

WILD TURKEY MANAGEMENT ACTION PLAN

Town of Jordan

Overview:

A healthy wild turkey population is important to the people of Jordan. Wildlife viewing is an esthetic value that will be preserved. However, high wild turkey numbers and their habits within the boundaries of the town of Jordan can create a situation that threatens human safety, damages property and is not conducive to the long-term health of the wild turkey population or its habitat.

History:

A number of citizens have complained that the risk to human safety and the level of property damage have grown to unacceptable levels. A town council meeting was held March 2nd, 2021 to meet with concerned citizens and with representatives from Fish, Wildlife, and Parks. A Public Hearing was held April 6th, 2021 to discuss the plan with the public. The Garfield County Commissioners and the Garfield County Sheriff's Office were also contacted in regards to the plan.

The Action Plan's PURPOSE and SCOPE are:

- *To reduce the negative impacts to people caused by the wild turkeys in and near the town of Jordan .*

Note: While the management of wild turkeys that inhabit Jordan occurs on a larger scale, the restrictions detailed in the PLAN are limited to within the boundaries of the Town of Jordan.

The specific GOALS are:

- *To eliminate turkeys that threaten human safety and;*
- *To reduce damage to property and negative human-turkey interactions by lowering wild turkey numbers in the town.*

Wild Turkey Populations:

The turkeys comprise two distinct populations. One population is still relatively wild and wary of human contact. These *wild turkeys* generally occupy periphery areas but pass through and occasionally use residential or business areas. These turkeys do not cause as many problems but over time will contribute to the other population comprising *resident turkeys* that remain year around within the town.

ACTIONS needed to achieve the goals:

- A. *Free public hunting will be used as the management tool of choice* to control the size of both populations and to keep individual birds wary of people, which will discourage them from becoming *resident turkeys*.
- B. *Aggressive resident turkeys that threaten human safety will be dispatched* as soon as possible after receiving a complaint. Montana Peace Officers, (including but not limited to the Garfield County Sheriff and Deputies and Fish, Wildlife & Parks Wardens) acting in their official capacities, are the only persons authorized to use firearms for the purposes of dispatching turkeys within the city limits. Complaints should be directed to the Garfield County Sheriff's Office.
- C. *Resident turkeys which are causing severe and persistent damage to gardens and ornamental plantings or threaten the safety of pets confined to yards will be dispatched*, if necessary by the Garfield County Sheriff and Deputies, or the local Fish, Wildlife and Parks warden. Incidents of severe damage may be referred to the warden. The intent is to eliminate *resident turkeys* where they are causing problems.
- D. *The people of Jordan must refrain from artificial feeding of turkeys* as a way to encourage them to stay near, or return to the city. Pursuit to MCA 87-3-130, it is a misdemeanor violation to feed turkeys. In addition, the diet is unhealthy and the practice induces the turkeys to adopt habits that put them in conflict with humans and ultimately means these turkeys must be destroyed. Wild and wary turkeys will stay out of trouble but will still be visible to those who enjoy seeing them as they pass through areas occupied by people.

Note 1: Our tradition and state law recognizes the importance of Montana's public wildlife legacy. Minor or occasional property damage caused by *wild turkeys* is a by-product of their presence that Montanan's have chosen to accept. This also is in accord with the expressed wishes of the residents of Jordan.

Note 2: Citizens who find a dead turkey in town should call the warden who may inspect it and will authorize its removal.

Note 3: Carcasses of turkeys that must be killed will be given to the local food bank or other suitable charity.

Note 4: Turkeys that have been killed with a vehicle will be removed by the Garfield County Sheriff's Office or the Montana Department of Transportation depending on the location of the animal.

Management Process:

Using the following strategies will facilitate free public hunting of wild turkeys:

1. Hunting will be in accordance with all Montana laws and regulations.
2. Hunting will be managed with safety as a primary consideration. - In some locations assigning and directing hunters to appropriate sites will suffice. In more sensitive locations hunters will actually be escorted to assure safe and successful harvests.
3. Hunting will be restricted solely to the use of archery equipment in town as defined by Fish, Wildlife & Parks Commission Regulations. Use of shotguns will be at the discretion of the Town of Jordan and local law enforcement.
4. Only open space property owners approved by the Town of Jordan may allow hunting on their properties. Hunting is allowed on Town and County owned property with permission (see attached map). Contact Town offices during regular business hours to obtain permission to hunt. A list of approved property owners will be maintained at the Town of Jordan offices. *Hunters are still required to check-in and obtain approval from a landowner before hunting on their property.*
5. Regular season hunts will be optimized and special damage hunts will be employed when needed and where they are affective.
6. Hunters will be required to bag and remove the turkey viscera from areas where its presence may be offensive or a problem.

Note: Hunters, particularly those who might be interested in damage hunts but who don't need the meat, **may** have the option of donating their game to a suitable charity.

Monitoring and Responsibilities:

The Town of Jordan and Fish, Wildlife & Parks will jointly monitor the implementation and effectiveness of this Action Plan.

The Garfield County Sheriff's Office will accept, and if necessary forward, complaint calls and will provide the assistance of a deputy, when needed in response to complaints about emergency situations involving turkeys. A deputy sheriff, or the highway patrol will continue to respond to auto/turkey accidents. The number and types of complaints received, as well as the action taken will be tabulated.

Fish, Wildlife & Parks will continue ongoing efforts to gather hunter harvest data and population trend survey data to determine turkey population levels within Jordan and surrounding areas.

Approved property owners will manage the hunting on their respective properties.

Program Longevity:

Consensus of the Town of Jordan and approval of Fish, Wildlife & Parks may modify this ACTION PLAN in writing.

This ACTION PLAN is effective upon authorization from Fish, Wildlife & Parks and the Town of Jordan, and it will remain in effect until modified or terminated by the Town of Jordan or Fish, Wildlife & Parks.

Representing Officials:

For: Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks

For: Town of Jordan

Don Spillum

Date of ACTION PLAN authorization:

The following individuals' signatories represent their respective support for the ACTION PLAN:

For: The Garfield County Commissioners

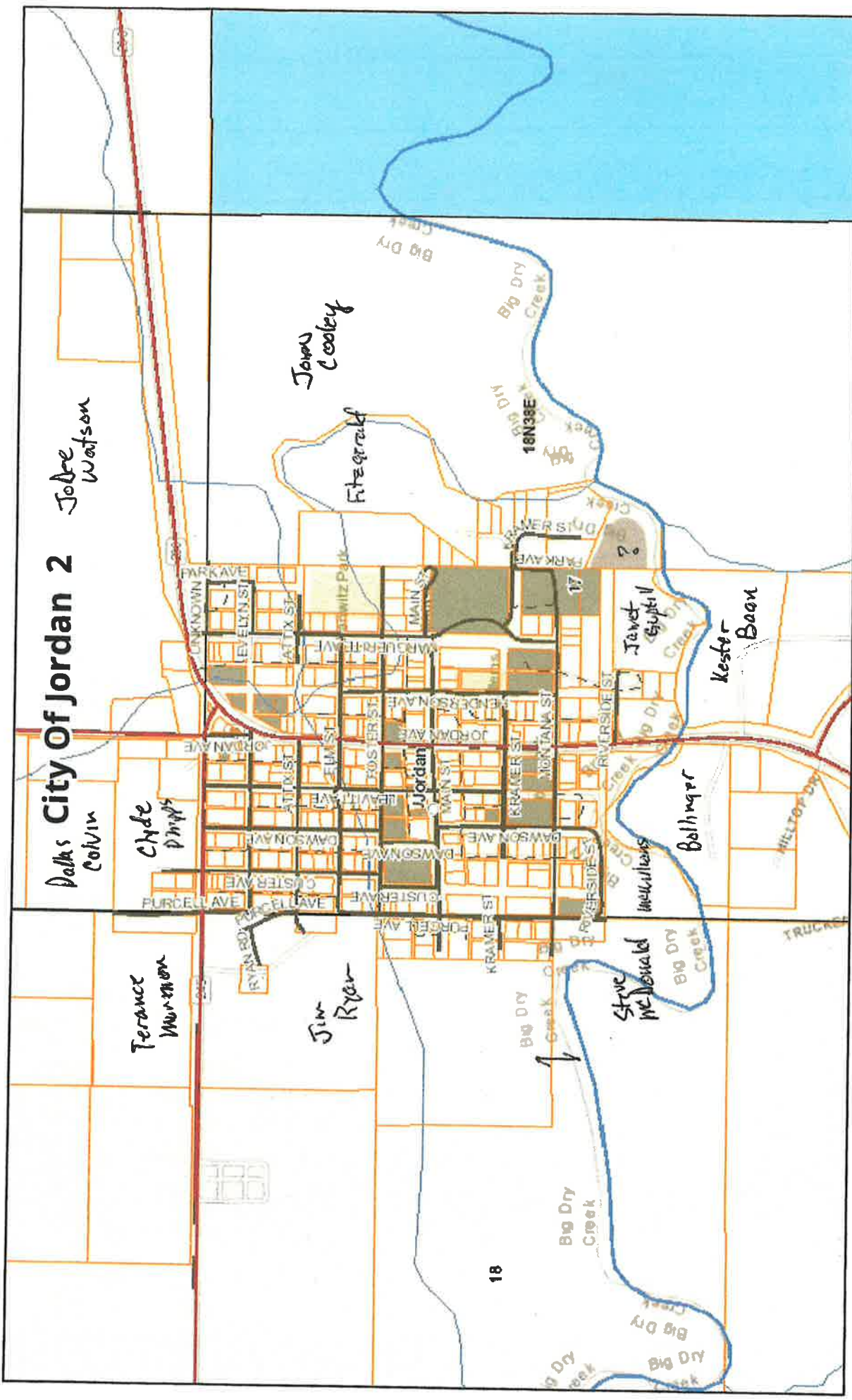
[Signature]

Jerry Leles

For: Garfield County Sheriff's Office

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Cities and Towns (Pop > 0)

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Cadastral Parcels

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Printed from fwp.mt.gov
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 1:18,056
 0.3
 0 0.15 0.225 0.45 0.6 mi
 0 0.225 0.45 0.9 km

This map was generated from the Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) internal FWP Mapper online mapping system. Data layers on this map may depict sensitive species level information. This map is not intended for distribution or use beyond work associated with FWP.

Some layers may not appear in the legend due to name size limitations