

Bridger Teton National Forest

Jackson Ranger District

PO Box 1689

Jackson, WY 83001

Attention Todd Stiles

JHMR 2023 Jackson Hole Mountain Resort Enhancement Project- 2023

A few Thoughts regarding new JHMR plans.

Thank you for soliciting my thoughts regarding these proposed changes and upgrades. I respectfully submit the following observations.

I am basically in agreement with the vast majority of the changes listed in the agenda. That said, I have some questions, thoughts and concerns on a handful of topics. I will only address those in this submission.

1. Alta Chutes, this is extremely difficult terrain and obviously very storied and revered and isolated terrain. In my opinion it should remain so. I assume the article is referencing making this more accessible and I fear this would only increase users to get in over their heads and create more scenes/events that would create closures by JHSP. I am formally against making any changes to accessibility and/or skiability to ANY of the current Alta Chutes terrain. Including, but not limited to: clearing, widening, reducing steepness and certainly not making easier to access.
2. North Hoback Woods (AKA Northwoods), Still a great pow stash at this time. Certainly some clearing of fallen trees and such would be a benefit. I respectfully suggest, please do not increase awareness and accessibility to this area. Once again, this is one of the few areas of stashes left on the mountain. That said, lower level skiers will find their way in, and be exposed to ending up in either Cheyenne Gully and/or Sublette Ridge or North Hoback. (over their heads). I assume this project would include a bailout road of some sort, but I promise it will lead to many people in the wrong place requiring extraction by JHSP from either ability or fatigue.
3. New Sublette Patrol Station, seriously? They do not currently utilize the existing structure at top of Sublette, nor does Ski Patrol use the facility at top of Thunder. JHSP is stationed at top of tram where they can access everything they need to in a very timely fashion. If you want to make top of Sublette a warming hut/snack station for guests, then great, but I know how this would end if dedicated as an ivory tower Patrol Shack.
4. Bear Flats, expansion, moving it, what now? SURE! Bottled water, donuts, coffee. Absolutely. Just do something. Having no access to water other than top of BridgerGondola is weak at best.
5. Casper event site, whatever happened to a new Casper Lodge? Go ski Sun Valley and see what a mid-mountain day lodge should look like. I think they have 3 or 4 that would make any guest smile. Jackson? We got Rendezvous Lodge.

All in all, I believe the majority of the proposed upgrades are good for the mountain and the overall guest experience. I do also believe it is crucial to maintain the few wild aspects of the inbounds experience which so many skiers come to enjoy. Longtime skiers from elsewhere have been reading for decades about the challenging terrain that JHMR has to offer inbounds. There are countless articles and paragraphs in books written about the Alta Chutes and the Hobacks and come specifically to challenge themselves on those slopes specifically. The thought of taking that away and making it accessible to many more intermediate skiers would degrade that experience to those who long to ski those runs.

The upgrades the mountain has incorporated over the past years have all been a value add and I am certain they will make the correct choices regarding this and all future plans. Although some may disagree with me, I believe that having an additional on mountain lodge/lunch facility would be a major upgrade to the entire resort experience. We have heard about a new Casper Lodge and a new Lodge at top of tram which have apparently been scrapped thus far. I realize these are huge cash commitments, but I believe they would most likely bring the most bang for the buck in the skiing experience. The skiing remains wild, but the casual skier has a facility to enjoy and relax, which many travelling skiers actually need especially in their first few days coming from lower altitudes.

I respectfully submit this letter on behalf of myself and my wife on July 31, 2023

Thank you,

Doug and Julia Stanley

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