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August 24, 2025

Mr. Chad Hudson
Forest Supervisor
Bridger-Teton National Forest
340 N. Cache
P.O. Box 1888
Jackson, WY 83001

Dear Supervisor Hudson,

Our partnership with the Forest is as long-standing as our organization's history and we are grateful for this opportunity to provide comments on the Bridger-Teton National Forest's (BTNF) Draft Assessment.

Jackson Hole Wildlife Foundation has been protecting wildlife in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem for over 30 years. Our mission is to advance wildlife conservation driven by science, collaboration, and a community of volunteers. We accomplish large-scale hands-on conservation projects through our close partnerships with local, state, and federal partners working with hundreds of well-organized, dedicated volunteers. Currently, we work with BTNF to remove obsolete fences on vacant or retired grazing allotments, remove invasive weeds, band songbirds to monitor ecosystem health, protect visitors from bear-conflict on public lands, and monitor wildlife-vehicle collisions on roads passing through Forest lands.

In this Assessment, we encourage the Forest to include more research of grazing, wildfire, and wildlife relationships as they impact the whole ecosystem. While grazing may reduce some fuels, it has another facet of impact on the ecosystem and should be managed in a way that reduces effects in sensitive areas. Fire should be considered a management asset where forest renewal is needed.

We believe all migration routes that have been described using rigorous science standards (local expert knowledge, GPS or telemetry data, or data-based habitat-association models), such as those in the USGS Atlas of Wyoming's Ungulates and Ungulate Migration in the Western United States (Wyoming Migration Initiative), should be used to delineate habitat and species in need of protection on Forest lands.

Some species not included in the Potential Species of Conservation Concern should be added to the list based on climate change sensitivity, sensitivity to human recreation stressors and limited habitat, disease, or little-known information. This includes pika, bighorn sheep, Trumpeter Swans, wolverine, MacGillivray's Warbler, and amphibians.

We also encourage the Forest to more deeply examine the impacts of grazing (cattle and sheep) in sensitive areas, obsolete fences, roads traversing through Forest lands that come with the cost of wildlife death and reduced landscape permeability (resulting in reduced genetic diversity), increasing disease prevalence (pneumonia and chronic wasting disease, among others), compromised water quality, and climate change.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Renee Seidler".

Renee Seidler
Executive Director
Jackson Hole Wildlife Foundation