



June 29, 2009

Teton County Planning Commission

cc: Town of Jackson Planning Commission

Mayor and Town Councilors, and Teton Board of County Commissioners

Jackson/Teton County Planning Team: Jeff Daughtery, Tyler Sinclair, Alex Norton, Jeff Noffsinger

Dear members of the Teton County Planning Commission,

On behalf of the Jackson Hole Conservation Alliance, thank you for your continued work on the planning process underway. As we stated in our May 15, 2009, correspondence, the Conservation Alliance has major concerns with the new draft of the Jackson/Teton County Comprehensive Plan, released on April 13, 2009.

In written form, **we would like to reiterate our gratitude for the message sent and action taken by commissioners Larry Hamilton, Tony Wall and Forrest McCarthy on June 11, 2009.** We also appreciate your commitment to continued discussions on a future motion, with specific recommendations for planning staff, scheduled for this Monday, June 29, 2009.

As we have stated in recent hearings, the significant departure from the original objective of the process – to improve the current Jackson/Teton County Comprehensive Plan – and therefore the difference in outcome (the new draft), is a key issue. We recognize that the complexity of this planning process has been compounded given that the new draft represents a total overhaul/complete rewrite of the existing plan. Because of the extent of the change, and a departure from the initial objectives of this process, the review process should include necessary adjustments in its timeline.

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank you for coordinating the public workshop on June 23, 2009. The Conservation Alliance recognizes the importance of public review as a critical component of the process that must occur in the future in order for this process to result in a workable, effective plan for our community. However, we do not see anything wrong with taking a pause, and sending the draft back to staff for initial revisions to ensure that the workshop and hearing process will be more effective in the long run.

At this point, the new draft does not represent an improvement of the 1994 Plan in fundamental ways. We value the position that this document should be in a more near-complete form and more representative of community will prior to entering another round of public review. We also believe much of the foundation, vision, policies, and strategies that could help get the most recent draft back on track are already outlined in our existing 1994 Plan.

Thank you again for your leadership, and all your work on behalf of our community to protect the values of Jackson Hole that make it world renowned – its wildlife, open spaces, scenery, recreational opportunities and small mountain town character. Please contact us with any questions.

Sincerely,

Franz Camenzind
Executive Director

Kristy Bruner
Community Planning Director