

Curt Moore

From: Pence, Jay [jpence@fs.fed.us]
Sent: Friday, August 19, 2011 5:45 PM
To: Curt Moore
Subject: Teton Springs Heli-ski landing pad CUP

High Mountain heliski has a special use permit with the Caribou-Targhee National Forest and the Bridger-Teton National Forest to conduct heli-skiing operations in designated areas of the National Forest. Prior to becoming the District Ranger it is my understanding that the heli-ski operation originated out of Jackson Hole. There were some instances where they would return to a road to refuel and occasionally pick up/drop off clients. On the Teton Basin RD this undesignated landing usually occurred on Teton Pass (highway 22/33). My predecessor District Ranger Patty Bates was confronted with an issue where the helicopter had landed on the edge of the Stateline parking area and the moving rotor was almost struck by a highway road plow. It created enough of an impression with her that she discontinued the ability of the permittee to land on the highway.

When the permit was being reviewed for reissuance I was approached with the request to allow them to land and refuel etc. on Teton Pass. I denied their request based on public safety. As I'm sure you are aware, almost all the plowed pull outs on the pass are heavily used by the public. I recommended that if they wanted to come toward Teton Valley to refuel; they should consider using the Driggs airport, or see if they could work with a local private land owner along the Forest Boundary. I told them that they would need to see if the county could accommodate their use in a safer and more controlled location. I think Teton Springs would be a logical location for them to base their refueling operation rather than the top of Pine Creek pass or along Teton Pass .

On a personal level I live near Teton Springs. When they first started using the area around 2005(?) the helicopter pilot would occasionally fly north down 1000-2000 west to around 9000 south swing around to baseline before returning to Teton Springs. This affected a large area with the noise and activity. I believe that even with this circular route, less of a residential area was affected by their activity than if they were to return to the Driggs airport at a low elevation. I also believe that it became very obvious to the residents that the commercial operation occurring. In the past several years, I have not noticed their activity unless I'm outside or close to Teton Springs. I think their intended flight path as outlined reduces the effect to Teton Valley much more than if they traveled at a lower elevation to the airport. It is probably the best alternative if they are going to operate out of private land in Teton Valley. The other option would be to move their operation to a different location.

Good luck with your deliberation and decision.

If you have questions or need more clarification please let me know.

Jay Pence
Teton Basin District Ranger
P.O. Box 777
Driggs, Id. 83455
(208)354-2312 office or (208)354-8505 Fax

Curt Moore

From: Bret Campbell [bcampbell@tetoncountyfire.com]
Sent: Monday, August 22, 2011 11:41 AM
To: Curt Moore
Subject: Teton Springs Heli-Ski

Curt,

I have reviewed the CUP for Teton Springs Heli-Ski program utilizing the approved Heli-pad site. The Fire District grants agency approval for this CUP.

Bret Campbell
Assistant Chief



Teton County Fire Protection District
PO Box 474
625 North Airport Road
Driggs, ID 83422

Phone: 208-354-2760
Fax: 208-354-2764

Information from ESET NOD32 Antivirus, version of virus signature database 6400 (20110822)

The message was checked by ESET NOD32 Antivirus.

<http://www.eset.com>

Curt Moore

From: Louis Christensen [louchris@ida.net]
Sent: Monday, August 29, 2011 11:27 AM
To: Curt Moore
Cc: lillian@digis.net; Ash Alexander; Tom Hunter; Charles Jones; Mike Etchemendy; 'Yuki H. Kobayashi'; Delwyn Jensen
Subject: Teton Springs Heli-Ski

Curt,

I would hope that they have a noise abatement procedure in place to minimize the complaints that are inevitable based on recent complaints. I hope that they are going to obey all FARs regarding minimum altitudes / separation from structures

Lillian, I have reviewed the enclose proposal for a Heli Ski Tour operations by Teton Springs. I have compared the typical helicopter flight paths example that they have provided with the instrument approach charts for the Driggs Read Memorial Airport. Based on the information provided I don't see any conflict between normal operations at the airport and the Heli Ski Tours.

Also it would be useful if the group could publish something in the papers prior to the season, and also let the FBO know when they start. It will be very helpful.

The instrument landing for KDII (Driggs Reid Memorial Airport) may not be an issue, but they need to be aware that there are 2 instrument approaches.

Thanks,
Louis B. Christensen
Chair, Driggs Reid Memorial Airport Board

This new business venture should be a complement to the Teton Valley, I wish them good luck and success in this endeavor.

To Agency response file

Curt Moore

From: Bassista, Tom [tom.bassista@idfg.idaho.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, August 30, 2011 3:50 PM
To: Curt Moore
Cc: Schmidt, Steve; Thomas, Terry; Cavallaro, Rob
Subject: Review of Conditional Use Permit-Heliskiing Landing Pad-Teton Springs Lodge

Curt:

Thanks for speaking with me today concerning a Conditional Use Permit application submitted by Teton Springs Lodge for a Heli-ski landing pad. As noted in your August 19, 2011 letter sent to Mr. Steve Schmidt we are notifying you that we intend to provide written comments within the 45 day review period. We were unable to adequately review the proposed activity and provide written comments prior to August 31, 2011.

Please contact me or Mr. Steve Schmidt if you have any questions pertaining to this email.

Sincerely,

Tom P. Bassista
Environmental Staff Biologist

Idaho Department of Fish and Game
Upper Snake Region
4279 Commerce Circle
Idaho Falls, ID 83401
208.525.7290

Curt Moore

From: Bill K [billk@victorcityidaho.com]
Sent: Tuesday, August 30, 2011 4:36 PM
To: Curt Moore
Subject: Springs Helo Operations

Curt;

The Teton Springs helicopter skiing operations (Heli-Ski) poses no known adverse impacts to the City of Victor. In fact, the city supports the operation as an attractive recreational choice for winter visitors.

Our support assumes that the Teton Springs Homeowners Association residents likewise support the activity.

regards,

Bill Knight
Planning Director