



## Scoping Notice

# Jackson Hole Airport Use Agreement Extension

## Environmental Assessment

November 2005

The National Park Service is reviewing a proposal by the Jackson Hole Airport Board to extend the current airport use agreement for two additional 10-year terms. The current development footprint would be retained.

The Jackson Hole Airport is located in Grand Teton National Park on 533 acres under the administrative jurisdiction of the National Park Service. The airport operates under the terms of an agreement between the Jackson Hole Airport Board and the Department of the Interior (DOI).

### PURPOSE

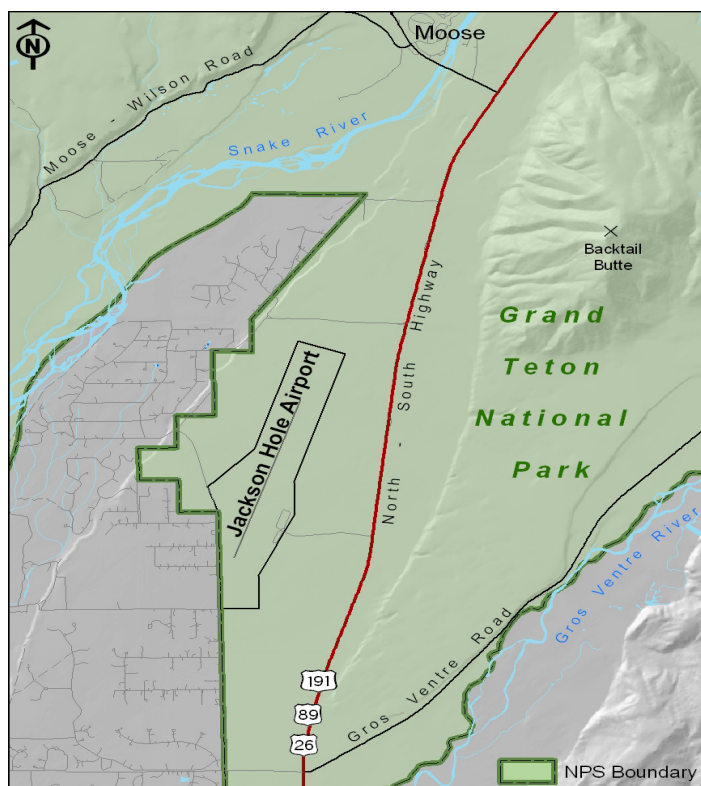
The purpose of the proposed action is to extend the use agreement between the Department of the Interior and the Jackson Hole Airport Board in order to ensure the Jackson Hole Airport Board remains eligible for funding through the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA).

### NEED

The extension to the use agreement is needed to provide assurance that the airport will remain eligible for funding from the FAA beyond the year 2013. The Jackson Hole Airport operates under the terms and conditions of a 50-year use agreement between the Jackson Hole Airport Board and the Department of the Interior that authorizes its operations until April 27, 2033. Since the FAA requires that an airport have more than 20 years remaining on its lease or agreement in order to be eligible for Airport Improvement Program funds, the use agreement must be extended by no later than 2013 to provide additional certainty over its future.

### Some specific needs are:

- To provide certainty into the future for planning and investment, and for safe and efficient Airport operations.
- To continue to meet the needs and support the proper performance of the functions of the Department of the Interior.
- To review, and if necessary, update the agreement if it is found to be inconsistent with current National Park Service mission and management objectives.



## PRELIMINARY ALTERNATIVES

The following alternatives were identified:

### ***Alternative 1: No Action***

The airport would continue operations under the existing use agreement

### ***Alternative 2: Extend Agreement***

Jackson Hole Airport Board proposal to extend use agreement for an additional two 10-year terms

### ***Alternative 3: Update and Extend Agreement***

Extend use agreement for an additional two 10-year terms with minor modifications as mutually agreed to by the NPS and the Airport Board.

## PRELIMINARY RESOURCE CONSIDERATIONS

Initial internal project scoping identified the following resources and other concerns for consideration in the environmental analysis:

***Natural Soundscape***

***Air Quality***

***Water Quality***

***Wildlife/T&E Species***

***Vegetation/Exotics***

***Visual Quality/Dark Skies***

***Public Health and Safety***

***Visitor Use & Experience***

***Gateway Communities***

***Transportation Planning***

***Socioeconomics***

***Park & Airport Operations***

## OVERVIEW OF THE PROCESS

Project milestones include:

- Public scoping period
- Preparation of environmental assessment
- Public review of environmental assessment
- Analysis of public comment
- Preparation of decision document

Scoping is done in the initial phase of a project to seek input from a variety of sources. The input is used to identify issues, areas requiring additional study, and topics that will be analyzed in the Environmental Assessment (EA) process. This is an opportunity for you to provide us with your suggestions, comments, and concerns regarding the extension of the Jackson Hole Airport use agreement.

## HOW TO COMMENT

Comments are due **January 9, 2006**.

### **PEPC Website**

Please visit the National Park Service Planning, Environment and Public Comment (PEPC) site. This project, as well as other current National Park Service plans, environmental impact analyses, and related documents are posted on this site for public review. Users of the PEPC site may also submit comments directly from the site.

<http://parkplanning.nps.gov/>

### **Additional Methods**

You may also hand deliver your comments to Grand Teton National Park, or mail them to:

**Superintendent**

**Attn: Airport EA**

**Grand Teton National Park**

**P.O. Drawer 170**

**Moose, Wyoming 83012**

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## WHAT'S NEXT?

Once we have received and reviewed the scoping comments, we will begin further developing the alternatives. The next step will be writing the EA, available for review sometime in summer 2006. Check our website for the latest updates on the project.

<http://www.nps.gov/grte/plans/planning.htm>

**Once the EA is developed, the document will be made available for public review for a 30-day period.**



# Scoping Comment Form

## Jackson Hole Airport Use Agreement Extension Environmental Assessment

Please respond to the following questions by January 9, 2006. Also, include your name, mailing address, and e-mail address (if applicable). Thank you again for your interest in Grand Teton National Park.

1. Do you have any ideas or concerns about the project that you think we should consider?
2. Are there any other alternatives that you think should be considered?
3. Do you have other comments and suggestions for us to consider in the environmental assessment?

Please note that if you comment, your name will become part of the public record. If you wish us to withhold your name and/or address, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comment. We will make all submissions from organizations, businesses, and individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses available for public inspection.

[illegible]

Please give us your contact information if you would like to remain on the mailing list to receive additional information concerning this proposal.

Name	
Street/PO Box	
City, State, Zip	
E-mail	

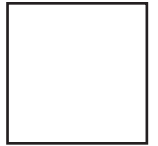
☐ Please remove my name from the mailing list.

Grand Teton National Park  
P.O. Drawer 170  
Moose, Wyoming 83012

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Return Address:

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Superintendent  
Attn: Airport EA  
Grand Teton National Park  
P.O. Drawer 170  
Moose, Wyoming 83012

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