

Dear Bridger-Teton National Forest:

Thank you for releasing the Bridger-Teton National Forest Draft Assessment and starting the process of updating the forest plan. While the Draft Assessment covers many critical elements of the Forest, there are several pieces of scientific and factual information missing or incorrect. I urge the Forest Service to include or correct the following in the Draft Assessment.

Recommended Wilderness: The major wilderness areas within the Forest have been identified as some of the most important landscapes for both tourism and local citizens. As such, the Forest should complete and publish a Wilderness Inventory and Evaluation prior to finalizing the Need for Change, and ensure adequate public involvement opportunities to inform that evaluation.

Eligible Wild & Scenic Rivers: The cold, wild rivers of this forest are critical to drinking water, recreation, wildlife, and the health of the ecosystem. The Wild and Scenic Eligibility report is vital for understanding Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORVs), and how they might align or dovetail with the assessment's relevant sections. The forest should complete this process, including allowing for robust public comment, prior to finalizing the Need For Change.

Recreation: The Draft Assessment identifies recreation as both a critical cultural and economic input to the Forest and adjacent communities. The current plan includes seasonal closures to protect wintering wildlife, but the Draft Assessment lacks information on how effective these closures have been, how they can be improved, and it does not explore other ways to reduce disturbance from recreation. The Forest should offer more public involvement opportunities and use the best available science on winter and dispersed recreation. This should include a Limits of Acceptable Change process to guide future decisions.

Wildlife: The Forest should use all available collar data when determining how best to protect big game habitat and migration corridors, including all migration data published by USGS. Include the Common loon, Yellowstone cutthroat trout and Bonneville cutthroat trout on the list of potential Species of Conservation Concern. Elk feedgrounds operated on the Bridger-Teton National Forest should be identified and discussed in the Assessment, including the fact that these sites are known hotspots that harbor and transmit wildlife diseases (chronic wasting disease and brucellosis). Potential disease management strategies should also be included in the Draft Assessment.

Tribal Consultation: Ensure respectful and effective Tribal consultation occurs with enough time to influence outcomes related to the forest plan. This should include community members on the Fort Hall and Wind River Indian Reservations to ensure they can meaningfully participate in the Forest Plan Revision process as it affects their lands, rights, resources, and cultural practices. We believe appropriate Tribal engagement goes above and beyond the formal nation-to-nation dialogue and includes individual voices, and not just informing the Tribes, but listening, adapting, and responding to their concerns and recommendations.

Please use the most up to date information - including the best available science - to craft a plan that protects water, wildlife habitat, wilderness, cultural values, and the many unique recreational opportunities that make the Bridger-Teton what it is.

Sincerely,

Sandra Materi
1600 W. Odell
Casper, WY 82604

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Jon Hubalek
PO Box 1552
Wilson, WY 83014

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Lisa Smolenska
85051 Spencer Hollow Rd
Eugene, OR 97405

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Sincerely,

Richard Klene
410 Sagebrush Dr
Jackson, WY 83001

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Sincerely,

Brian Buhman
1737 MISSISSIPPI ST
Lawrence, KS 66044

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Wildlife: The Forest should use all available collar data when determining how best to protect big game habitat and migration corridors, including all migration data published by USGS. Include the Common loon, Yellowstone cutthroat trout and Bonneville cutthroat trout on the list of potential Species of Conservation Concern. Elk feedgrounds operated on the Bridger-Teton National Forest should be identified and discussed in the Assessment, including the fact that these sites are known hotspots that harbor and transmit wildlife diseases (chronic wasting disease and brucellosis). Potential disease management strategies should also be included in the Draft Assessment.

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Sincerely,

Peggy Graeter
3800 S Lake Creek Dr
Wilson, WY 83014

Dear Bridger-Teton National Forest:

As an American, I thank you for releasing the Bridger-Teton National Forest Draft Assessment and starting the process of updating the forest plan. While the Draft Assessment covers many critical elements of the Forest, there are several pieces of scientific and factual information MISSING or INCORRECT. I STRONGLY urge the Forest Service to include or correct the following in the Draft Assessment.

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Wildlife: The Forest should use ALL AVAILABLE collar data when determining how best to PROTECT big game habitat and migration corridors, including all migration data published by USGS. In addition, you MUST include the Common loon, Yellowstone cutthroat trout and Bonneville cutthroat trout on the list of potential Species of Conservation Concern. Elk feedgrounds operated on the Bridger-Teton National Forest should be identified and discussed in the Assessment, including the fact that these sites are known hotspots that harbor and transmit wildlife diseases (chronic wasting disease and brucellosis). Potential disease management strategies should also be included in the Draft Assessment.

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Sincerely,

Kay Sauer
1228 La Faunce Way
Fort Myers, FL 33919

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J Simmons
924 Hacienda
Tempe, AZ 85281

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Sincerely,

Lisa Lybarger

209 Confer Rd

Kalama, WA 98625

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Sincerely,

Erin Johnson
600 Whitaker Drive Apt 4C
Missoula, MT 59806

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Sincerely,

Michelle M Woodruff 4
Wildwood Trail
Lander, WY 82520

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Sincerely,

Diane Verna
1110 Alta North Rd
Alta, WY 83414-4585

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Please use the most up to date information - including the best available science - to craft a plan that protects water, wildlife habitat, wilderness, cultural values, and the many unique recreational opportunities that make the Bridger-Teton what it is.

Sincerely,

Dawn Young
708 Jagged Rock
Cedar Park, TX 78613

Dear Bridger-Teton National Forest:

I'm thankful to comment on the Bridger-Teton National Forest Draft Assessment and starting the process of updating the forest plan. I was involved in the last forest plan in I believe 1992. At that time there was far more opportunity for the public to follow and weigh in on the process unlike this time. While the Draft Assessment covers many important elements of the Forest, there are several pieces of scientific and factual information missing or incorrect. I urge the Forest Service to include or correct the following in the Draft Assessment.

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Please let the public have more time to participate in the planning process and use the most up to date information - including the best available science - to craft a plan that protects water, wildlife habitat, wilderness, cultural values, and the many unique recreational opportunities that make the Bridger-Teton what it is. There's no place like this in the lower 48, let's make this a great model for other forests in protecting wildlife, rivers, Wilderness, recreation, and cultural values.

Thank you,

Kim Springer
2680 Pizza Lane
Wilson, WY 83014

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Sincerely,

Kathleen Hoyle
614 Skyline Dr
Cody, WY 82414

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Chuck Neal

1526 Alger Avenue

Cody, WY 82414

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Sincerely,

Lander Burton
667 Cliff Street
Lander, WY 82520

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Sincerely,

Beverly Smith
470 Arapahoe Lane, PO Box 7003
Jackson, WY 83001

Dear Bridger-Teton National Forest:

I am concerned about some aspects of the Draft Assessment that I feel require critical attention:

-- BTNF should use the best available science when determining how to protect big game habitat and migration corridors, and it should address sensible, long-term disease management strategies.

-- BTNF should especially take into account the broad economic benefit of Wilderness, as a key part of a Wilderness Inventory and Evaluation (prior to finalizing the Need for Change). The direct benefits to area economies, as well as the indirect benefits -- the downstream multiplier effects of visitation, recreational use, etc. -- should be highlighted.

-- Grazing is the elephant in the room. Possibilities for alternatives to the status quo that protect relatively pristine areas, especially, should be presented and highlighted.

-- Throughout, there should be plenty of opportunities for public involvement. I am grateful for the chance to chat with BTNF representatives at a recent Open House in Wilson.

In summary, please use the best available science to craft a plan that focuses on protecting the lakes and streams, wildlife habitat, and wilderness, as well as the lucrative and unique recreational opportunities that make the Bridger-Teton an outstanding National Forest.

Sincerely,

Brot Coburn
PO Box 1022
Wilson, WY 83014

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Philip Lennox
7925 Ross Ln
Jackson, WY 83001

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John Dunkum
601 E Beckwith Ave
Missoula, MT 59801

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Rose Quinn
1012 Bear Canyon Rd
Bozeman, MT 59715

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Cynthia Hicks
3450 N. Williams Ave. #406
Portland, OR 97227

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Chelsea Howard
305 Simmons Rd.
Fountain Run, KY 42133

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Sincerely,

Emilee Bluhm
565 TILLER AVE
Sugar City, ID 83448

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Camala Projansky
387 E 4th St
Brooklyn, NY 11218

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50 E. Conroy St.
Diamondville, WY 83116

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P Ritcheson
2801 New Mexico Ave
Washington, DC 20007

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kristie zinselmeier
12533 Indian Shell Trail
Bokeelia, FL 33922

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505 Sunset View Ter Se
Leesburg, VA 20175

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Winston Salem, NC 27103

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410 Sagebrush Dr.
Jackson, WY 83001

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Mark Clark
5225 Shoshone Dr.
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Evan Fisher
188 west 1st Ave
Columbus, OH 43201

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1737 MISSISSIPPI ST
Lawrence, KS 66044

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Wilson, WY 83014

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Sara Reynolds
126 Ashford Drive
Russellville, AR 72802

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3412 CHATHAM DR
Columbia, MO 65203

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Sandra Materi
1600 W. Odell
Casper, WY 82604

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1110 Alta North Road
Alta, WY 83001

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849 cr 213
Durango, CO 81303

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114 Pache Road
Belgrade, MT 59714

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Sullivan, ME 04664

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492 Delwiche Road
Green Bay, WI 54302

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565 TILLER AVE
Sugar City, ID 83448

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36 Wheatland Meadows Dr
Three Forks, MT 59752

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George Simmons

1015 S DAKOTA ST

Green River, WY 82935

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Jens Gade
325 E Simpson Ave.
Jackson, WY 83001

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Recreation: The Draft Assessment identifies recreation as both a critical cultural and economic input to the Forest and adjacent communities. The current plan includes seasonal closures to protect wintering wildlife, but the Draft Assessment lacks information on how effective these closures have been, how they can be improved, and it does not explore other ways to reduce disturbance from recreation. The Forest should offer more public involvement opportunities and use the best available science on winter and dispersed recreation. This should include a Limits of Acceptable Change process to guide future decisions.

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Please use the most up to date information - including the best available science - to craft a plan that protects water, wildlife habitat, wilderness, cultural values, and the many unique recreational opportunities that make the Bridger-Teton what it is.

Sincerely,

Marilyn Arionus
1704 So Spruce St
Casper, WY 82601

Dear Bridger-Teton National Forest:

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Joy Keown

Laramie, WY 82070

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Signa McAdams
175 Popo Agie St Apt 1
Lander , WY 82520

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London Bernier
2813 Donna Ave
Bozeman, MT 59718