



Jackson Hole Conservation Alliance

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Support change in Environmental Assessment policy

Teton County planning commissioners Tony Wall and Forrest McCarthy have brought forward a text amendment that would require Teton County, rather than developers, to hire consultants to conduct environmental assessments. (The developers would still pay for these assessments.) The Jackson Hole Conservation Alliance strongly supports this change in policy, which is a common-sense, proactive measure to avert potential conflicts of interest in the government process.

Our community has made it clear that the protection of wildlife and other natural resources is its top priority. Across three community surveys conducted as part of the Comp Plan update, 78.9 to 87 percent of respondents agreed that stronger standards should be implemented “to protect natural resource areas as part of new developments.” Approval of this text amendment would demonstrate support for unbiased review of site-level environmental conditions and potential development-related impacts. In short, approval of this measure would go a long way in responding to the public’s desire for stronger policies to protect natural resources.

Next Tuesday, Dec. 2, the Teton Board of County Commissioners will vote on this text amendment. Please voice your support for this proposal, and urge commissioners to apply this measure to ALL -- minor, intermediate and major -- development proposals.

Kristy Bruner, Community Planning Director
Jackson Hole Conservation Alliance

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