

RESOLUTION 21-18

A Resolution Banning Commercial Air Tours in Grand Teton National Park

WHEREAS, Wind River Air, LLC scenic helicopter tours represents a commercial use that is incompatible with Grand Teton National Park and other surrounding public lands; and

WHEREAS, the mission of Grand Teton National Park (GTNP) is to preserve unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and values of the National Park System and specifically the resources and values within the boundary of Grand Teton National Park for the enjoyment, education and inspiration of this and future generations; and

WHEREAS, GTNP is the only national park in the country that has an airport, the Jackson Hole Airport (JHA), within its boundary; and

WHEREAS, the JHA operates under Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) rules and regulations regarding authorized operations and aeronautical activities; and

WHEREAS, those activities include aircraft arrivals and departures necessary for the transportation of people and cargo; and

WHEREAS, those activities also include daily flight operations that are for scenic purposes only and not for passenger transport; and

WHEREAS, multiple daily scenic tours originate from airports outside but on the borders of GTNP and Yellowstone National Park; and

WHEREAS, these flight operations from surrounding airports purport to be for transport but whose documented flight paths clearly indicate are for scenic purposes; and

WHEREAS, the JHA cannot further restrict flight paths because of the federal preemption provided by the Aviation Noise and Capacity Act of 1990; and

WHEREAS, GTNP offers guidance that aircraft should stay 2,000 feet or more above the landscape but that this is only guidance and not a legally enforceable restriction; and

WHEREAS, scenic helicopter tours have created well-documented negative impacts over GTNP and adjacent public lands that include noise, wildlife disturbances, scenic intrusions in viewsheds, potential safety hazards, interference with Teton County Search and Rescue operations and diminished experiences for visitors of the park; and

WHEREAS, Congressional legislation directing the FAA to craft rules and guidance restricting flights for scenic purposes from operating out of Jackson Hole Airport is the most effective method to protect the mission and values of GTNP; and

NOW, THEREFORE, having duly met at a regular meeting and considered the matter, the Town Council of the Town of Jackson, does hereby support a permanent ban of commercial helicopter tours over Grand Teton National Park and adjacent public lands in Teton County, Wyoming, and the Town of Jackson, and seeks Congressional relief through legislation.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 17th day of May 2021.

TOWN OF JACKSON



Hailey Morton Levinson, Mayor

ATTEST:



Lynsey Lenamond, Town Clerk