ecosystem Health Policies:

**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 **as well as flood** and fire risk reduction for the lands under their respective jurisdictions. (EF: B. Higgins & M. Jackson)
- b. All landowners and land management agencies are encouraged to emphasize **coordinated** forest ecosystem restoration and fire risk reduction for the lands under their respective jurisdictions. (N. White)
- c. *Comment:* ...land management agencies are encouraged to emphasize forest ...(E. Putzova)

Comment [EH1]: I don't understand what is meant by "emphasize." Example? How a private landowner emphasizes?

**CAC RECOMMENDATION: Accepted with Adding**  
**"catastrophic fire risk reduction..."**

*Ecosystem Health Policies:*

**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.**

(a) Comment: Define “off-road motor vehicle travel”. Is it making new tracks? Traveling on USFS established roads? (N. White)

(a)(b) Comment: As written this is not a goal, it is a fan letter. Not everyone agrees that the FS is successfully managing dispersed camping, campfire, off road vehicle travel consistent with.... Ask the folks out in Timberline. (B. McKellar)

(b)(c) The City of Flagstaff and Coconino County support the efforts of ~~the U.S. Forest Service~~ **land management agencies** to manage dispersed camping, campfires, off-road motor vehicle travel, and other forms of recreation consistent with resource protection and community fire risk reduction. (S. Hedwall)

(e)(d) Comment: We could perhaps expand this a bit, beyond just recreation. I’m thinking of policies that can raise unintended consequences (ie, increasing dumping fees at the landfill which drives up cases of dumping trash on the forest) (M. Chaveas)

| **CAC RECOMMENDATION:**

**Parking LOT**

The City of Flagstaff and Coconino County support the efforts of **land management agencies to** manage recreation, resource protection and community fire risk reduction.

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*Ecosystem Health Policies:*

**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~~ **Encourage all landowners and land management agencies to emphasize forest ecosystem restoration and to participate in forest planning, management, and restoration efforts as opportunities arise. (EF: M. Jackson)**

(b) Delete Policy:

- i. Policies 4, 5 and 6 can be collapsed into one policy ( N. White)
- ii. Delete policy. Included in policy #4. (E. Putzova)

**Comment [SL2]:** M. Jackson  
Encourage all landowners and land management agencies to emphasize forest ecosystem restoration and

**CAC RECOMMENDATION: Accept as written**

*Ecosystem Health Policies:*

**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) **Encourage community** 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. (EF: M. Jackson)
- (b) Delete.
  - i. Recommends deletion as “included in #4”. (E. Putzova)
  - ii. Policies 4, 5 and 6 can be collapsed into one policy ( N. White)

**CAC RECOMMENDATION: Adopted as written**

*Ecosystem Health Policies:*

**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 **and associated animals** including grassland, pinyon-juniper, wetland, and ponderosa pine forests on both public and private lands in a landscape context. (EF:E. Nelson)

(b) Delete Policy: Policies 4, 5 and 6 can be collapsed into one policy ( N. White)

**CAC RECOMMENDATION:  
Adopted as amended in (a)**

Ecosystem Health Policies:

**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.**

(a) Support and encourage the preservation and improvements of the riparian habitat along the Rio de Flag Greenway and other water courses and springs. (N. White)

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(a)(b) 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 **and restoration** of in-stream flows. (B. McKellar)

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(c) Comment: “...return of native vegetation, channel structure...” This would mean removing City pond, flooding Coonino Estates which was a marsh and as I remember before Cheshire a wide flood plane...” (N. White)

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**CAC RECOMMENDATION:**

Include ‘restoration’ clearly in text, as suggested by (b); be very clear about the Army Corp of Engineers work and multi-stakeholder collaboration – what is the INTENTION of the policy; Need further discussion from ACE, Friends of the Rio and others. Parking lot this until further information and comparative text with water quality.

*Ecosystem Health Policies:*

**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~~ **Recognize the high value of riparian lands and preserve Flagstaff’s wetland areas through discouraging development** on adjacent lands that may adversely affect wildlife habitat, recreational opportunities, viewsheds, and ecosystem health **and environmentally sensitive land.** (EF: M. Jackson & R. Miller)
- b) Preserve Flagstaff’s wetland and riparian areas and discourage prevent inappropriate development on adjacent lands that may adversely affect wildlife habitat, recreational opportunities, viewsheds, and ecosystem health. (E. Putzova)
- c) Preserve Flagstaff’s wetland and riparian areas and discourage inappropriate development on adjacent lands that may adversely affect wildlife habitat, recreational opportunities, viewsheds, and ecosystems. (B. McKellar)

**CAC RECOMMENDATION:**

Text needs to clearly describe ‘inappropriate development’ and ‘adjacent lands’. Accept with removing “on adjacent lands” and add “and riparian”.

**SUGGESTED *Ecosystem Health Policies:***

9. Ensure that future development does not further deplete the region's biodiversity by formulating conservation investment mechanisms that protect and enhance biodiversity.  
(E. Putzova)

**CAC RECOMMENDATION:**

Parking lot for Eva to describe this more clearly to the CAC.  
Understand existing regulations that link to this.

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## 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.

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.

## 5. Noxious and Invasive Weeds

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

*No comments submitted.*

### **CAC Comment:**

**Include ‘adaptive species’ discussion in text.  
Adopt GOAL and Policies #1-4 as written.**

*Noxious and Invasive Weeds 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.**

*No comments submitted.*

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*Noxious and Invasive Weeds Policies:*

2. **Weed management plans shall be required for new development projects where applicable to control existing populations and prevent new infestations.**

a. “This is good. I can point out both City and private construction that encouraged noxious weed growth and spread.” (N. White)

**CAC RECOMMENDATION:**

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*Noxious and Invasive Weeds Policies:*

**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.**

a.b. “This is good. I can point out both City and private construction that encouraged noxious weed growth and spread.” (N. White)

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CAC RECOMMENDATION:

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*Noxious and Invasive Weeds Policies:*

**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.**

*No comments submitted.*

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*Noxious and Invasive Weeds Policies:*

**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.**

- a) Landscaping for new developments shall ~~emphasize~~ emphasize require the use of native plants and drought-tolerant species appropriate to the area or edible plants grown for food. Disturbed areas shall be restored and revegetated with native species to the greatest extent possible. (E. Putzova)

**CAC RECOMMENDATION:**

Abide by guidelines  
Native, drought-tolerant or edible  
Parking lot and re-word with these suggestions

*Noxious and Invasive Weeds Policies:*

**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 **and eradication** programs to help residents learn how to identify and control the spread of noxious weeds and invasive plants on private property. (EF:)
- b) The City and County will ~~support~~ **sponsor** public education programs **to** help residents learn how to identify and control the spread of noxious weeds and invasive plants on private property. (E. Putzova)

**CAC RECOMMENDATION:**

Accepted as written with “and eradication” added.

*Suggested Noxious and Invasive Weeds Policies:*

7. 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)

**CAC RECOMMENDATION:**

This is controlled by federal regulations.

## 6. Wildlife

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

### 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.
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.
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.
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.
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.
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.
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.

## 6. Wildlife

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

- a) Protect **indigenous, diversity and** wildlife populations, localized and larger-scale wildlife habitats, ecosystem processes, and wildlife movement areas throughout the planning area. (EF: M. Jackson and R. Miller)

Comment [SL3]: M Jackson  
indigenous

Comment [SL4]: R. Miller  
diversity and

- b) Support diverse wildlife populations, localized and larger-scale wildlife habitats, ecosystem processes, and wildlife movement areas throughout by preserving the planning area. (N. White)**

**CAC RECOMMENDATION:**

Wildlife 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. (EF: S. Golden)

b) Encourage... 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: is the highlighted section a strategy?

Comment [SL5]: 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)

Comment [b6]: Is this a strategy?

**CAC RECOMMENDATION:**

Wildlife Policies:

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) Make two policies out of this.
    - 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.
    - b. ~~Explore the development of~~ **Begin the process of developing** a conservation lands system **for the entire county** as a means to achieve comprehensive open space conservation across the planning area. (EF: S. Golden and S. Best)
  - b) 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~~ **Develop** a conservation lands system as a means to achieve comprehensive open space conservation across the planning area. (E. Putzova)

c) Explore the development of a conservation lands system as a means to achieve comprehensive open space conservation across the planning area. (N. White)

Comment [b7]: N White. Is this a strategy?

**CAC RECOMMENDATION:**

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Wildlife Policies:

**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.**

- a) “Protect” is unforgiving. I may agree with it but it is hard to implement on private Property. (N. White)

**CAC RECOMMENDATION:**

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Wildlife Policies:

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

- a) **Support, restore, and protect** populations of rare and sensitive animal species and their habitats, including threatened and endangered species and species of special conservation concern. (EF)

**CAC RECOMMENDATION:**

*Wildlife Policies:*

- 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.**

*No comment.*

DRAFT

Wildlife Policies:

**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) Collapse 6, 7, 8 and 9 or make strategies. (N. White)
- b) Forbid releasing aquatic pets. (EF: E. Nowak)

**CAC RECOMMENDATION:**

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Wildlife Policies:

**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” **and feral** wildlife species, and minimize human-wildlife conflicts by discouraging the feeding of wildlife. (EF: E. Nowak)

**Comment [SL8]:** 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.”

b) Collapse 6, 7, 8 and 9 or make strategies. (N. White)

c) “...and the size of populations of “pest” wildlife species...” What is a Pest Species? To a lot of people that’s the perfect definition of a prairie dog. If you are pushing to limit the size of some species population, you’d better be very specific. ... And why not have goal of new City and County ordinances outlawing the feeding and watering of deer and elk? (B. McKellar)

**Comment [SL9]:** 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.

**CAC RECOMMENDATION:**

Wildlife Policies:

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, institutions and public agencies 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 **and comply with relevant guidelines established by Arizona Game and Fish Department.** (EF: numerous)

Comment [SL10]: S. Golden delete "whenever possible" (it's *always* possible, and this policy is only encouraging - not requiring anything)

Comment [SL11]: S. Golden delete "when necessary" (it's arguable that it is *never* necessary, and this policy is only encouraging - not requiring anything)

Comment [SL12]: S. Golden add "and comply with relevant guidelines established by Arizona Game and Fish Department."

b) 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~~  
**develop** a mitigation policy to obtain suitable habitat for  
prairie dog translocation with financial support from  
project developers. (E. Putzova)

c) Collapse 6, 7, 8 and 9 or make strategies. (N. White)

**CAC RECOMMENDATION:**

DRAFT

**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) **Comment:** 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. (EF: R. Miller)

b) Collapse 6, 7, 8 and 9 or make strategies. (N. White)

**CAC RECOMMENDATION:**

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## 7. Environmentally Sensitive Lands

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

**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.

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.

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.

## 7. Environmentally Sensitive Lands

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

- a) **Where possible and with greater frequency than the average for this area, preserve and enhance the natural qualities of environmentally-sensitive lands. (EF: R. Miller)**
- b) **Preserve and enhance the natural qualities of environmentally-sensitive lands and views. (N. White)**

**CAC RECOMMENDATION:**

*Environmentally Sensitive Lands 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.**

*No comments.*

DRAFT

*Environmentally Sensitive Lands Policies:*

**2. Development projects shall be designed to minimize the alteration of natural landforms and maximize conservation of distinctive natural features.**

*No comments.*

DRAFT

*Environmentally Sensitive Lands Policies:*

**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 **including the community value of any environmentally sensitive lands affected. (EF: R. Miller)**
- b) What does this mean and how is this going to be implemented? **(E.Putzova)**

**| CAC RECOMMENDATION:**

*Environmentally Sensitive Lands Policies:*

**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.**

No comments submitted.

DRAFT

*Environmentally Sensitive Lands Policies:*

**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 **larger than one acre or ¼ acre for a single site** 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.

(EF: R. Miller)

| **CAC RECOMMENDATION:**

*Environmentally Sensitive Lands Policies:*

**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. (EF: M. Jackson)

Comment [SL13]: . Jackson  
(delete)

**CAC RECOMMENDATION:**

*Environmentally Sensitive Lands SUGGESTED Policies:*

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

10 Any proposed development in environmentally sensitive areas shall require extended public review process. (E. Putzova)

Comment [EH14]: This needs to be implemented in the LDC.

CAC RECOMMENDATION:

## 8. Soils

**Goal:** Protect soils through conservation practices

### Policies:

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

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.

## 8. Soils

**Goal: Protect soils through conservation practices**

*No comments.*

DRAFT

*Soils Policies:*

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

- a) Development projects shall be reviewed for soil **conservation** and dust mitigation practices. (EF: M. Jackson)

**CAC RECOMMENDATION:**

DRAFT

*Soils Policies:*

**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.**

No comments.

DRAFT

**SUGGESTED *Soils Policies:***

3. 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.” (EF)

4. 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. (EF)

5. Encourage slope stability practices to reduce the effects of erosion and soil transport into ephemeral stream drainages during periods of high (EF)

6. Grassy openings shall be evaluated and conserved with the same care devoted to forested areas. (EF)

7. Soil disturbances should be cognizant of the effort on vegetation, noxious weed invasion and erosion.

a. Cross reference with Invasive weeds. (N. White)

**CAC RECOMMENDATION:**

## **9. Water Quality**

(Being reviewed. Update to be emailed shortly.)

DRAFT

## 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.
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.
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
8. Seek feasible alternatives to prescribed burns.

## **10. Air quality**

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

**No comments.**

DRAFT

*Air quality 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.**

*No comments.*

DRAFT

*Air quality Policies:*

**2. Pursue reduction of total emissions of high priority pollutants from commercial and industrial sources and area-wide smoke emissions.**

No comments.

DRAFT

*Air quality Policies:*

**3. Reduce vehicle miles travel by promoting land-use that incorporates walkable, mixed-use, compact development.**

a) Reduce vehicle miles travel by promoting land-use **policies** that incorporates walkable, mixed-use, compact development. (EF: M. Jackson)

Comment [SL15]: M. Jackson policies

- b) Reduce vehicle miles travel by
- promoting land-use that incorporates walkable, mixed-use, compact development
  - implementing a fully functional e-government structure to provide services and enable public participation via electronic means
  - implementing telecommuting for employees whose functions afford such work delivery arrangement (E. Putzova)

CAC RECOMMENDATION:

*Air quality Policies:*

**4. Promote the use of alternative modes of transportation such as ridesharing, bicycling, walking, and transit throughout the region.**

- a) ~~Promote the use of~~ **Promote the use of** Invest in alternative modes of transportation such as ridesharing, bicycling, walking, and transit throughout the region.

**CAC RECOMMENDATION:**

DRAFT

*Air quality Policies:*

**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, **encourage the** 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.

b) Comment: Why not set a goal of the City and county paving all existing roads. Why must the people who live there pay for it? Isn't this about air pollution? (B. McKellar)

**CAC RECOMMENDATION:**

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Air quality Policies:

**6. All new City roads shall be paved to prevent fugitive dust.**

- a) All new City roads shall be paved with pervious materials to prevent fugitive dust. (E. Putzova)
- b) All new City roads and parking lots shall be paved with either pervious or impervious surfaces to prevent fugitive dust. (N. White)**
  - a. “paved” should mean both pervious and impervious surfaces. (N. White)

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**CAC RECOMMENDATION:**

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*Air quality Policies:*

**7. Attract through economic development activities and incentives, clean, non-polluting industry and commercial enterprises**

- a) Attract through economic development activities and incentives, clean, **low-water use**, non-polluting industry and commercial enterprises (S. Lamb)

Comment [SL16]: low-water use,

**CAC RECOMMENDATION:**

DRAFT

*Air quality Policies:*

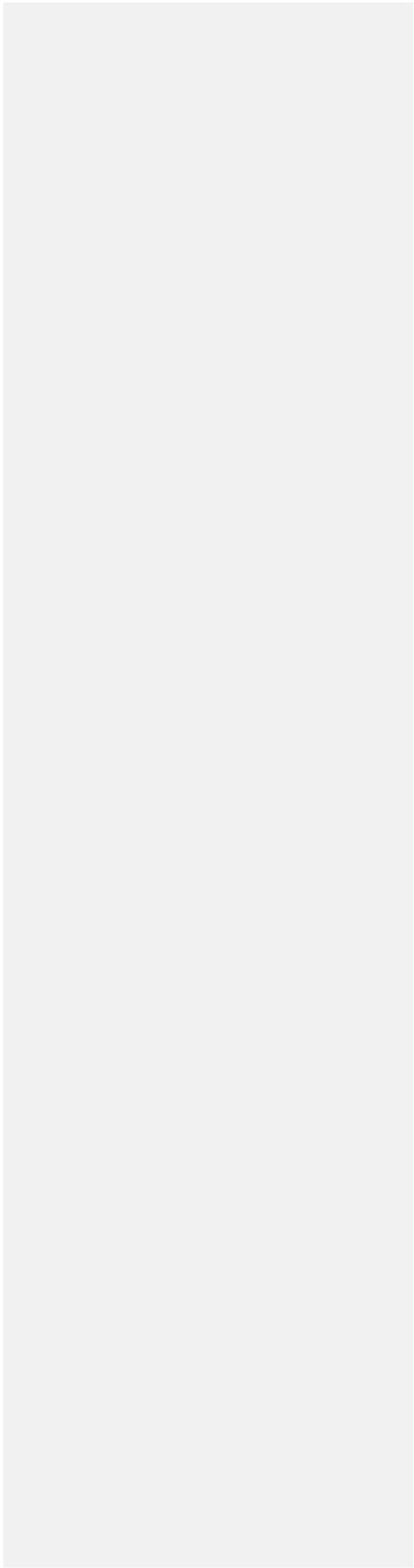
**8. Seek feasible alternatives to prescribed burns.**

- a) Seek feasible alternatives to ~~prescribed burns~~. **alleviate the smoke produced through prescribed burns, through encouraging thinning of overgrown forest.** (EF: M. Jacson)
- b) Seek feasible alternatives to ~~prescribed burns~~ burning slash piles. Comment: Where? On city lands only? If we are trying to return fire to its natural role in the ecosystem than we will need to burn. Remember that smoke impacts from burning will decrease through time as fuels are reduced. I could support a reduction in burn piles, but not prescribed burning. (S. Hedwall)
- c) Comment: I don't like this statement. There is a misconception around that successful forest restoration work will render prescribed burns and smoke in the air a thing of the past. Fire and smoke have always been part of this ecosystem and always will. Even if restoration efforts succeed beyond our wildest dreams there will be a continuing need for prescribed burns to stay ahead of fuel buildups and there will continue to be wildfires. We will succeed if can control/reduce the intensity and danger. (M. Chaveas)

Comment [SL17]: M. Jackson to alleviate the smoke produced through prescribed burns, through encouraging thinning of overgrown forest.

**| CAC RECOMMENDATION:**

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## 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**

- a) Preserve Dark Skies as a natural resource, **visitor attraction**, urban character and economic generator to a thriving astronomy, planetary and space science industry. (N. White)

**CAC RECOMMENDATION:**

*Dark Skies Policies:*

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

*a) Questions the terms “Balance” and “industry needs.”*

*These terms should be clarified/made more specific. (EF)*

*a)b) Delete. Strategy or policy? (N. White)*

*b)c) Suggested alternative:*

- a. Consider the impacts on the dark skies at local observatory sites of all lighting regulation changes, land-use designations or changes, and proposed transportation developments within the region. (C. Luginbuhl, U.S. Naval Observatory)

→

**CAC RECOMMENDATION:**

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*Dark Skies Policies:*

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

a) *Strategy or policy? (N. White)*

b) Suggested Alternative:

- a. Continue to evaluate and revise outdoor lighting regulations to reduce impacts on dark skies of already-installed lighting and new lighting resulting from continued regional growth. (C. Luginbuhl, U.S. Naval Observatory)

**CAC Recommendation:**

*Dark Skies Policies:*

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

a) *Strategy or policy? (N. White)*

CAC

Recommendation:

DRAFT

Dark Skies Policies:

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

**a) Strategy or policy? (N. White)**

**b) Promote through outreach the benefit of dark skies to astronomy, sustainability, quality of life, and tourism. (C. Luginbuhl, U.S. Naval Observatory)**

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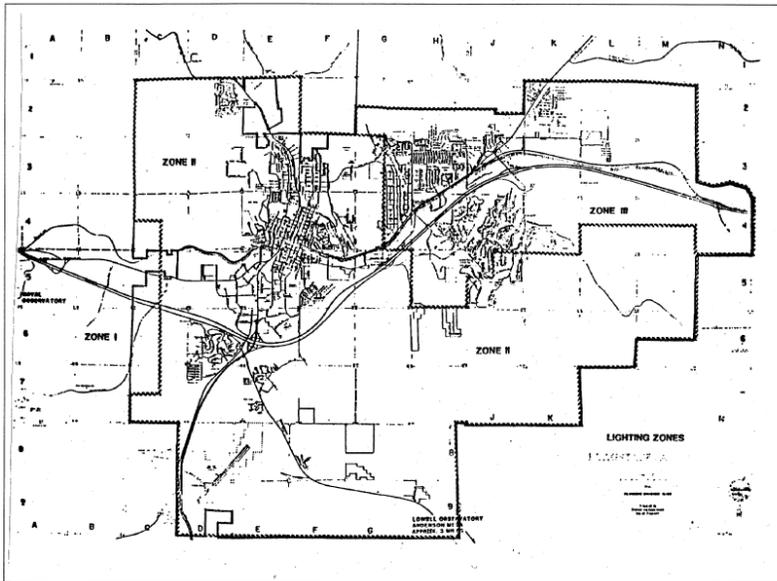
CAC RECOMMENDATION:

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Dark Skies Policies:

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

a) Any proposed regional plan amendment within Lighting Zone I district shall include an analysis of the expected outdoor lighting changes resulting from the amendment; amendments which appear likely to increase light pollution at the observatory sites shall be strongly discouraged. (C. Luginbuhl, U.S. Naval Observatory)



**CAC Recommendation:**

**Dark Skies Suggested Policies:**

6. City and County shall vigorously enforce existing lighting codes. (EF:)

7. Protection of dark skies and light ‘trespass’ is required of all new development.(N. White)

8. Protect dark skies and light trespass with shielded lighting and standards and defined intensities. (N. White)

9. Outdoor lighting of recreational facilities should use lighting systems that illuminate only the facility. (N. White)

10. Gas station must follow current lighting regulations. (N. White)

11. Beyond the standards of the outdoor lighting codes, discourage developments which require all-night outdoor illumination in the Lighting Zone I district, and encourage development that does not require outdoor night lighting. (C. Luginbuhl, U.S. Naval Observatory)

12 .“Maintain Dark Skies”. Should be first policy statement. (EF).

**CAC Recommendation:**

Comment [SL18]:

## 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.
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.

## 12. Natural Quiet

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

No comment.

DRAFT

*Natural Quiet Policy:*

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

- a) Recognize **that the** urban environment soundscape differs greatly from rural areas **through and create applicable noise ordinance to preserve natural quiet in residential neighborhoods and open preserves.** ~~the creation of applicable noise ordinance with respective criteria.~~ (EF: M. Jackson)

**Comment [SL19]:** M. Jackson and create applicable noise ordinances to preserve natural quiet in residential neighborhoods and open space preserves.

**CAC RECOMMENDATION:**

Natural Quiet Policy:

**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) **Evaluate** 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. [Use] (EF: M. Jackson)

Comment [SL20]: M. Jackson  
"existing and proposed land" is not clear

b) **All** 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. (E. Putzova)

**c) 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. (N. White. This is a strategy.)

d) We're talking Shooting Ranges here. (B. McKellar)

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**CAC RECOMMENDATION:**

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