



Jackson Hole Conservation Alliance
(307) 733-9417 • www.jhalliance.org

March 19, 2010

Carole 'Kniffy' Hamilton
Bridger-Teton national Forest
P.O. Box 1888
Jackson, WY 83001

RE: Comments on the draft supplemental EIS regarding oil and gas leasing in the Wyoming Range

Sent by USPS and electronic mail to: comments-intermtn-bridger-teton@fs.fed.us

Dear Kniffy,

The Jackson Hole Conservation Alliance, on behalf of our 2,000 members, would like to submit our comments on the draft supplemental Environmental Impact Statement on gas and oil leasing of 44,720 acres on the Bridger-Teton National Forest. We continue the request we have made on this issue in previous comment submissions to uphold the needs of wildlife and surrounding habitat in making the best decision for these acres. We would also like to extend our appreciation to you for including and then selecting as the preferred choice, Alternative 1, the No Action alternative. This community, region and beyond have expressed greater and greater desire to protect our diminishing wildlife habitat. The Bridger-Teton has recognized its role in seeing that adequate measures are taken to ensure the health of our public lands.

The passage of the Wyoming Range Legacy Act, with the broad support it received, exemplifies the concern and the vision of the people for those special forestlands. To choose the No Action alternative would align with the direction that the public would like to see and that the habitat needs.

As identified in the draft supplemental EIS, the potential impacts of drilling for oil and gas on these acres would harm the soils, watersheds, lynx, deer, elk, moose and other species, air quality, and recreational opportunities of the area. Each of these elements is an essential component of a healthy, functioning multi-use forest and cannot be eliminated without negative consequences to the forest as a whole.

The Bridger-Teton National Forest is renowned for its diverse and abundant wildlife and is a model for management that focuses on these values of the forest. The Jackson Hole Conservation Alliance encourages the choice of Alternative 1 for the final supplemental EIS to further the protection of this critical habitat on the Bridger-Teton.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

Sincerely,

Louise Lasley
Public Lands Director