



Photo credit: Craighead Beringia South

Dear Friends,

The National Park Service is preparing the *Jackson Hole Airport Wildlife Hazard Management and Habitat Restoration Environmental Assessment* to address wildlife hazard mitigation and greater sage-grouse habitat restoration in and around the Jackson Hole Airport in Grand Teton National Park.

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act, the purpose of the environmental assessment is to analyze the impact of potential park actions to minimize wildlife hazards, particularly aircraft collisions with greater sage-grouse, while protecting park resources and values. An important component of the proposed mitigation is improving greater sage-grouse habitat surrounding the airport to encourage movement of the birds off-site.

This newsletter provides you with information about the planning effort and ways you can participate. Successful implementation of these efforts is critical to reduce the risk of wildlife/aircraft incidences which can threaten air passenger safety and to protect local wildlife. Thank you for your interest and we look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Vela".

David Vela, Superintendent
Grand Teton National Park
John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial Parkway



Project Background

The Jackson Hole Airport is located on 533 acres of land within Grand Teton National Park, approximately 10 miles north of Jackson in northwestern Wyoming. It is the only commercial airport in the United States located entirely within the boundaries of a national park.

In 2014, the *Wildlife Hazard Management Plan*¹ for the Jackson Hole Airport was prepared to fulfill Federal Aviation Administration requirements. The plan includes a well-defined set of policies, goals, and standards to reduce the risk of wildlife strikes to aircraft.



Photo credit: Mark Gocke

Based on the *Wildlife Hazard Management Plan*, the environmental assessment will focus on a number of actions to be taken by the National Park Service on park lands near the airport and on lands within the airport boundary in cooperation with the Jackson Hole Airport Board. Since over 50 percent of all wildlife strikes at the Jackson Hole Airport are associated with sage-grouse, the primary focus of this environmental assessment will be sage-grouse and sage-grouse habitat.

Wildlife Hazard Mitigation and Sage-grouse Habitat Restoration

The National Park Service will work closely with the Federal Aviation Administration and the Jackson Hole Airport Board to achieve the proposed project's objectives. Specific actions outlined in the *Wildlife Hazard Management Plan* for reducing wildlife hazards to aircraft and restoring sage-grouse habitat on National Park Service land outside of the airport's boundaries include:

- Restore sage-grouse brood-rearing habitat and lek areas away from aircraft movement areas.
- In conjunction with restoration of habitat, reduce attractiveness of on-site airport habitat to encourage movement of the birds off-site.



Photo credit: Craighead Beringia South

¹ <http://www.jacksonholeairport.com/news/article.php?item=wildlife-hazard-management-plan>



Comments and Issues

During the scoping period, the National Park Service seeks input from the public on relevant issues, potential alternatives, concerns, opportunities, or topics that should be addressed during the planning effort. Additional opportunities for public involvement will also be provided later in the planning process. The National Park Service preliminarily envisions assessing impacts to wildlife, vegetation, soils, cultural resources, park operations, and human health and safety.

Schedule

The public scoping period for this project will occur from February 7, 2017 through March 8, 2017, during which time public comments are encouraged. There will be a second opportunity to comment when the environmental assessment is published in the early fall of 2017.

To learn more about the Jackson Hole Airport Wildlife Hazard and Habitat Restoration Environmental Assessment and submit comments online go to: <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/grte>. You may also submit comments by mail to:

Grand Teton National Park
JAC Wildlife Hazard Management and Habitat Restoration EA
Attention: Margaret Wilson
P.O. Drawer 170
Moose, WY 83012

Thank you for your interest and participation.



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