



Jackson Hole Conservation Alliance  
(307) 733-9417 • [www.jhalliance.org](http://www.jhalliance.org)

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## Road reconstruction harmful to wildlife

In an era when we are increasingly aware of our local and regional wildlife habitats and the importance of animals being able to move between areas seasonally and daily, we have two transportation proposals that will impact these critical wildlife needs.

The Wyoming Department of Transportation has released the draft of their environmental impact statement (EIS) on the reconstruction of Highway 26/89/189/191 between Hoback Junction and the southern end of the existing five-lane section at the southern end of South Park Loop Road. This section of road, approximately 7 miles long, bisects winter habitat for elk, deer and moose. Elk daily cross this road between the South Park feedground and open slopes on the east side. Moose and deer use the river bottom along the road all year long. It is the locus of high numbers of road kill for each of those species. The two proposed action alternatives differ only in the one-mile section closest to Hoback Junction; the remainder of the road, about 6 miles, will be "five-lane rural" -- a designation that defies belief -- not to mention a serious impediment to wildlife movement. Vehicle collisions with wildlife also impact human health and safety. Attempts to address this problem are not clearly stated in the draft EIS. The public has an opportunity to review this proposal and talk to WYDOT staff this Thursday, Feb. 26, at Jackson Hole High School between 5 and 7 p.m. Your comments on this assault to our wildlife and to the rural character of Jackson Hole can be made at that time or by March 9 to the first address given below.

The second proposal is a paved pathway north of Jackson to the Grand Teton National Park boundary. There are several alternatives in the draft environmental assessment differing only in whether they are built on the east side of the highway, the west side or a combination of the two. Anyone traveling this road can see elk and deer in the winter, but we seldom see the sage grouse, or are as aware of the raptors, small mammals and songbirds. Your comments on this project are also due by March 9, to the second address below.

The Jackson Hole Conservation Alliance has a long history of advocating for our wildlife and its habitat. We strongly believe that all human activities should be in harmony with these natural resources. If there are any steps that can be taken to assure the continued presence of wildlife in Jackson Hole, we work to see those steps included in any final decision. Jackson Hole is unique, not only for our scenic beauty and recreational opportunities, but for these animals that live here with us: elk, moose, deer, eagles, swans, wolves, hawks, coyotes, pronghorn and more. To not stand up for them, to not keep them a part of our lives, would be irresponsible and sad.

Copies of our comments regarding these projects can be found beginning March 2 at <http://www.jhalliance.org/library.htm#comments>. Here's where you can submit your comments:

Mr. Lee Potter, Federal Highway Administration  
2617 E. Lincolnway, Suite D, Cheyenne, Wyoming 82001-5671  
Or via email to: [Hobackcomments@dot.state.wy.us](mailto:Hobackcomments@dot.state.wy.us)

Jackson Hole Community Pathways, Attn: Brian Schilling, P.O. Box 1687, Jackson, Wyoming 83001

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