



# Building from the Best of the Northern Rockies



The Sonoran Institute promotes community decisions that respect the land and people of western North America. Facing rapid change, Western communities recognize and value the importance of protecting their natural and cultural assets. The Sonoran Institute offers tools, training and sound information for managing growth and change and encourages collaboration, civil dialogue and big-picture thinking to create practical solutions. The Institute promotes healthy lands, sound economies, and vibrant communities that embrace conservation as an integral part of their prosperity and quality of life. Founded in 1990, the Sonoran Institute is a nonprofit organization with offices in Tucson and Phoenix, Arizona; Bozeman and Helena, Montana; Grand Junction, Colorado; and Mexicali, Baja California, Mexico.



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Unless otherwise noted



# Building from the Best of the Northern Rockies

Produced by the Northern Rockies office of the Sonoran Institute in Bozeman, Montana, Building from the Best of the Northern Rockies is intended to recognize the successes that have been achieved by communities throughout the region and offer other communities precedent on which they can build.





# Teton Science Schools' Jackson Campus

700 Coyote Canyon Road  
Jackson, Wyoming

- Sustainability
- Community Design
- Open Space

Teton Science Schools' new Jackson Campus is comprised of ten buildings, totaling nearly 78,000 square feet. The welcome center, dining hall, two residential lodges, five education buildings, the maintenance and outfitting center, and a booster pump house were all designed and built to protect wildlife habitat and scenic resources, conserve water, promote healthy air quality, and reduce energy and material consumption. They are also adaptable, flexible, functional and low-maintenance. Significantly, the complex of buildings is limited to less than 2 percent of the 880-acre campus, permitting key wildlife habitat areas to be preserved. Uniquely for a contemporary school, no air-conditioning is used – all of the buildings are naturally cooled with operable windows and mechanical ventilation. Narrow building footprints maximize day lighting, which reduces the demand for artificial lighting and increases sun exposure on insulated concrete floor slabs incorporated for their thermal mass.

Developer/Owner:  
Teton Science Schools  
[www.tetonscience.org](http://www.tetonscience.org)

Architect and Landscape Architects:  
Mithun  
[www.mithun.com](http://www.mithun.com)  
Hawtin Jorgensen Architects  
265 E. Kelly Ave.  
Jackson, WY 83001  
[www.hawtinjorgensen.com](http://www.hawtinjorgensen.com)

Contractor:  
Zaist Construction  
Management  
Jackson, Wyoming

Land Cost	\$4.5 M
Pre-Development Cost	\$1.5 M
Financing Cost	\$700,000
Building Cost	\$22.5 M
<b>Total Cost</b>	<b>\$28.5 M</b>

Gross Area of Building	78,000 SF
Cost per SF	\$160

Area of Site	15 acres
Number of Living Units	150
Open Space	845 acres
Parking and Pavement	120 units
	15.3 acres



Above: The campus buildings are hidden from the highway's viewscape by their location in a draw that protects them from wind and weather. Right: Tall windows permit light to be drawn deeply into the adjacent spaces. © Mithun



“The Jackson Campus of the Teton Science Schools was conceived to utilize and demonstrate environmentally intelligent design and high performance building solutions.”  
Rich Bloom — Former Associate Executive Director/CFO for Teton Science Schools

## Sustainability

The campus layout and buildings were shaped in direct response to the site's natural conditions:

- Building roofs sloped to allow maximum solar access to interior spaces
- Narrow building footprints maximize day lighting from both sides of the building
- Buildings with heavy daytime use situated to maximize solar access
- Roof slopes and porches designed to shed snow away from pedestrians
- Landscape buffer of trees and stone prevents pedestrians from walking on icy surfaces during freeze/thaw seasons
- Concrete stem walls provide protection from accumulated snow
- Campus development hidden by topography from the highway
- Buildings sited at the bottom of a valley paralleling topography to minimize site disturbance
- Building footprints, volumes and window openings designed to maximize natural passive ventilation and cooling
- Angle and direction of shed roofs of buildings echo geological subsurface



Fiber cement siding is contrasted by a vertical photovoltaic curtain wall. This is in keeping with the aspirations to both maintain traditional rural character and emulate the West's historic adaptation of technological innovation. © Mithun



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## Lessons Learned

- Exterior connections between buildings that require going outside have proven to offer social and physical benefits.