

March 16, 2017

Board of County Commissioners  
Teton County, WY

Subject: Reconsideration of CUP 2016-0002 Wilson Boat Ramp Improvements

Dear Commissioners,

Thank you for choosing to reconsider your decision about CUP 2016-0002 for improvements to the Wilson Boat Ramp. We appreciate the intention to better balance protecting critical wildlife habitat with the desire for recreational access and believe that a better decision is possible as this issue is reconsidered.

The Alliance suggests some conditions to your decision about the boat ramp improvements that we believe will better protect wildlife.

First, the parcel of land under consideration is crucial winter and yearlong moose habitat. Moose populations are on the decline and they are a species of great conservation concern, locally and regionally. Moose and their habitat are also protected under our current Teton County Natural Resource land development regulations.

The proposed project includes the approval of a parking lot of 28 spaces and associated pathways that would drastically damage the value of this vital parcel as moose habitat. The parking lot is situated in a place of security cover for moose. Paving over that habitat would dramatically reduce the value of the whole parcel as moose habitat.

Please reconsider your decision to approve this parking lot and associated pathway pavement. Given the phased nature of the project, the availability of nearby parking in the Stilson lot, and the possibility of parallel parking along the proposed access roads, we believe this parking lot is wholly unnecessary and completely at odds with our community's oft-stated goal to protect wildlife and wildlife habitat.

We recognize that parking at Stilson requires consultation with the Jackson Hole Mountain Resort. Please do take steps to open that conversation. Further, we believe that you could also explore an alternative for additional parking along the access roads.

Overall, we strongly urge you to not approve the construction of the parking lot at this time.

Second, please consider the Wyoming Game and Fish Department recommendations about winter closures at this site. Spring (March and April) is a critical season for wintering wildlife, especially moose. We recognize the desire from the angling and recreational communities for access to this site. We believe that a balanced closure that

reduces wildlife disturbance while allowing access is possible. Please review the Wyoming Game and Fish Department biologists' expert recommendations on the closure.

Thank you for considering our suggestions. Please do not hesitate to contact us at any time if we can be of assistance. Thank you for making decisions that balance protecting critical wildlife habitat with the desire for recreational access.

Sincerely,



Siva Sundaresan  
Conservation Director