

New Middle Ground Proposal

September 18, 2018

1. **Countywide Management Direction** (from MAWG):
 - No mineral or oil & gas development (mineral withdrawal)
 - Prohibition on commercial timber harvesting
 - Mechanism to acquire state inholdings

2. **New wilderness** (all from MAWG, with Shoal south added):
 - All wilderness to be managed in accordance with the Wilderness Act and Wyoming Wilderness Act, without exception.
 - Proposed wilderness totals 173,000 acres (increase of 6,000 acres from MAWG)
 - Proposed wilderness includes:
 - **Teton Wilderness additions**
 - Pacific-Angle - 11,238 Acres
 - Breccia - 1,190
 - **Gros Ventre Wilderness additions**
 - Grizzly Lake - 1,805
 - Camp Creek - 3,019
 - Boulder Creek - 4,883
 - Shoal – 11,589
 - **Jedediah Wilderness additions** (west slope of Tetons)
 - Game Creek North Fork - 1,289
 - Beard Beaver - 1,377
 - Jackpine North-Boone - 13,499
 - **New wilderness areas**
 - Burnt Bacon - 49,815
 - Green Fish - 39,302
 - Mt. Leidy - 29,274
 - Beaver Mountain - 5,619

3. **Jackson Hole Conservation Areas** (from MAWG, minus Palisades and south Shoal):
 - Proposed JHCAs total 135,000 acres (decrease of 79,000 acres from MAWG)
 - Proposed JHCAs include:
 - Pacific Blackrock - 13,286 acres
 - Camp Creek – 2,541 acres
 - Munger - 9,638 acres
 - Phillips Ridge - 9,946 acres
 - Mt Leidy / Spread Creek - Approx 100,000 acres
 - Management per the JHCA language below.

4. **Palisades WSA** – continue to be managed as a wilderness study area under the Wyoming Wilderness Act.

Jackson Hole Conservation Area Prescriptions

We recommend the designation of Jackson Hole Conservation Areas (JHCA) totaling approximately 135,000 acres. JHCA designation recognizes the outstanding wildlife, conservation, recreation, and other values of proposed JHCA lands. JHCAs should be managed according to the following prescriptions:

1. Purpose and management

- The purpose of the JHCAs are to conserve, protect, and enhance for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations the ecological, scenic, wildlife, recreational, cultural, historical, natural, educational, roadless and scientific resources of the JHCAs.
- The areas shall be managed to protect, conserve, and enhance the resources of the JHCAs, consistent with existing law and this legislation.
- Management shall be consistent with the JHCA purposes and only such uses as are consistent with the purposes are permitted.
- Forest Service shall be directed to establish new management plan within three years.

2. Habitat and resource conservation

- Commercial timber harvest shall be prohibited within JHCAs.
- Complete mineral withdrawal—oil and gas leasing or development and mineral extraction shall be prohibited within JHCAs.
- Dams, reservoirs, and transmission lines shall be prohibited within JHCAs.
- Nothing in the legislation shall alter the jurisdiction of the state with regards to managing fish and wildlife within the JHCAs.

3. Transportation system management

- No motorized vehicle roads or trails shall be constructed within JHCAs.
- Except as necessary for administration of the area or to protect health and safety, there shall be no temporary road constructed within JHCAs.

4. Recreation management

- Motorized and mechanized vehicles permitted on designated routes established by the management plan. Exceptions for snowmobiles (below), administration of the area, and to protect public health and safety.
- Snowmobiles permitted off designated routes, as authorized by the management plan.
- Existing heli-skiing may continue, consistent with the purposes of the JHCAs.

5. Commercial activities

- Commercial guiding services may be performed within JHCAs as necessary for realizing the purposes of the areas.
- Existing commercial heli-skiing may continue, consistent with the purposes of the JHCAs.
- Existing livestock grazing activities shall be permitted to continue in accordance with existing law and the purposes of the JHCAs.
- Grazing permits may be retired. The USFS shall accept the donation of valid existing leases or permits authorizing grazing activities within the JHCA and shall terminate the grazing permit or lease. The USFS shall ensure a permanent end to grazing on the lands covered by such permit or lease. If the land covered by the donated lease or permit is also covered by an existing valid lease or permit that is not donated, USFS shall reduce the authorized level of use to reflect the donation and to ensure a permanent reduction in the level of grazing authorized on that land.

6. JHCA boundaries, inholdings, and land exchanges

- JHCA boundaries should be established a distance of 100 feet from the edge of established roads and 300 feet from privately-owned lands.
- The USFS may acquire land or interests in land within or adjacent to JHCAs by donation, exchange or purchase from a willing seller.
- The USFS shall seek to complete an exchange of two parcels owned by the State of Wyoming located within the Bridger-Teton National Forest within two years after the legislation passes.
- Any lands acquired by the USFS within a JHCA shall be included in the JHCA.