

# Grand Teton National Park

Success of the Grand Teton Pathways System

Enhanced local economy – Improved Stewardship – Happy Visitors



National Bike Summit – March 5, 2013

Wyoming Pathways – Tim Young

# Access Goal – “Motor-mode” to “Multi-mode”



## Jackson Hole Transportation Vision

**“A national model** for visitor access with roadways safe for people and wildlife, a quality pathway system for bicycling and walking, pedestrian friendly activity areas, and an inviting transit system.”

- ◆ 25,000 Locals + 3 million Visitors per year
- ◆ Gold Bicycle Friendly Community
- ◆ 60 Miles of Pathways - more coming!
- ◆ Wyoming’s largest Transit System
- ◆ Local Complete Streets Policy
- ◆ Major Economic Benefits



# Benefits?

## Enhanced Visitor Experience Vibrant Gateway Community

- Improve Safety for everyone
- Improve Health - Visitors & residents
- Enhance Access and Accessibility
- Protect Air Quality
- Promote Energy Conservation
- Quality Interpretive Opportunities





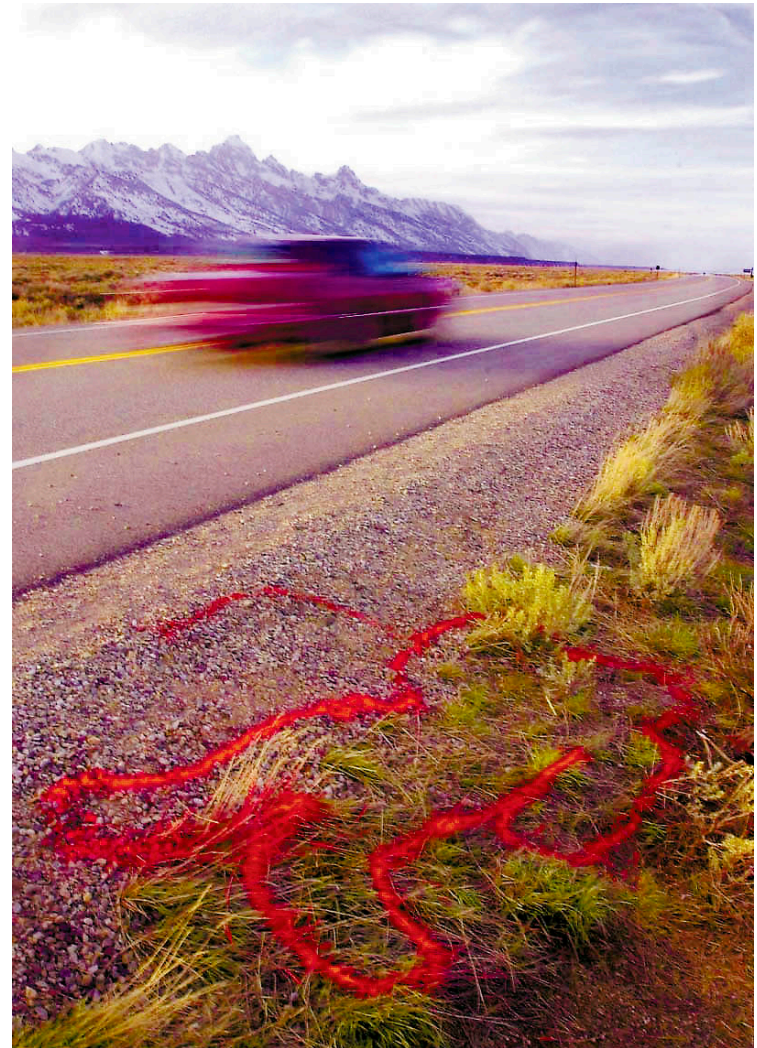
August 2012 – U.S. Secretary Ray LaHood presents an America's Great Outdoors Award to Grand Teton National Park for the North 89 Pathway from Town of Jackson to Moose



“We are doing this for these guys and future generations”  
Secretary LaHood, with three of his grandkids

# Pathway Timeline - Turning Tragedy into Trails

- ◆ **Community support for safe bicycling dates back to 1970's**
- ◆ **1978 GRTE Bicycle Plan – good but no action - never implemented**
- ◆ **1991 Community Pathways start**
- ◆ **1996 Teton County offers Park help**
- ◆ **1999 Gabriella Axelrad killed on bike**
- ◆ **2000 Park Transportation Study starts**
- ◆ **2001 Jeff Pool killed on his bike**
- ◆ **2002 Park EIS begins**
- ◆ **2007 Record of Decision to build 42-mile pathway system**





## After Bike Fatalities Annual Memorial Rides raised awareness – U.S. Senator Craig Thomas and U.S. Senator John Barrasso joined effort – helped secure \$14 million federal funding for Grand Teton Pathways



FIFTH  
**GABRIELLA**  
MEMORIAL

ANNUAL  
**AXELRAD**  
BICYCLE RIDE

GRAND TETON NATIONAL PARK      SUNDAY, JULY 25, 2004

**please attend this special event!**  
**your participation is critical.**

**you're invited:** The family of Gabriella Axelrad invites you to join them in a bicycle ride in her memory on the fifth anniversary of her bicycling death in Grand Teton National Park. Memorial ride participants will bicycle together past the site of Gabriella's death and gather nearby at Jenny Lake where they will discuss how future similar incidents may be prevented through the construction of safe bicycling facilities and motorist awareness.

**meeting location:** Moose Visitor Center to check in between 10:30 and 11:30 a.m. to receive Ride details. The ride will begin at 12 noon from the String Lake parking area (8 miles round trip). Please remember to bring your helmet. The National Park entrance fee will be waived for Ride participants. Riders will receive a complimentary t-shirt. Lunch will be provided.


**rspv:** Call National Parks Conservation Association at 733-4680 or Friends of Pathways at 733-4534

**Your participation in this ride will help to strengthen the national effort to provide safe bicycling facilities in our national parks. Please come and show your support.**



Gabri was just 13 years old when she was struck and killed by a speeding car while bicycling with her family in Grand Teton National Park in July 1999. Gabri, who lived in Los Angeles, was an avid cyclist and accomplished dancer. She had cycled in France, Italy, the Canadian Rockies, the Pacific Northwest and California. She was loved for her kindness, wit and style and is missed more than can be imagined.

CRAIG THOMAS  
WYOMING



UNITED STATES SENATE  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

July 25, 2004

Gabriella Axelrad Family  
Fifth Annual Memorial Bike Ride  
Grand Teton National Park

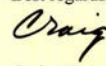
Congratulations...

as you gather again this year to celebrate the life of Gabri and to continue your work to bring about some lasting good from her death. Susan and I are sorry we cannot join you but we'd already made other commitments in the state.

Certainly, nothing can bring back our loved ones and nothing can fill the void left by their untimely passing from our lives. However, your efforts here each year do so much good for a worthy cause and is one, I imagine, Gabri would have led herself. We also hope your time here helps you to feel closer to Gabri and to relish your happy memories, when all of you enjoyed this magical place together.

You began this annual bike ride with a definite agenda in mind, but I suspect you have found it becoming much more than you originally intended. Healing comes in different ways and this place would be where the spirits of the Park, Gabri and yours can come together. Most of all, so many lives are going to be enhanced by your efforts. Gabri would be proud of you!

Again, congratulations and best wishes for continued success! Have a wonderful day and God bless.

Best regards,  
  
Craig Thomas  
United States Senator

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# Progress to date:

- ◆ 2008 First 8-mile Park Pathway
- ◆ 2011 Teton County adds 6-miles
- ◆ 2012 National Park adds 6-miles
- ◆ Next Path funded, but delayed
- ◆ Community requests Moose-Wilson Pathway – safety gap in world-class 40 mile loop





- From 8 to 80, Grand Teton Pathways have proven a remarkable success for visitors, park employees, local community residents



# Key Benefits of People-Powered Modes

*Surprise – Nonmotorized is a LARGER MARKET than Motorized!*

Outdoor Recreation	Motorized	Nonmotorized
Adults that participate, USA	25%	48%
Number of Trips, USA	927 million	2,395 million
Expenditures (western 19 states)	\$91 Billion	\$164 billion



The Outdoor Recreation Economy  
Technical Report, Aug 2012





# Economic Benefits of People-Powered Modes

## University of Wyoming Economic Impact Study: Jackson Hole Trails Project

- The Wyoming State Loan and Investment Board awarded \$455,715 to the Jackson Hole Trails Project in January 2010 through the WVCB
- A total of approximately 29-miles of high quality sustainable trails were built, serving three key frontcountry public trail systems
- Study Results were impressive --



### Total Expenditures and Economic Impacts Figure 4.18

Source	Dollar Amount
Estimated Local Trail User Expenditures	\$784,255
Estimated Non-Local Trail User Expenditures	\$17,712,240
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$18,496,495</b>
County Specific & General Purpose Tax, 2%	\$369,930
State of Wyoming Sales Tax, 4%	\$739,860
Employee Wages & Salaries	\$3,598,045

# New Business Benefits of People-Powered Modes

***“I think throughout the country there has been a paradigm shift. Trails are no longer viewed as community amenities; they’re truly viewed as essential infrastructure for business recruitment.”***

John Brewer, CEO of the Billings Montana Chamber of Commerce, RTC Report

***“Outdoor Recreation Strengthens Local Communities** – outdoor recreation and open spaces are key ingredients to healthy communities, contribute to a high quality of life, and most importantly, attract and sustain businesses and families.”*

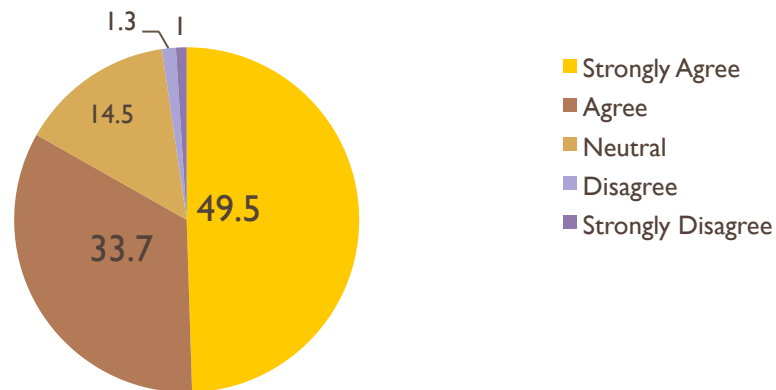
Outdoor Recreation Economy Report 2012



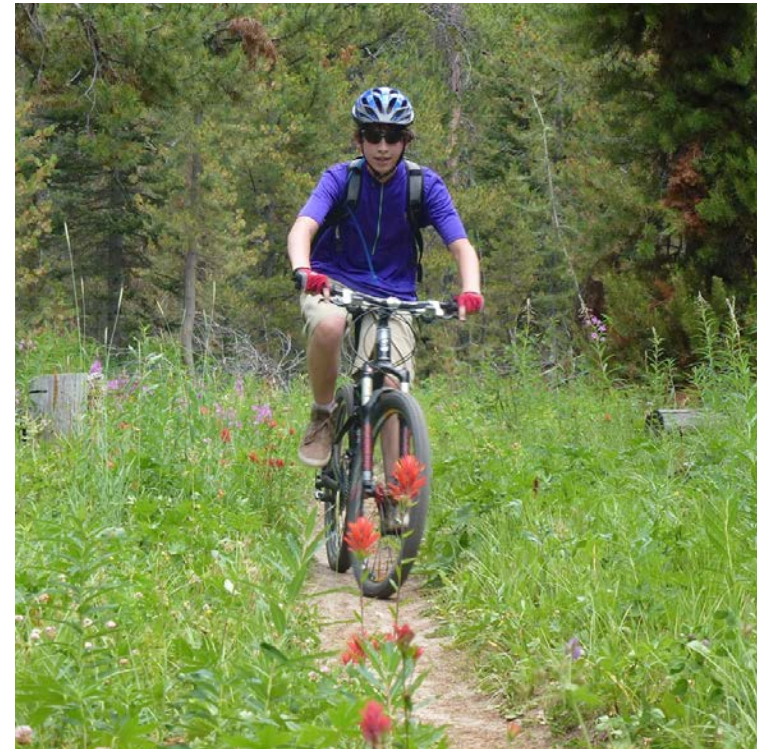
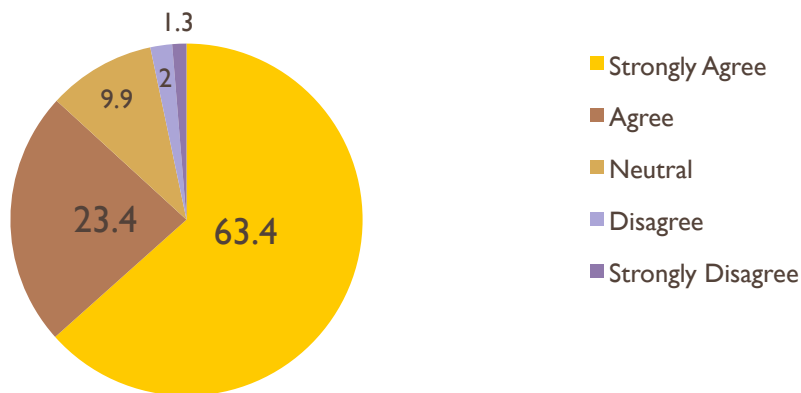


# Tourism, Quality of Life Benefits of Human-Powered Modes

**Well Maintained Trail Systems are Important to my Decisions for Travel Destinations [Figure 4.8]**



**Well maintained trail systems are important to my quality of life at my residence [Figure 4.9]**

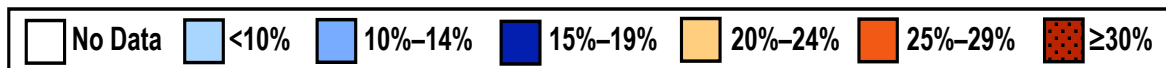
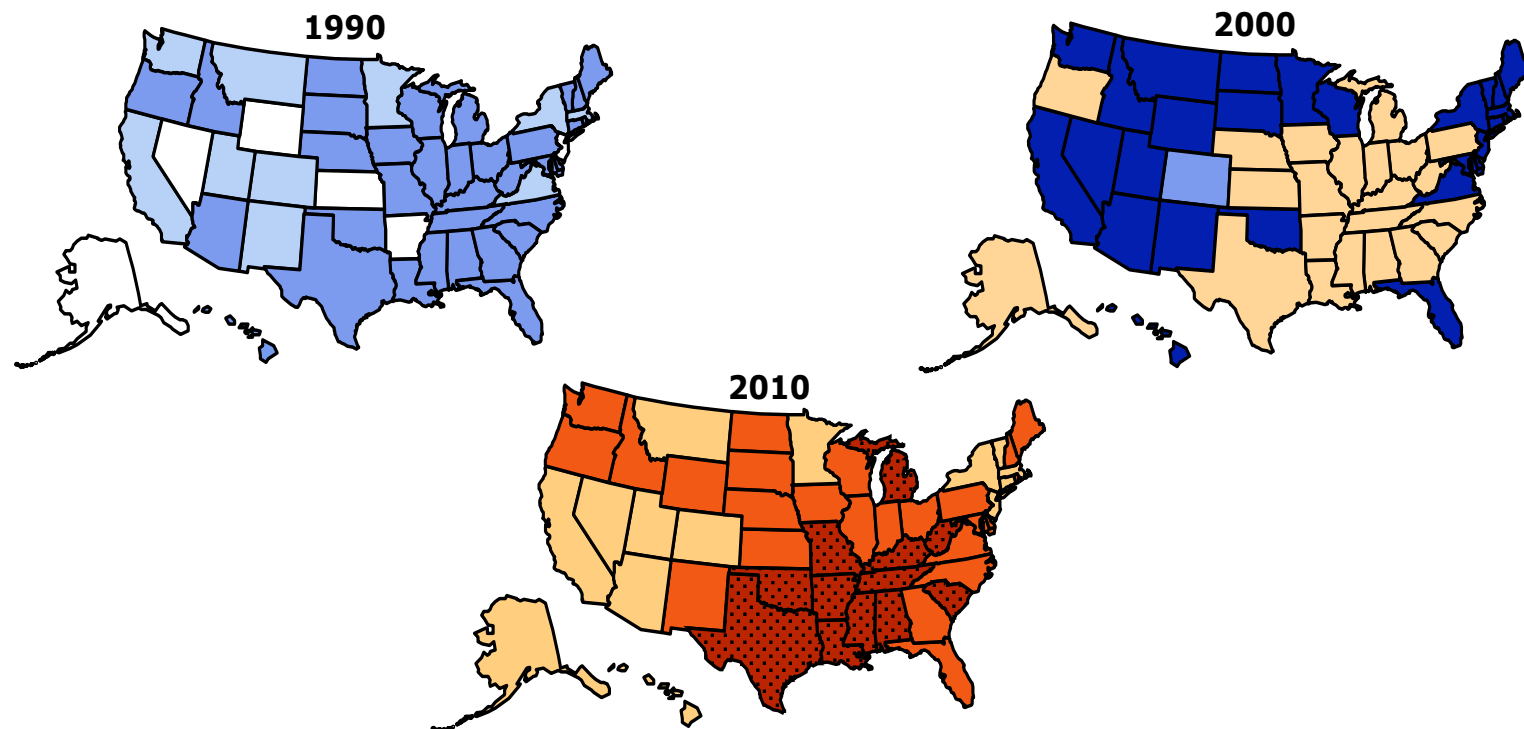


# Health Benefits of Human-Powered Modes

## Obesity Trends\* Among U.S. Adults

**BRFSS, 1990, 2000, 2010**

(\*BMI  $\geq 30$ , or about 30 lbs. overweight for 5' 4" person)



Source: Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, CDC.





## Wyoming Health Issues

*“Rural America today is facing many challenges... Walking and bicycling deliver potent benefits positively disproportionate to the cost of providing the infrastructure to support them.”*

Rails to Trails  
Conservancy report  
Active Transportation  
Beyond Urban  
Centers

### Wyoming County Level (Source CDC) County

Albany County  
Big Horn County  
Campbell County  
Carbon County  
Converse County  
Crook County  
Fremont County  
Goshen County  
Hot Springs County  
Johnson County  
Laramie County  
Lincoln County  
Natrona County  
Niobrara County  
Park County  
Platte County  
Sheridan County  
Sublette County  
Sweetwater County  
**Teton County**  
Uinta County  
Washakie County  
Weston County  
**Average (2010)**

### Obesity - of Adults in Wyoming, 2009

#### Estimated Percent

21.8  
27.6  
31.9  
30.5  
29.1  
23.3  
24.6  
27  
24.2  
23.7  
25.3  
22  
27.3  
23.9  
21.8  
25  
24.9  
26.5  
29.6  
**13.8**  
30.9  
24.5  
28.8  
**25.1**

### Leisure-Time Physical Inactivity - of Adults in Wyoming, 2009

#### Estimated Percent

18.6  
27.3  
26.6  
31.9  
24.3  
23.4  
25.4  
30.9  
25.3  
22.8  
23.7  
21.5  
23.9  
30.3  
22.5  
28.4  
20.1  
23.2  
24  
**10.1**  
23.1  
25.3  
28.2

# What about Pathways and Wildlife?

1. Grand Teton National Park Pathway Elk Study
2. Ungulate responses to multi-use pathway construction and use in Grand Teton National Park
3. Impacts of a multi-use pathway on American black bears in grand Teton national park, Wyoming
4. Effects of pathways within Grand Teton National Park on avian diversity, abundance, distribution, nesting productivity, and breeding behaviors
5. Analysis of Nonmotorized Use in Grand Teton Park





## **Pathway User Study: Analysis of Nonmotorized Use in Grand Teton Park:**

“Conclusion...The one major suggestion given by almost everyone riding the pathway – Extend the shared use pathway. People love the pathway and want it to go farther. People want to get out of the car. People want to feel Grand Teton National Park. On a bicycle it blows in your face, it can be smelled, it is seen unobstructed, and the slower pace allows time for it all to soak in.”





# Goals in sight - Grand Teton National Park and Jackson Hole Community

- ◆ Over 100 miles combined Pathway Systems
- ◆ 1,000 miles dirt trails
- ◆ Robust Transit System
- ◆ Safe functional Roadways
- ◆ Healthy Park
- ◆ Healthy Community





# Bringing Bikes and Business to our National Parks – Solutions for you to bring home to your park leaders

- ◆ Safe Roads
- ◆ Pathways
- ◆ Nonmotorized Trails
- ◆ Transit
- ◆ Economic Development
- ◆ Healthy parks
- ◆ Healthy communities

## Questions and Discussion

**THANK YOU –**

**Tim Young, Executive Director  
Wyoming Pathways**

