



February 2, 2010

Board of County Commissioners
Re: Helicopter Tree Removal as a Temporary Use

Dear Commissioners,

On behalf of the Jackson Hole Conservation Alliance, I apologize for being unable to attend the Feb. 2 hearing. Following are some brief comments regarding the proposed amendment to allow helicopter tree removal as a temporary use.

With regard to the outlined standards for temporary helicopter tree removal, we have a concern regarding standard number 5, "A **statement** as to the impacts of the project on the existing wildlife habitat on the property, prepared by a wildlife biologist, shall be provided, and mitigation measures may be required." While we understand that the language is intended to be vague to accommodate application to diverse circumstances (small or large-scale projects), it would be ideal to have further clarification on the term "statement." For example, it would be better to have a more specific idea of the type of analysis that would be required to create this "statement." Could the statement be just one paragraph? How does it compare to the level of analysis required as part of an environmental assessment? Are there different standards for the Natural Resources Overlay? Will a specific set of factors be assessed (such as a checklist) or will consistent criteria be used with each project? Will the analysis just address wildlife habitat for species of special concern? These are just a couple questions that come to mind, with our overall goal to ensure that this amendment identifies clear requirements for assessments of environmental impacts.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kristy Bruner".

Kristy Bruner
Community Planning Director