

## **PUBLIC COMMENT for Public Meeting – Monday, May 12 6:00PM**

**From:** Katie Salsbury [mailto:katies@silverstar.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, May 09, 2014 11:21 AM  
**To:** Dawn Felchle  
**Cc:** 'Harley Wilcox'; 'Doug Self'  
**Subject:** RE: Comments for the Commissioners regarding the Recreation Master Plan

5/9/2014

To: Teton County Commissioners  
From: Katie Salsbury  
Re: The Recreation Master Plan

Hello all –

I had the fortunate experience to attend the Recreation Master Plan meetings this winter and wanted to highlight some of the great information and ideas that are available in the plan. I have not had the opportunity to run these comments by the fair board, so please read them as my personal opinion and not as the opinion of the board. Participating in the meetings was a valuable experience and it was interesting to see that folks who run programs supporting soccer, horse events, atv users, 4-H and ice skating all have similar challenges and concerns. Development of the Rec Master Plan was a great way to bring the rec community together to discuss our problems and solutions. Thank you for that opportunity!

Improvements at the fairgrounds made the Top Desired Facilities list in the report along with four other facilities (rec center, ball fields, public access improvements, and enclosed ice rink). This was exciting to see. The fair board is focused on bringing our community together to promote our western heritage and rural traditions and the Recreation Master Plan provides a great opportunity for us to grow this part of our mission. The plan recommends the following goals and I wanted to describe how these could benefit the fair board and the fairgrounds.

### **1. Coordinate existing recreation service providers in Teton Valley to maximize available resources.**

*A central group that coordinates the recreation service providers in the valley would be a great asset to the fair grounds. This would allow us to: 1) maximize the use of our facilities, 2) grow our community base and 3) continue to develop the fairgrounds into a valued year-round community asset that provides economic value and promotes our western heritage and rural traditions.*

### **2. Improve the utilization and maintenance of existing parks and recreation amenities.**

*Utilization and maintenance are two areas that the fairgrounds could use support. As we continue to grow and improve the grounds, our need for maintenance increases. Increased utilization and coordination could help offset future maintenance costs.*

**3. Continue to improve public access to National Forest land, BLM land, rivers, and streams.**

*A long term item in our capital improvement plan is to offer camping with horse boarding at the fairgrounds as a source of income. Improved access to forest and BLM land will help draw users to the valley that would value and pay for camping at the fairgrounds.*

**4. Work to establish a Teton County Recreation District to fund, coordinate, and manage existing and future recreation facilities, programs, and services.**

*A Recreation District could benefit the fairgrounds as a source of funding, coordination and staff to help manage and maintain current and future facilities at the fairgrounds.*

**5. Develop a long-range funding plan for recreation facilities and programs.**

*The fair board currently is comprised of 6 hard-working individuals whose plates are full with our current agenda. Participation and assistance in developing a long-range funding plan for our facilities as part of implementing the Recreation Master Plan would help us meet our mission without having to add additional duties to an already maxed board.*

**6. Promote the development of equity partnerships with recreation organizations for the delivery of parks and recreation programs and facilities.**

*Partnerships with other groups in the valley would help us maximize the use of our facilities, generate revenue to offset costs and make us stronger on grant applications to grow and improve our facilities.*

**7. Grow the opportunities for year round indoor and outdoor recreation participation.**

*An organization that is focused on growing opportunities for year-round recreation participation could help us expand the role of the fairgrounds to provide year-round recreation and economic development opportunities for the community. In earlier correspondence, I sent you an expanded list of uses for the fairgrounds. Implementation of the recreation master plan would help us achieve this list without burdening the county with requests for additional funds and future staff.*

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Katie Salsbury, Fair Board Member and 4-H Leader  
208-313-6930

**From:** J Nicola  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 27, 2014 1:38 PM  
**To:** Commissioners  
**Subject:** recreation district master plan

Hope that since pool is listed first it as the first priority. I would not have moved to Teton Valley if I'd known there was no pool. I've been a life long swimmer, and swimming is an activity that seniors can do longer than anything else, as long as the pool is enclosed in winter. Swimming is probably the best way to rehab after surgery. Never dreamed a high school wouldn't have a swimming pool.

Jo-Ann Nicola

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**From:** Dieter Knecht  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 27, 2014 4:58 PM  
**To:** Commissioners  
**Subject:** Support Teton County Recreation Master Plan

My wife, Margaret, and I support the Draft Teton County Recreation Master Plan that will be considered at the June 9 meeting. Unfortunately, we won't be in town to come to show our support in person, so we want to send this message of our support and to urge you to adopt this draft Plan and proceed to its implementation.

Sincerely,

Dieter and Margaret Knecht  
Driggs, ID 83422

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**From:** Mark  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 27, 2014 10:32 PM  
**To:** Commissioners  
**Subject:** Recreation and Public Access Master Plan

Dear Commissioners:

I have recently begun digesting the draft Recreation and Public Access Master Plan and must say, I am impressed. While I am pleased that the BOCC had the foresight to commission the plan, the work of the committee from all walks of valley life, is impressive and represents strategic ways to manage and develop our significant resources.

Since these are the resources that drive our local economy, I urge you to adopt the plan.

You are all well aware that our local economy is very dependent on recreation as a driver for not only tourism, but also for construction/real estate and all the various professions surrounding that segment. Developing our recreational resources is also critical to attracting potential new businesses to locate here and help diversify and grow our economy, something all of you mentioned in your campaigns. We also receive the added bonus of an improved quality of life for those of us who have chosen to live and raise our families here, as my wife and I have done.

This is an issue that valley residents largely agree on, something rare these days. If you expect to be successful, you need a plan.

One has been delivered. please support it.

Thank you for your consideration.

Mark Hanson  
Ski & Snowboard Director  
TVTAP Board President  
Driggs, Idaho

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**From:** Ken Rider  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 28, 2014 1:40 PM  
**To:** PZ  
**Subject:** Recreation Master Plan

May 28, 2014

Dear Board of County Commissioners:

I am writing this letter of support and I am asking for your support in the approval of the Teton County Recreation Master Plan. As the Director of Marketing and Sales at Grand Targhee Resort, a father of two active kids, a husband and an active participant in many recreational activities, this plan is an essential investment and next-step for the future of Teton County.

Many of the aspects of the Recreation Master Plan will benefit the entire community.

They include:

- Creating a comprehensive recreation plan that can be used to seek funding from sources outside of Teton County
- Improvement of valley-wide trails & pathways connectivity
- Maintaining and improving our existing park facilities
- Coordinating county-wide events and information about events
- Maintaining and improving our existing fair grounds and rodeo facilities
- Improving public river access points
- Improving public campgrounds
- Planning for recreation facilities including:
  1. A public pool
  2. A Recreation center
  3. Completing the Kolter Ice Arena
  4. Finishing the Rail-Trail, connecting Victor to Tetonia

I understand that there are many funding sources available to help the county and community move forward on the many components of the master plan. I also understand that if a master plan is not developed and approved, these funding sources are not available to access. I fully support seeking out these funding sources to help with the development of the components of the master plan once the plan is approved.

Sincerely,  
Ken Rider  
Director of Marketing & Sales  
**Grand Targhee Resort**

*See attached letter #1*

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**From:** Stacey Frisk  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 28, 2014 3:09 PM  
**To:** PZ  
**Subject:** Recreation Master Plan

All,

Please find VARD's letter of support for the Teton County Recreation & Public Access Master Plan attached. We appreciate your service and commitment to the community and encourage you to consider the many merits of adopting a strategic plan to govern recreation resources in Teton Valley.

Best,  
Stacey Frisk  
Executive Director  
Valley Advocates for Responsible Development (VARD)

*See attached letter #2*

**From:** Amy Verbeten [mailto:amy@tetonwater.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, May 30, 2014 11:32 AM  
**To:** PZ  
**Subject:** Comments in support of the Teton County Recreation and Public Access Master Plan

Please accept the attached letter, detailing Friends of the Teton River's support for the Teton County Recreation and Public Access Master Plan. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have questions or need additional information.

Kind Regards,  
Amy  
**Amy Verbeten**  
**Executive Director**  
Friends of the Teton River

*See attached letter #3*

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**From:** Sue Muncaster  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 27, 2014 8:30 AM  
**To:** PZ  
**Subject:** Recreation Plan

Esteemed Commissioners,

I fully support the statement in the Recreation Master Plan that a top priority should be the formation of a single entity like a recreation department or district as we move forward to coordinate and manage our facilities. My number one concern is putting any more money into fields and facilities with the state of the ones we have now in disrepair, especially the fair grounds and some of the parks.

I personally support a Recreation District to fund a pool, gyms, and climbing wall. The amount of money I would pay as a homeowner being taxed is approximately 1/2 of what I pay yearly to travel to the Jackson, Heise, and Green Canyon pools. Furthermore, as the Volleyball Club of the Tetons youth director, the difficulty we had in finding gym space this summer to serve our 80 girls was absurd. Again, though, before we fund anything I'd like to be confident in the board of directors and staff to assure the public these new facilities would be well taken care of.

I would like to see all of you encourage the School Board members to be well versed in this recreation plan before attempting to pass a bond for new schools and consider the needs assessment as outlined in this document. Furthermore, the fact that our school district has a one page document as a "strategic plan" compared to this document is a major concern and I believe pressure from you all to put more effort into their comprehensive strategic plan would be valuable.

I encourage you to allow the recreation district to be put on the ballot so the community can prove how valuable it is to us even though you might personally be against raising taxes.

Respectfully,

*Sue Muncaster*

[Teton Adventure Park](#)  
[Aerial Boundaries Mountain Guides](#)

Freelance Writer and Editor  
[ecogastronomy.org](http://ecogastronomy.org)

From: Alice Stevenson  
Sent: Monday, June 09, 2014 2:54 PM  
To: Commissioners  
Subject: Public Hearing, Recreation Master Plan

Commissioners:

I am unexpectedly out of Teton Valley on family business and therefore not able to attend the public hearing tonight. I apologize for the lateness of this comment, but I had intended to attend the hearing in person.

Having served on the Community Events and Facilities Sub-Committee for the 2012 Comprehensive Plan, I can assert that the proposed draft Recreation and Public Access Master Plan fits well with the hundreds of comments from community members that our sub-committee read and considered during the long period of outreach for the Comp Plan. This draft Master Plan captures what our diverse community has collectively and repeatedly said it wants.

I cannot predict how the testimony at the public hearing will go tonight, but please remember that your mission is to do what is best for the community, after considering all forms of comment: the oral and written comments specifically for this hearing, the comments made during the Comp Plan outreach (which are now represented in the Comp Plan), and the findings of the Recreation and Public Access Committee itself (which have now been synthesized into this draft Master Plan).

I understand that some people are opposed to this Master Plan because they are opposed to additional taxes. That is a separate issue which can only be determined by the voters sometime in the future--it should not be part of your consideration tonight. The recreational facilities that people want or think the community needs and what our community can currently afford are not the same thing. For now, please focus only on the Recreation and Public Access Master Plan itself. It is a good document for guiding our community into the future, and I urge you to adopt it.

Sincerely,  
Alice Stevenson  
Victor



May 28, 2014

Dear Board of County Commissioners:

I am writing this letter of support and I am asking for your support in the approval of the Teton County Recreation Master Plan. As the Director of Marketing and Sales at Grand Targhee Resort, a father of two active kids, a husband and an active participant in many recreational activities, this plan is an essential investment and next-step for the future of Teton County.

Many of the aspects of the Recreation Master Plan will benefit the entire community.

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Sincerely,

Ken Rider  
Director Marketing & Sales  
Grand Targhee Resort



# Valley Advocates for Responsible Development

May 28, 2014

Teton County Board of County Commissioners  
150 Courthouse Drive  
Driggs, Idaho 83422

RE: Support for the Teton County Recreation & Public Access Master Plan

Dear Commissioners:

Thank you for authorizing the creation of the Teton County Recreation & Public Access Master Plan (“Rec Plan”). Recreation has been consistently identified as one of the primary reasons why residents from all walks of life choose to live here, and what attracts new businesses to relocate here.<sup>1</sup> We commend the work of the 24-person advisory committee that you appointed to craft this thoughtful plan over the past year. This easy-to-follow document lists our community’s existing assets, proposes how they can be better managed, and outlines plans for future expansion.

**This Rec Plan will benefit the entire Teton Valley community in many ways. It will:**

- **Provide a clear road map for recreation industries and related businesses.** This Rec Plan enables existing employers to see exactly where the community is headed with management and expansion of our recreation infrastructure.
- **Promote business investment.** Having a clear vision for the future enables recreation industries and related businesses to feel confident in making long-term capital investments here in Teton Valley.
- **Create jobs.** These employers will likewise be able to plan for workforce expansion.
- **Help secure grants and philanthropic support.** A unified plan enables local governments and nonprofits to submit more compelling and competitive grant applications for recreation infrastructure – such as pathways funding.

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<sup>1</sup> Victor Comprehensive Plan (2006); Driggs Comprehensive Plan (2007), Tetonia Comprehensive Plan (2011); Teton County Comprehensive Plan (2012-2030), Teton County Economic Development Plan (2013).



## Valley Advocates for Responsible Development

- **Support coordination of funding and management.** This Rec Plan provides very specific mechanisms for how our currently-underfunded recreation assets can be better managed and steadily funded as a group.
- **Increase tourism.** Better management and funding will improve the recreation experience, which will thus attract a broader pool of year-round visitors to experience all that Teton Valley has to offer.
- **Attract new residents.** Some of these visitors may likely become new residents because they desire our community's high quality-of-life.
- **Strengthen community "ties".** As recreation becomes more accessible to all, residents will have more opportunity to interact and build relationships.
- **Improve self-esteem, physical and mental health of our children.** Most importantly, better-coordinated management of our recreation assets will provide increased options for our children to develop their physical and mental wellbeing as well as obtain sports scholarships to further their education.

On behalf of my Board and membership, I urge you to please adopt this Rec Plan as the critical first step to a community-wide, unified plan that capitalizes on our tremendous natural assets as well as provides growth opportunities for our children.

Sincerely,

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Stacey Frisk  
Executive Director  
Valley Advocates for Responsible Development



May 30, 2014

**To: Teton County Commissioners**

**Re: Teton County Recreation and Public Access Master Plan**

Please accept the following comments in support of the Teton County Recreation and Public Access Master Plan, on the behalf of Friends of the Teton River (FTR). FTR is a nonprofit organization dedicated to understanding and improving ground and surface water and fisheries resources in the Teton Basin. FTR furthers this mission by conducting scientific research about the Teton Watershed, using this research to enhance and protect local water resources, and communicating this information to the public.

As an individual, I am excited that the rec plan lays out realistic options for improving sports and recreation facilities my family and I can use for years to come. As the Executive Director of Friends of the Teton River, I would like to specifically comment on the following community benefits:

**1) Protection and improvement of fishing and hunting access**

Fishing and hunting have always been vital to the way of life in our valley. The rec plan provides a well thought-out plan for ensuring that Teton Valley's residents and visitors will maintain their right to access the Teton River for hunting and fishing purposes.

During the summer of 2013, FTR staff and volunteers conducted surveys with a diverse range of river users (from long-time valley residents to first time visitors, using the river for guided fishing trips, camping, personal fishing trips, duck hunting, and floating with young children). The most consistent recommendation among this group was to protect and expand river access, including improving parking and camping facilities at existing access points.

**2) Support for grant and private funding**

As a non-profit organization, FTR works hard to find private and grant funding that will have a positive impact on our community. On the recent Teton Creek Restoration Project alone, we were able to bring more than \$3 million into Teton County, the vast majority of which supported local businesses. Many private funders and grant applications require demonstrated community support before they will give money to a cause. The rec plan provides a clear message that the people of Teton Valley support recreation and public access. This will allow non-profits and local and state government entities to successfully bring in private and grant dollars to help

support maintenance, expansion, and improvement of public access, in a manner that can help support local businesses that do the work.

**3) Improved public safety**

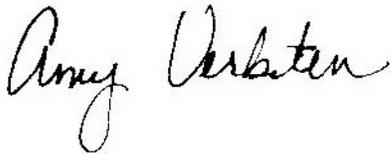
Over the past several years, Teton River access points have seen a steady increase in use by Teton Valley residents and tourists. On many summer days, parking lots are overflowing, and vehicles end up parking along narrow roadways where traffic travels at a high speed. This is particularly concerning, given that many river users are families with small children. The rec plan will help generate support for improved and expanded access, which will improve safety for all river users and hopefully help to avoid a tragic accident.

**4) Protection of private property**

Increased use of the river corridor has led to conflicts between river users and private landowners. The rec plan will help to generate support for improved and expanded access and better signage, which will help keep river users from inadvertently using, and potentially damaging, private property.

On behalf of the FTR membership, staff, and Board of Directors, I encourage you to adopt the Teton County Recreation and Public Access Master Plan. Please don't hesitate to contact me with questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Amy Verbeten". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Amy Verbeten, Executive Director  
Friends of the Teton River  
(208)354-3871 x 13  
[amy@tetonwater.org](mailto:amy@tetonwater.org)