

Note comments by Councilman Jeff Potter. For my part, this appears a reasonably valuable addition to the area recreational industry.

I would, however, defer to the sentiments of the homeowners in Teton Springs.

Bill Knight

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Bill K**

Date: Mon, Aug 20, 2012 at 9:32 AM

Subject: Re: Fwd: Teton Springs / High Mountain Heli-skiing

To: Jeff

Thanks. Will pass this along.

bk

On Sat, Aug 18, 2012 at 10:13 AM, <> wrote:

Great safety record, minimal noise impact on Victor proper, good for the economy. I dont see a reason not to renew as presented.

Jeff S.

On , Bill K <> wrote:

Gentleman; Attached is the county planning staff's review of a renewal application for the heli-skiing operation originating from Teton Springs. Would you please send me any comments you may have, if any, regarding the operation so I may forward them to the county staff.

bk

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Wendy Danielson

Date: Thu, Aug 16, 2012 at 3:03 PM

Subject: Teton Springs / High Mountain Heli-skiing

To: Bill K

Bill, Please see the attached request from Curt. We are getting ready to review the Heli-skiing operation at Teton Springs and would appreciate your input.

Let me know if you have trouble with the attachment. Thank you,

Wendy Danielson

Land Use Services Assistant

From: Bassista, Tom

Sent: Monday, August 27, 2012 3:00 PM

To: Curt Moore

Cc: Angie Rutherford; Schmidt, Steve; Cavallaro, Rob; Kampwerth, David

Subject: Teton Springs Lodge Heli-Ski Operation

Dear Curt:

I'm just now seeing a copy of this request. The Idaho Department of Fish and Game has concerns over impacts this operation has on a nesting bald eagle location within close proximity to the Teton Springs Lodge Heli-Ski Operation.

Unfortunately, I am off the rest of the week and we will not be able to provide written comments by August 31. I return to the office on September 4th at which time I can prepare written comments.

I'm providing this notification as directed in your August 16th letter sent to Steve Schmidt, Regional Supervisor.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments after August 31.

Sincerely,

Tom P. Bassista
Environmental Staff Biologist
Idaho Department of Fish and Game
Upper Snake Region

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United States Department of the Interior
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Eastern Idaho Field Office
4425 Burley Dr., Suite A
Chubbuck, Idaho 83202
Telephone (208) 237-6975
<http://IdahoES.fws.gov>



Curt Moore
Teton County Planner
150 Courthouse Drive, Room 107
Driggs, Idaho 83422

APR 03 2012

Subject: Teton Springs Helicopter Pad
In Reply Refer To: 14420-2012-CPA-0049 For Internal Use: 970.4200

Dear Mr. Moore:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) is writing in response to your request for information about potential concerns from a helicopter landing pad and flight path at Teton Springs in Victor, Idaho. The Service was informed about a bald eagle nest in the area. Bald eagles are afforded protection under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (40 Stat. 755; 16 U.S.C. 703-7 12) and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 668-668c) which prohibits any "take, possess, sell, purchase, barter, offer to sell, purchase or barter, transport, export or import, at any time or any manner, any bald eagle".

The Service has been informed about a bald eagle nest near the mouth of Pole Canyon. The nest has been active for the last 3 years, although it has been unsuccessful in the two years prior to 2012. The nest is currently occupied; eggs are being incubated by the resident pair of eagles. As stated in the Service's letter sent December 14, 2011, the helipad (over ½ mile away from the nest) and the flight path (over ¼ mile away from the nest) poses a low risk of disturbance due to the distance from the eagle nest. Also, it appears the eagles using this nest have become accustomed to human disturbance. Before using the current nest, the eagles successfully raised fledglings in a nest just off of a busy highway. However, the Service will continue to monitor the eagles using the nest and may make future recommendation as seen fit.

Thank you for your interest in fisheries and wildlife conservation. If you require further assistance, please contact Ty Matthews of this office at (208)237-6975 ext 115.

Sincerely,

David Kampwerth
Field Supervisor



IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

UPPER SNAKE REGION
4279 Commerce Circle
Idaho Falls, Idaho 83401

C.L. "Butch" Otter / Governor
Virgil Moore / Director

September 12, 2012

Mr Curt Moore
Teton County Planner
150 Courthouse Drive
Driggs, ID 83422

RE: Teton Springs Lodge Heli-ski pad Conditional Use Permit

Dear Curt:

Idaho Department of Fish and Game (Department) has received a request from Teton County to identify potential wildlife issues related to a helicopter landing pad used for a heli-skiing operation at Teton Springs Lodge in Victor, Idaho. Teton County granted Teton Springs Lodge a Temporary Use Permit on January 11, 2011 which will expire on December 31, 2012. It is our understanding that Teton Lodge is requesting a Conditional Use Permit to continue the Heli-ski operation until April 1, 2013.

Fish and wildlife are property of all Idaho citizens. The Department and the Idaho Fish and Game Commission are expressly charged with statutory responsibility to preserve, protect, perpetuate, and manage all fish and wildlife in Idaho (Idaho Code 36-103 (a)). In fulfillment of our statutory charge and direction as provided by the Idaho Legislature, we offer the following comments and technical information. The purpose of our comments is to assist Teton County while developing limitations for a Conditional Use Permit. It is not the intention of the Department to support or oppose this proposal.

The Department is concerned about potential effects of helicopter flights on nesting bald and golden eagles within the general vicinity of the landing pad. In the beginning of March, 2012, a pair of bald eagles nested near the mouth of Pole Canyon for the third consecutive year. The nest location was approximately a little more than one half mile west of the landing pad. During two observations in March, 2012, it was determined that the pair of bald eagles were actively using the nest and incubating eggs. In late May of 2012, it was determined that the nest failed for unknown reasons. To avoid and minimize impacts to bald and golden eagles, the Department recommends that Teton County include a special condition in the Conditional Use Permit that generally states:

The landing pad and flight path shall not be closer than one half mile from any active eagle nesting location throughout the months of March through June. Teton Springs

Keeping Idaho's Wildlife Heritage

Lodge shall be responsible for determining the location of active eagle nests within one half mile of proposed landing pads and flight paths starting in February with the use of a qualified biologist approved by the Department or the US Fish and Wildlife Service. Additionally, Teton Springs Lodge shall coordinate directly with the US Fish and Wildlife Service on issues related to the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act.

The Department appreciates the opportunity to review and provide comments on the Teton Springs Helipad Operation near Victor, ID. If you have questions or require further assistance, please contact our Regional Wildlife Biologist, Rob Cavallaro, or Environmental Staff Biologist, Tom Bassista, at 208.525.7290.

Sincerely,



Steve Schmidt
Regional Supervisor

SLS:TB:jms

cc: David Kampwerth (USFWS-Chubbuck)
Dirk Hoy (USFWS-Idaho Falls)
Doug Petersen (IDFG-Upper Snake)
Lauren Wendt (IDFG-Upper Snake)