



**BOARD OF COUNTY  
COMMISSIONERS**



**TOWN COUNCIL**

## **JOINT INFORMATION MEETING AGENDA DOCUMENTATION**

**PREPARATION DATE:** July 26, 2010  
**MEETING DATE:** August 2, 2010

**SUBMITTING DEPARTMENT:** Town Planning & Building  
**DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR:** Tyler Sinclair, AICP  
**PRESENTER:** Bob McLaurin

**SUBJECT:** United States Forest Service

---

### STATEMENT/PURPOSE

The purpose of this item is to review previous action(s) taken by the elected officials regarding the Bridger-Teton National Forest (BTNF) Supervisor's Office remaining in Jackson and to determine what if any further action should be taken.

### BACKGROUND/ALTERNATIVES

At the October 5, 2009, JIM, the Town and County approved a joint resolution expressing their support for the BTNF Supervisor's Office remaining in Jackson and made general statements regarding BTNF workforce housing, specifically, the BTNF administrative site accessed from Nelson Drive (see attached).

Subsequently, at the November 30, 2009, Town Council meeting, Council discussed the BTNF Environmental Assessment, identifying four (4) possible alternates for the Jackson Administrative Site Land Conveyance and Development. The Council again expressed their support for the BTNF Supervisor's Office remaining in Jackson and supported identifying a funding source other than the sale of public lands for the construction of new facilities (see attached). In addition, the letter asked the BTNF to recognize the critical importance of the Town and County's 10 x 10 initiative as it related to providing housing for the BTNF workforce in Jackson.

Since that time, Regional Forester Harv Forsgren has requested a revised Environmental Assessment (EA) with three new options: 1) A "community option" prepared and supported by the Jackson Hole community; 2) Relocation of the Forest Service completely from Jackson; and 3) Leasing options for the proposed site along with the sale of Forest Service property. At the August JIM meeting, District Ranger Dale Dieter will introduce the new Acting Forest Supervisor Jacque Buchanan to the elected officials and provide an overview of the revised EA and other updates on the overall process and be available for questions.

Related to a "Community Option", there has been a group of community members meeting, led by the Jackson Hole Conservation Alliance, working on a "Community Option". There have been a total of four

(4) meetings with attendance from the following: Paul Vogelheim, Leland Christensen, Michael Schrotz, Christine Walker, Tim O'Donoghue, Armond Acri, Peter Lang, Mike Halpin, Joe Albright, Charlie Payne, Cory Hatch, Reagan Bebout, Dale Dieter, Patty Ewing, Pam Luline, Pat Ullman, others. Please see the attached summary of the work completed by this group to date from Louise Lasley. Elected officials many want to discuss what, if any, role the Town and County (staff and/or elected officials) should have with this group, including the development of a "Community Option" for consideration of by the Forest Service.

In addition, the Forest Service has asked if someone from the Town would be available to work with Christine Walker of the Housing Authority and the Forest Service to determine housing options for consideration by the Forest Service as part of the new EA. Elected Officials may want to discuss what, if any, role the Town and County (staff and/or elected officials) should have in working with the Forest Service and Housing Authority to develop housing alternatives.

#### ATTACHMENTS

Jackson Hole Conservation Alliance Working Group Summary  
Joint Resolution, dated October 5, 2009  
Town Council letter to BTNF dated November 30, 2009  
Town Council Workshop, meeting minutes from November 30, 2009

#### FISCAL IMPACT

None

#### STAFF IMPACT

To be Determined

#### LEGAL REVIEW

None completed at this time.

#### RECOMMENDATION

Staff is recommending that the Town Council and the Board of County Commissioners provide staff direction on any identified next steps.

#### SUGGESTED MOTION

I move to direct staff to \_\_\_\_\_.

## **Jackson Hole Conservation Alliance Working Group Summary**

The board of the Jackson Hole Conservation Alliance (JHCA) has adopted a position regarding the Bridger-Teton National Forest (BTNF) similar to that of the Town of Jackson. We believe that the sale of public lands to finance normal operating and capital funding needs is unacceptable. These funds should be appropriated by Congress to satisfy the needs of the agencies under their control. We should not be selling assets to continue fundamental operations.

JHCA has long advocated that the Supervisor's Office should remain here in Jackson for both efficiency and community strength. To help the BTNF meet their needs without leaving the valley, we have organized community meetings to find other funding sources and alternative solutions. The first of these was in March 2010, followed by ones in April, June and July.

A large group of involved citizens has participated in these meetings that includes neighbors to the proposed employee housing in east Jackson, the Jackson Hole Chamber of Commerce, the representatives of Senators Enzi and Barrasso and Representative Lummis, developers, the Teton Board of County Commissioners, Teton County Housing Authority (TCHA), Save Historic Jackson Hole, and the BTNF. These discussions began with identifying components of the proposal that would or would not be acceptable to the community, and has resulted in developing a timeline and funding source plan, the alternative to consider leasing the land in question instead of selling, and employee housing options that utilize existing resources and infrastructure.

This group has been encouraged by Regional Forester Harv Forsgren to continue developing a citizen's proposal. Forsgren will incorporate new elements of our discussions into his analysis of this proposal. As part of this plan we can now include the possibility of leasing instead of selling land and as a means to reach the goals outlined, to partner with TCHA to provide employee housing. There is also consideration of maintaining a "supervisor lite" presence in Jackson and using outlying communities to alleviate some of the housing/facility needs.

There are some critical questions that remain and the greater breadth and depth we can bring to these meetings will be beneficial in finding the best solution to retaining the BTNF supervisor's office in Jackson and supporting a stronger community.

Louise Lasley, Jackson Hole Conservation Alliance

**A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE BRIDGER-TETON NATIONAL FOREST**

WHEREAS, the Town of Jackson and Teton County support maintaining the location of the Bridger-Teton National Forest Supervisor's Office in Teton County; and

WHEREAS, the Bridger-Teton National Forest seeks to provide housing in Jackson and Teton County for the purpose of retaining and recruiting employees; and

WHEREAS, the Bridger-Teton National Forest has determined that additional housing units are needed to ensure an adequate supply of employee housing in order to support its Supervisor's Office in Teton County; and


WHEREAS, the Bridger-Teton National Forest possesses administrative land located in both the Town and County accessed from Nelson Drive; and

WHEREAS, Teton County, and the Town of Jackson are interested in the appropriate site design and building configuration at the Nelson Drive site that uses the smallest site footprint, is similar to the surrounding neighborhood in terms of density, and protects critical wildlife habitat.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Board of County Commissioners of Teton County, Wyoming and the Town Council of the Town of Jackson, Wyoming do hereby support the maintenance of the Supervisor's Office of the Bridger-Teton National Forest in Jackson, Wyoming and possible future development of the Nelson Drive Administration Site which uses the smallest site footprint, is similar to the surrounding neighborhood in terms of density, and protects critical wildlife habitat.

DATED THIS 5<sup>th</sup> DAY OF OCTOBER 2009.

ATTEST

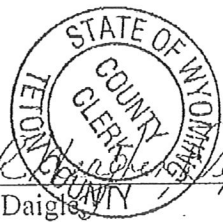


*[Signature]*  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Roxanne DeVries Robinson  
 Town Clerk

TOWN OF JACKSON

*[Signature]*  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mark Barron, Mayor

ATTEST:



BY: *[Signature]*  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 For: Sherry L. Daigle  
 Teton County Clerk

TETON COUNTY

*[Signature]*  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Hank Phibbs, Chairman



November 30, 2009

Carole "Kniffy" Hamilton  
Forest Supervisor  
Bridger Teton National Forest  
PO Box 1888  
Jackson, WY 83001


Dear Supervisor Hamilton:

On behalf of the Jackson Town Council, I wish to thank you for the opportunity to comment on the sale of public lands. A special meeting was held today, November 30, 2009 to discuss the Council's opportunity to comment on this sale. At today's meeting the Town Council voted unanimously to express our support for maintaining the Bridger Teton National Forest Supervisor's Office in Jackson on its present site. Furthermore, understanding the need for a new administrative office building, we support identifying a funding source other than the sale of public lands for the construction of new facilities.

We respectfully ask that the Forest Service recognize the critical importance of the Town and County's 10 x 10 initiative towards reducing energy use and carbon footprint by utilizing alternative transportation methods and by housing your workforce in Jackson whenever possible.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

  
Mark Barron  
Mayor

cc: Town Council



## TOWN COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

November 30, 2009

JACKSON, WYOMING

The Jackson Town Council met in special session in the Council Chambers of the Town Hall at 150 East Pearl at 12:04 P.M. Upon roll call the following were found to be present:

MAYOR: Mark Barron  
COUNCIL: Mark Obringer, Greg Miles, Melissa Turley, and Bob Lenz  
STAFF: Bob McLaurin, Audrey Cohen-Davis, Tyler Sinclair, and Olivia Goodale

**Draft Letter to Forest Service on Sale of Property on North Cache.** Bob McLaurin and Audrey Cohen-Davis made staff comment regarding the Forest Service public comment deadline. Council discussion followed regarding a personal letter from Bob Lenz to the Forest Service, Town Council timeline for decision making, including basic environmental and zoning policy in the letter, current real estate markets, the Joint Resolution Supporting the Bridger Teton National Forest, and environmental factors. Michael Schrotz representing Bridger Teton Forest Service, Charlie Payne, Louise Lasley representing Jackson Hole Conservation Alliance, Peter Lang, Frank Ewing, Gregory Griffith, and Timothy Kaminski made public comment regarding Forest Service processes, litigation, finance, facility locations, building ownership, NEPA, political influence, a letter from Jackson Hole Conservation Alliance, the four alternatives released by the Forest Service, creating a fifth alternative, Nelson Drive Residential site, Forest Service needs and historical value, public comment, appeals, referendum, energy conservation, public land and wildlife impacts, and future development. A motion was made by Mark Obringer and seconded by Bob Lenz to direct staff to prepare a letter to the Bridger Teton National Forest: On behalf of the Jackson Town Council, I wish to thank you for the opportunity to comment on the sale of public lands. A special meeting was held today, November 30, 2009; to discuss the Council's opportunity to comment on this sale. At today's meeting, the Town Council voted unanimously to express our support for maintaining the Bridger Teton National Forest Supervisor's Office in Jackson on its present site. Furthermore, understanding the need for a new administrative office building, we support identifying a funding source other than the sale of public lands for the construction of new facilities. We respectfully ask that the Forest Service recognize the critical importance of the Town and County's 10 x 10 initiative towards reducing energy use and carbon footprint by utilizing alternative transportation methods and by housing your workforce in Jackson whenever possible. Again, thank you for the opportunity to comment. Mayor Barron called for the vote. The vote showed all in favor. The motion carried.

**Adjourn.** A motion was made by Greg Miles and seconded by Melissa Turley to adjourn the meeting to executive session to consider the selection of a site or the purchase of real estate when the publicity regarding the consideration would cause a likelihood of an increase in price in accordance with Wyoming Statute 16-4-405(a)(vii). Mayor Barron called for the vote on the motion. The vote showed all in favor. The motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 12:55 P.M.

TOWN OF JACKSON

---

Mark Barron, Mayor

ATTEST:

---

Roxanne DeVries Robinson, Town Clerk

minutes.yog

Published JH News & Guide  
December 9, 2009