

November 18, 2011

To: Teton Board of County Commissioners, Jackson Town Council, Mayor Mark Barron  
Re: Request regarding Natural Resources Technical Advisory Board  
Submitted via email

Dear County Commissioners, Mayor and Town Council,

Given our community's overwhelming emphasis on the importance of wildlife throughout the Comprehensive Plan review process, we feel strongly that the public must be presented with a summary of what the likely impacts on wildlife would be if we implement the development pattern illustrated in the upcoming Character District maps.

At the November 3, 2011, meeting of the Natural Resources Technical Advisory Board, the Alliance asked the NRTAB members if they could provide a rapid assessment report of the probable wildlife impacts resulting from the type of "buildout" development that will be illustrated by the maps. The new maps and district descriptions should show exactly where to expect significant new development, how much development, and of what types. Overlaying projected development on identified critical wildlife habitat and applying disturbance buffers for associated activities (i.e. traffic, recreation, structures) will provide a sense of potential direct and indirect impacts to wildlife and their habitats. The NRTAB, with commissioner Hank Phibbs in attendance, recommended taking our proposal through the Teton County Commissioners and Jackson Town Council who direct the NRTAB activities.

The Alliance requests that in their November 21st meetings, our elected officials direct the NRTAB to make a recommendation on how to analyze and report on expected cumulative impacts on wildlife throughout the districts. With a very short timeline, we would like the NRTAB to provide guidance on the process and suggest a consultant for this work. We recognize that this will be a rough estimate, not a polished study, but the public deserves to see an estimate before the Comp Plan is adopted. Over the coming years, the Alliance will continue to support the work of the NRTAB to develop more sophisticated methods to analyze impacts on wildlife. However, if we wait for this more detailed analysis, the Comp Plan will already be implemented and it will be harder to make any needed adjustments.

Please ask the NRTAB to look into this matter.

Sincerely,

Trevor Stevenson, Executive Director  
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Partnering for a wild & beautiful valley since 1979  
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