

February 28, 2007

Kniffy Hamilton, Supervisor
Bridger-Teton National Forest
PO Box 1888
Jackson, WY 83001

Dear Supervisor Hamilton,

The Jackson Hole Chamber of Commerce understands that comments are being taken for the development of a new Bridger-Teton National Forest management plan. The Bridger-Teton National Forest provides outstanding recreational and tourism opportunities due to its incomparable scenic beauty, wildlife, and natural environment. According to statistics provided by Wyoming Travel & Tourism, the top five reasons that people visit Wyoming are for our mountains, wilderness areas, wildlife, lakes and rivers, and natural environment. These statistics indicate that for Teton County in 2005, recreation and tourism account for 6,190 jobs (25% of total jobs), \$163.4 million in total business earnings (16.2% of total business earnings), and \$15.1 million in state sales tax distributions (44.4% of total state sales tax distributions). Recreation and tourism for our Sublette County and Lincoln County neighbors account for a combined 1,200 jobs, \$25 million in total business earnings, and \$1.8 million in state sales tax distributions.

It is for these critical reasons that the Jackson Hole Chamber of Commerce strongly opposes any leasing and drilling for oil and gas in the Bridger-Teton National Forest. Such extractive activities are in direct conflict with the values and conditions we support and are necessary to sustain commerce and quality of life for our communities.

Sincerely,



T.R. Pierce
President
Jackson Hole Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors

Cc: Rick Eox, Forest Plan Team Leader
Senator Craig Thomas
Senator Mike Enzi
Representative Barbara Cuban
Governor Dave Freudenthal
Senator Grant Larson
Senator Pat Aullman
Representative Pete Jorgensen
Representative Monte Olson
Representative Keith Gingery
Teton County Commissioner Andy Schwartz
Town of Jackson Mayor Mark Barron