

February 1, 2010

Superintendent  
Attn: Moose Headquarters Rehabilitation Site Work EA  
Grand Teton National Park  
P.O. Drawer 170  
Moose, WY 83012

Dear Superintendent Scott:

Many of the Jackson Hole Conservation Alliance membership of 2,000 from all across the United States and several foreign countries visit Grand Teton National Park (GTNP). They expect to see “their” park provide the best in visitor services within a landscape that brings awe, recreation, and a glimpse of the wildness of our surroundings. Our comments on the efforts of GTNP to bring the administrative site at Moose within the expectations of our membership are based on those visitor desires.

While administrative sites within national parks are rarely, if ever, the focus of visits to our parks, the appearance, efficiency, and appropriateness to the surroundings play a large role in the visitor experience. The Jackson Hole Conservation Alliance (the Alliance) appreciates the role GTNP is taking to go beyond the obvious tactics to improve park needs by also looking at the subtle impacts of existing infrastructure on the visitor experience, employee well-being and energy use mitigation.

The Moose Headquarters Rehabilitation-Site Work EA looks at several issues relevant to employees, visitors and services that exist in the administrative area. The long-evolving growth and development of the area has resulted in less-than-optimal conditions and resource impacts. Because JHCA supports this effort by the park to improve the site area, we will limit our comments to specifics for the objectives identified in the EA and to the mitigation measures.

**Segregate incompatible uses throughout the site.**

- A comprehensive look at the range of uses existing and foreseen for this area should be included.
- Clearly marked movement through the area by vehicles and pedestrians should be a major component of this objective.
- The use of natural barriers and native vegetation should be used to delineate and screen as much of these separate areas as possible.

**Provide for safer and more efficient pedestrian and vehicle traffic within the administrative area for employees and residents.**

- Design should accommodate bicycle traffic and parking.

**Provide for safer and more efficient pedestrian vehicle traffic within the Moose landing area for visitors and concessioners.**

- Visitors in the area, but not preparing for a river trip, might desire to watch the launching of boats, so a safe and inviting area should be provided.

**Improve the interpretive experience for visitors in the Moose area.**

- The scenic, commercial and ecological roles of the Snake River should be included in these displays.

**Resolve stormwater management deficiencies to protect vital water resources.**

- Include in your analysis and design for this portion of the project the storage of snow removed from paved areas during the winter.

**Reduce the built environment in the Moose Headquarters Area.**

- Will the temporary buildings to be removed from this area be reused to a better degree of efficiency some place else?

**Produce no unacceptable impacts or impairment as a result of this project.**

- Mitigation measures contained in the EA should be followed and modified if found to be ineffective. The EA discusses procedures and guidelines that the Alliance concurs will enhance the actions proposed by alleviating or eliminating negative impacts. The Alliance recommends these measures be incorporated to the fullest degree and monitored for effectiveness.
- The site rehabilitation should include the use of native vegetation only.
- There should be no harm to wildlife during construction or as a result of this project.

The Jackson Hole Conservation Alliance works to ensure that human activities are in harmony with the area's wildlife, scenic and other natural resources. We support efforts to protect the abundant and diverse wildlife in Jackson Hole and the habitat on which they depend. This project to improve the Moose administration site works to enhance conditions in the park with the best outcome for visitors, employees and natural resources.

Thank you for consideration of our comments.

Sincerely,

Louise Lasley  
Public Lands Director