

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

October 10, 2016



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Commissioners

Barbara Allen, Chair
Mark Newcomb, Vice Chair
Natalia D. Macker
Smokey Rhea
Paul Vogelheim

The Honorable Commissioners Cindy Riegel, Bill Leake and Kelly Park
Teton County, Idaho Board of County Commissioners
150 Courthouse Drive
Driggs, ID 83422

Re: Wyoming Public Lands Initiative

Honorable Commissioners Leake, Park and Riegel:

Teton County, Wyoming has officially opted into the Wyoming Public Lands Initiative (WPLI). Currently 7 out of 23 Wyoming counties are participating. The process is designed to craft legislation on final designations for wilderness study areas that exist within participating counties. I've attached the WPLI guidelines as presented by the Wyoming County Commissioner Association (WCCA). The Palisades Wilderness Study Area continues across our common state line, becoming "Palisades Recommended Wilderness" in Idaho. Many Teton County, Idaho citizens avail themselves of both the Palisades Wilderness Study area and the Palisades Recommended Wilderness for recreation and backcountry experiences.

For that reason, we are reaching out to ensure you are aware of our process and progress. We would also like to hear from you on how you would like to engage with our process to ensure that our final product includes input from your citizens.

Over the course of 2016 we've gone through an unofficial initial scoping process and an official situation assessment, attached. On October 5th and 6th we held interviews and discussed applications. We hope that we will have an advisory committee in place and ready to meet within the next week. We have accepted applications from several residents of Teton County, Idaho. That said, we want to maintain open lines of communication in the event that your county undertakes a formal process to parallel ours or prefers to somehow engage beyond having at least one person from your county on our advisory committee.

Once the Advisory Committee meets, we'll know better from our end what the timeline will be and how the Teton County advisory committee and Ruckleshaus Institute facilitator would like to integrate Teton County into discussions about the Palisades WSA. We will keep you apprised of our progress.

I'll be the Teton County Commission's official liaison for our county's WPLI. Please contact me, cc'ing our chair, Commissioner Allen (Barbara Allen ballen@tetonwyo.org), and our Clerk, Sherry Daigle (Sherry Daigle sdaigle@tetonwyo.org) with your written correspondence. And please feel free to call me if you want to discuss the process in more detail: Mark Newcomb, mnewcomb@tetonwyo.org, 307.413.9690.

We look forward to hearing back from you.

Sincerely,

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Mark Newcomb
Teton County Commission, Vice Chair

Sherry L. Daigle
Teton County Clerk