



Jackson Hole Conservation Alliance
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What's happening on the Bridger-Teton? Find out Feb. 5

At 3.4 million acres, the Bridger-Teton National Forest surrounding Jackson Hole is larger than Yellowstone and Grand Teton national parks combined. More than 500 miles of clear mountain streams meeting the criteria for Wild and Scenic status run through the forest, and it's home to countless species that all require healthy habitat to survive. The Bridger-Teton's unparalleled wildlife, scenery and recreational opportunities also drive our local and regional economies.

All of these things depend on good, comprehensive management to sustain them. Bridger-Teton officials began revising the forest's long-term management plan in 2005, but this process has been stalled due to legal wrangling over federal rules governing such plans. Meanwhile, the forest continues to operate under a plan that's now nearly 20 years old.

The lack of a current comprehensive management plan leaves the forest vulnerable to piecemeal changes that can add up to major threats to its health. On Thursday, Feb. 5, find out how climate change, energy development, disease and increased recreational use are affecting the Bridger-Teton. And find out how you can help forest managers protect it for future generations.

"Ideally, we would have a comprehensive plan to make sure that nothing falls through the cracks, that we are protecting our wildlife and their habitat as best we can," said Louise Lasley, Jackson Hole Conservation Alliance public lands director. "But, if we gather a large part of the community, and help identify places and problems that we believe need attention, we can help the Bridger-Teton make good management decisions in the interim."

Please join the Conservation Alliance and Forest Service officials on Feb. 5 from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Teton County Library auditorium for pizza and a chance to share information, ideas and concerns directly with those who determine how the forest is managed.

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The Jackson Hole Conservation Alliance is a nonprofit organization dedicated to responsible land stewardship to ensure that human activities are in harmony with the area's irreplaceable wildlife, scenic and other natural resources. The organization has approximately 2,000 members from Jackson Hole and across the nation.