

**DECISION NOTICE**  
**And**  
**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**  
**From**  
**USDA FOREST SERVICE**  
**BRIDGER-TETON NATIONAL FOREST**  
**JACKSON RANGER DISTRICT**  
**For an**  
**ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**  
**AT JACKSON HOLE MOUNTAIN RESORT**  
**TETON COUNTY, WYOMING**

**INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND**

Upon request from Jackson Hole Mountain Resort Corporation (JHMRC), the United States Department of Agriculture - Forest Service (Forest Service) is proposing to implement a number of improvements to the Jackson Hole Mountain Resort (JHMR), located in Teton Village approximately 12.5 miles northwest of Jackson, Wyoming, within the Special Use Permit (SUP) permit boundary for JHMR. An Environmental Assessment (EA) was prepared that documents the analysis of the potential environmental effects (physical, biological, socioeconomic) of the aforementioned proposal. The EA discloses potential impacts and discussion in order to provide sufficient environmental analysis to support a Decision Notice (DN) regarding the Proposed Action and the alternatives to that action. The purpose of the EA is to document that process according to Forest Service regulations developed to implement the direction established in NEPA and the Council on Environmental Quality regulations. The EA is incorporated by reference to this DN. The Forest Service is authorized to approve certain uses of National Forest System lands to accomplish its multiple-use mission under the terms of SUPs (16 U.S.C. 497). SUPs for recreational developments are issued and administered for uses that serve the public, promote public health and safety, and protect the environment. In the case of JHMR, this EA analyzes projects that were not proposed and analyzed in the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) (USDA-FS 1996a) that dealt with revising the 1981 Ski Area Master Plan. Specific authorizations for the 1996 Master Development Plan Revision are found in the Record of Decision (ROD) issued by the Bridger Teton National Forest (BTNF) in 1996. Because these improvements involve site disturbance and use of NFS lands on the BTNF, elements of the proposal must be reviewed, analyzed, and submitted for public comment prior to a decision.

The decision to be made is whether, and under what conditions, to implement the Proposed Action or an alternative to it. A decision could allow the proposed project to be implemented but may require the location or design of some aspect of the proposed project to be adjusted in order to avoid an identified impact. The decision could also be made to meet the purpose and need for action through some other combination of activities, or to defer any action at this time. The decision will be subject to appeal pursuant to Forest Service regulations at 36 CFR 215.7.

### 3.14.2.2 Proposed Action

Under the Proposed Action 0.11 acres of wetland impact would occur with the construction of Option 1 of the snowboard terrain park. Construction of the Option 2 of the snowboard terrain park would impact 0.06 acres of wetlands. Rerouting the base area roads would require 0.14 acres of wetland impact. As stated above, the COE has regulatory authority over dredge and fill activities that occur in wetlands. The Proposed Action would require permitting action by the COE and mitigation would be required under direction of the COE. No other dredge or fill activities would take place under this action. However, wetlands in the proposed path of the hiking/biking trails would be avoided where possible, but no dredge or fill activities will occur in these wetland areas.

### 3.14.2.3 Limited Development Alternative

Wetland impacts under the Limited Development Alternative remain the same as described in Section 3.14.2.2, the Proposed Action. The Limited Development Alternative would result in 0.11 acres of wetland impact with the construction of Option 1 of the snowboard terrain park. Rerouting base area roads would require 0.14 acres of wetland impact. No other dredge or fill activities would take place under this action. However, wetlands in the proposed path of the hiking/biking trails would be avoided where possible, but no dredge or fill activities will occur in these wetland areas.

### 3.14.3 Wetlands Issues Raised in Scoping

During the public scoping period for the EA 2 issues were raised concerning proposed impacts to wetlands within JHMR proposed development area. Each issue is listed below:

#### **Issue 1: Snowboard terrain park**

*The EA should consider the site [for the snowboard terrain park] with the least impact to wetlands.*

Option 2 for the Snowboard Terrain Park (considered in the Proposed Action only) allows for the least amount of impact to wetlands of the 2 options. Option 2 would require 0.06 acres of wetland impact.

#### **Issue 2: Winter access route to Rendezvous Mountain**

*The EA should consider wetlands impacts in the winter access route to Rendezvous Peak (sic).*

No ground disturbance, especially in environmentally sensitive areas such as wetlands, would be permitted or required to construct and operate the proposed winter access route.

### 3.14.4 Cumulative Effects

Although there is a potential to affect up to 0.38 acres of wetland if either Alternative B or C were implemented, the actual amount of wetland affected will depend on the design of stream crossings for the hiking/biking trail network (if approved), which option is chosen for the snowboard/terrain park (if any); and which roads (if any) are approved for relocation/construction. The worst case scenario is that 0.38