

April 7, 2011

Skyline Trail/Putt Putt construction  
c/o Dale Deiter, District Ranger  
Bridger-Teton National Forest, Jackson Ranger District  
P.O. Box 1689  
Jackson, WY 83001

Dear Ranger Deiter;

The Jackson Hole Conservation Alliance, representing a membership of 2,000, many of whom live and recreate in Teton County, Wyoming, offers the following comments for the scoping of the Skyline Trail/Putt Putt Extension.

We recall the lengthy and thorough process that resulted in the master plan for a trail system on Snow King, and applaud the work that the Bridger-Teton has already invested in this proposed project. Now that it is time to finalize some of the ideas that were generated at those meetings, we would like to make sure that an equally thorough look at the ramifications of this project is done through NEPA.

For more than 30 years the Alliance has worked to protect wildlife and habitat in the valley. As our population grows, we find more and more potential impacts on public lands. We continue to focus on assuring that human activities are in harmony with the area's wildlife, scenic and natural resources. The proposed additions to the Snow King trail system will require a careful look at how these new miles of trail will impact wildlife and habitat.

The Skyline route will place six miles of new trail on landscape that does not currently have extensive human impact. Placed on the top of the ridge, this new trail might result in a barrier to the movement of moose, elk and deer. The Putt Putt Extension will cross several ephemeral springs and further fragment the riparian vegetation from adjacent habitat. We are particularly concerned about these two issues, and would request that a very detailed study be made of the impact these miles of trail will have on wildlife and habitat.

The Alliance looks forward to seeing the results of your analysis of this project and helping to provide a trail system that meets the needs of wildlife and our community.

Sincerely,

Louise Lasley, Public Lands Director  
Jackson Hole Conservation Alliance