

MINUTES OF THE JACKSON HOLE AIRPORT BOARD SPECIAL MEETING

DATE: April 24, 2020

BOARD PRESENT: Bob McLaurin, Ed Liebrecht, Rick Braun, John Eastman and Jerry Blann were present via the WebEx platform being streamed from the Jackson Hole Airport Board room.

OTHERS PRESENT: Jim Elwood, Michelle Anderson, Andrew Wells, Tony Cross, Anna Valsing, of the Jackson Hole Airport, and Mike Morgan, Airport Attorney were present either in person or by WebEx. Other individuals, who are not individually documented, watched the meeting on a live stream from the Airport Board Room due to COVID-19.

I. CALL TO ORDER: Blann called the special meeting of the Jackson Hole Airport Board to order at 8:00 am on Friday, April 24, 2020.

Blann noted that the sole issue to come before the Board was the application of Wind River Air LLC. Blann stated information for how to provide public comment is available on the Jackson Hole Airport website.

II. ACTION ITEM

A. WIND RIVER AIR:

Overview: Blann stated the application for Wind River Air LLC ("WRA") was received in 2018. He said the Board delayed action until WRA sought and received feedback from the National Park Service, Town of Jackson and Teton County. He said the Airport Board held a public open house in December 2019 at which the Board and WRA heard public comment. Blann stated the Board sent a letter to the FAA asking for a safety review of the aircraft WRA proposes to fly. He said the FAA replied that the aircraft was considered safe for scenic operations at the Jackson Hole Airport. In light of COVID-19 health orders, WRA's application was again delayed until public participation could be assured. Blann stated the Board has received over 400 public comments related to this application and this agenda item has received the most public comment of any agenda item the Airport Board has considered during his tenure.

Comments from National Park Service, Town of Jackson, and Teton County: Jim Stanford, Town of Jackson, stated he is speaking as a citizen and as a single town councilman. He stated technology is difficult for members of our community and a decision of this magnitude should be made at an in-person meeting. Stanford asked the Board to deny WRA's application. Stanford stated twenty years ago the Town and County asked the FAA for a study regarding the safety, economic, and environmental impacts of helicopter tours at the Jackson Hole Airport. He said the study was not completed. Stanford stated the Jackson Hole Airport is unique and scenic tours should be banned. He stated the Board should stand up to the federal government and oppose this application. Stanford told the Board they serve the community and not the FAA. Stanford asked for Section 5.8 of the agreement to include "Town and County" after the word Federal to ensure the Town and County are not exposed to additional risk. Stanford stated the Board should follow their own moral compass as they make this decision.

Mark Barron, Teton County, stated he had no additional comments other than the letter Teton County sent the Board.

Jonathan Schechter, Town of Jackson, stated the sentiment of the community is strongly opposed to helicopter operations and the Town Council has submitted a letter to the Airport Board stating their formal position.

Applicant Presentation: Tony Chambers of WRA extended his apologies for the extra work caused for the Airport Board, staff, and community. Chambers stated he feels good about the community outreach he has conducted. He is happy to meet with any members of the community, Airport Board, or staff moving forward if anyone has questions or concerns. Chambers stated he wants to create a positive, safe, and unique asset to the community. Chambers stated he agreed with requests to install and operate an ADS-B transponder, which has been installed on his aircraft, and to participate in the Fly Quiet Program. Chambers offered his services during the COVID-19 pandemic if key personnel or equipment needs to be moved around. Blann asked Chambers when he is planning to begin operations in light of the current pandemic. Chambers stated he is not planning on beginning scenic tours until it is perfectly safe and allowed. Blann asked Chambers what altitude above ground level he is planning on flying and what limits he is placing on hours and days of the week. Chambers stated the recommendation is for pilots to fly 2,000 feet above wilderness areas and wildlife refuges. Chambers intends to fly the routes as high as possible to minimize impact to those on the ground, but low enough so that it is a safe and pleasant experience for passengers. Chambers stated the days of the week he operates is undetermined and will be developed over time.

Blann asked if any Board members had questions for Chambers. No Board members had questions.

Legal Framework: Mike Morgan stated federal statute requires that as a condition of receiving FAA grant funds, public airports must be open on reasonable conditions without unjust discrimination. He said the FAA enforces this statute through grant assurances which are contractual obligations airport sponsors sign when they receive grant funds. He said these commitments last for a period of twenty years. He said that two grant assurances are particularly applicable in this situation. Morgan said Grant Assurance 22 states that federally assisted airports must be available for public use on reasonable terms and without unjust discrimination to all types, kinds, and classes of aeronautical activities. He said there is an exception for safety, but when it comes to aircraft, the FAA is the judge of what is safe. He said the FAA has reviewed the aircraft WRA intends to fly and considers its proposed operation to be safe.

Mike Morgan said Grant Assurance 23 states it will permit no exclusive right for the use of the airport by any person providing or intending to provide aeronautical services to the public. He said other aeronautical operators are already authorized to fly scenic tours from the Airport, and denial of WRA for the same activity would likely violate Grant Assurance 23.

Morgan stated if the FAA determines an airport has violated a grant assurance it will not approve future federal grants and it could require an airport to pay back grants received previously. He said in the absence of federal funding the Airport would eventually be unable to accommodate commercial air carriers due to the condition of the Airport.

Morgan stated the FAA previously reviewed the Air Tour Management act in 2001 and clarified the Air Tour Management Act does not prohibit scenic helicopter tours at the Jackson Hole Airport and they must be permitted. Morgan stated in December 2019 the Board asked the FAA

to review the safety of the R44 for scenic helicopter tours out of the Jackson Hole Airport. He said the FAA reconfirmed they view the operations as safe.

Morgan stated the agreement before the Board today is not asking the Board to approve scenic overflights of any specific part of the County or to determine the safety of the R44 helicopter. He said the FAA has exclusive jurisdiction of aircraft in flight and the safety of aircraft. Morgan stated the Board is acting on an application for a license agreement to base a helicopter at the airport and conduct scenic helicopter tours. He said the agreement is in a standard form and does not grant Wind River Air any exclusive space at the Airport. Morgan said the Board cannot prescribe specific routes that the helicopter operator must fly. Morgan stated the operator must comply with lawful orders of governmental entities that have jurisdiction, which means Wind River Air must comply with all local and state orders related to COVID-19. Morgan stated a bond is not appropriate to cover costs of search and rescue. He stated WRA would be required to have a commercial general liability insurance policy.

Morgan stated the proposed license agreement would require WRA to comply with the Noise Abatement Plan, the noise requirements of the 1983 Use Agreement with the Department of the Interior, National Parks Air Tour Management Act, and laws from agencies having jurisdiction. He said WRA has voluntarily agreed with requirements to participate in the Fly Quiet Program and to have and turn on an ADS-B.

Eastman asked Morgan to confirm the National Parks' Air Tour Management Act does not preclude operators from flying over the National Park, but requires an Air Tour Management Plan to be entered into if they fly over the Park. Eastman stated the Airport is not only requesting that ADS-B be installed but also for WRA to have ADS-B turned on. Morgan confirmed the proposed license agreement requires WRA to have ADS-B on.

McLaurin asked if WRA wanted to operate from Pinedale and pick up passengers at the Jackson Hole Airport if he could do that without this agreement. Morgan stated this comes down to the definition of doing business which is defined in the Board rules. He said this is defined as advertising business at the airport or basing a business at the Airport – so it would be possible for WRA to drop off or pick up passengers at the Airport without this license agreement.

Comments from public: Airport staff read into the record 366 e-mails which had been received at publiccomment@jhairport.org prior to 7:00 am on April 24, 2020. All e-mails received to the publiccomment@jhairport.org e-mail address regarding the Wind River Air application have been appended to these minutes and will be maintained in the record.

Oral public comment was provided through the WebEx platform by Emily Eckart, Clare Stumpf, Elaine Engelman, Joan Anzelmo, Pat Butts, Nick Mestre, Carol Schoner, Peggie DePasquale, Brooke Sausser, Hadden Goodman, Matthew Cuzzooreo. All oral public comment received was opposed to the Wind River Air application.

Board Discussion: In response to comments regarding inadequate opportunities for public comment, Blann gave an overview of the public input opportunities that were available over the past several months including a public open house in December.

Blann said he suspected that the majority, if not all, of the Board members agree with the public's concerns. Blann stated his Guest Shot in the newspaper reiterated the three parties who have the ability to stop these scenic helicopter tours: Congress, the FAA, and the applicant,

WRA. Blann stated economics can also stop the operations and our community still has choices as to whether it will fly on such tours.

Blann asked Tony Chambers if WRA would withdraw or postpone its application based on the public comment he heard today. Chambers stated he is not interested in withdrawing WRA's application. Chambers said he wants WRA to have the opportunity to prove it can do what he said it can do.

Blann asked for any motions to amend the application first and then will ask for a motion as to whether to approve the agreement as a whole. Mike Morgan confirmed this route was appropriate.

Eastman thanked the public for taking the time to provide comment. Eastman said he has considered a number of issues regarding WRA's application and he has a number of conflicts he is working through. He said as a Board member, his first obligation is to the safe operations of the Airport and our fiscal sustainability. He said as a member of the community he is concerned about the safety of our residents and the stewardship of our environment. He said WRA has the right to fly the air tours, but having the right to do something doesn't mean it's the right thing to do. Eastman asked the community to understand his position and the constraints he is under by Congress and the FAA. He stated he is constrained by the FAA to ensure safe and predictable operations across the country. He said ignoring the constraints the FAA has in place would impact the community's opportunity to have commercial air service. He said that risk is not reasonable or manageable. Eastman asked Chambers to work with the Airport Board on how he conducts air tours. He said there is a balance between WRA's rights to fly the air tours with the community's rights to a natural soundscape.

Eastman asked if Chambers was willing to participate in discussions with a working group to attempt to agree upon a voluntary Air Tour Management Plan. He said this would help answer some of the community's concerns. Chambers thanked Eastman for his comments and questions which Chambers answered with an unequivocal yes.

Eastman directed staff to amend the agreement with Wind River Air to form a working group to accomplish these tasks. He said this group should include National Park Service and the FAA should they agree to participate.

McLaurin proposed an amendment to Section 5.8 to the agreement to add "town and/or county regulation imposed upon the Board" after federal. McLaurin also suggested an amendment reducing the term of the agreement from three years to one year.

Liebzeit said he was appointed to the Airport Board to make decisions in the best interest of the Jackson Hole Airport and provide a safe, efficient, and secure environment of travel for our community. He said he will make a decision based on this and not his own emotional reaction. He said it was important to clarify what the Board was deciding today. He said Chambers can fly these tours today without this agreement and it is important to understand the Board's role. Liebzeit said it is important to establish a collaborative relationship with Wind River Air through an agreement and work together and not in opposition of each other. He said entering into an agreement allows the Board a much better opportunity.

Braun stated he is in alignment with Eastman and Liebzeit. Braun said a no vote on this license would not change the ultimate outcome and he is concerned a no vote would cause the Jackson Hole Airport to lose its FAA funding and possibly its ability to offer commercial service. Braun

said moving forward the Airport Board should formally work with congressional delegations, state, county, and public on federal legislation to prohibit scenic helicopter tours over public lands such as wilderness areas.

Blann asked Mike Morgan how to include the three proposed amendments. Morgan stated an amendment changing the term from three years to one year is appropriate if all similar agreements in the future are for a one-year term. Morgan said the voluntary management plan can be inserted in paragraph 5.12. Morgan said the modifications suggested to section 5.8 of the Agreement, to subject WRA to Town or County jurisdiction, are not within the Board's jurisdiction.

McLaurin made a motion to change the term of the agreement with Wind River Air, LLC. from three-years to one-year. Braun seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Blann asked Morgan for proposed language for section 5.12 regarding the voluntary working group. Morgan provided proposed language which was displayed for the public to view. Blann asked Chambers if he agreed to the proposed language. Chambers stated he was fine with the proposed language. Eastman said the National Elk Refuge needed to be added. Chambers suggested adding Wyoming Game and Fish Department. Chambers asked to clarify who would be responsible for putting together the meetings. Elwood stated the Board would be responsible for initiating meetings described in section 5.12. Blann asked for the meetings to be initiated within 30 days. Morgan made the proposed changes and the updated version was displayed for the public to view.

Eastman made a motion to amend the agreement with Wind River Air, LLC to incorporate the language as presented in section 5.12. Liebrecht seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

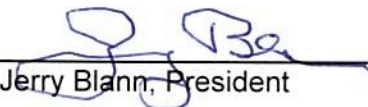
Blann asked about the proposed changes to Section 5.8. Eastman asked about the costs associated with required training for municipal authorities in response to the helicopter air tours. Morgan said that WRA would be required to hold a liability insurance certificate which would cover damages in the event of an aircraft accident, but this would not cover training costs. Braun asked how this would be different than the training to respond to a fixed wing aircraft accident. Elwood stated there is cross training between the Airport and Town or County. Elwood suggested coordinating specialized training that would be provided to the National Park Service, Jackson Fire EMS, and others and provide additional experience and exposure related to aircraft rescue firefighting techniques. McLaurin stated it was not necessary to make the modifications to 5.8 at this time.

McLaurin thanked everyone for the work that has gone into this agreement. McLaurin said he is not in support of the proposal. He said it is inconsistent with our community values and the values of the Park, and the aircraft does not seem appropriate for the mission. He said we don't have much choice if we want to have commercial air service in Jackson. He said saying no to this agreement will jeopardize our federal funding which is not a risk he is willing to take. He said as a fiduciary of the Airport he would vote for this, but on a personal level it would be very easy to vote against this.

Blann said McLaurin characterized what many Board members are feeling. He said the Board has a fiduciary responsibility to the Airport and must act in the Airport's best interest and the interest of our community. Blann thanked everyone who provided public comment, airport staff, Morgan and the applicant.

Eastman made a motion to approve the License Agreement with Wind River Air, LLC. in the form presented with the incorporation of the amendments to the length of the term and section 5.12. Braun seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

XIII. ADJOURN: Eastman made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:30pm on Friday, April 24, 2020. Braun seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned.


Jerry Blann, President


Ed Liebszeit, Secretary

From: [kary paulson](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: (null)
Date: Tuesday, April 21, 2020 10:27:16 AM

Sent from my iPad

We live west of the airport near zenith. If the helicopters get permission I certainly hope their flight take off and landings come from north and east of airport

We have enough air traffic as it is

Kary s paulson

From: [Wallace Ulrich](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: 3/22/2020 Airport Board Winder River LLC Permit
Date: Wednesday, April 22, 2020 7:49:40 PM
Attachments: [WU.Helio Comment.pdf](#)
[AvData.png](#)

Attached please find a PDF format statement for the Airport Board & public record concerning the Wind River LLC Permit.

Wallace Lee Ulrich

Fossil@wyoming.com

307.690.3675

Date: 22-NOV-1979

Time: 15:14

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Type: [Hughes 500C \(369HS\)](#)

Owner/operator: Servicios Aereos SA (SASA)


Registration: OB-...

C/n / msn:

Fatalities: Fatalities: 0 / Occupants: 4

Other fatalities: 0

Aircraft damage: Written off (damaged beyond repair)

Location: Urubamba -  [Peru](#)

Phase: En route

Nature: Ferry/positioning

Departure airport: Cusco

Destination airport: Cusco

Narrative:

During flight engine part malfunctioned placing engine to idle at approximately 17,000'. Craft sought to auto-rotate and crashed at approximately 14,000'. Rotor struck ground, engine/gear box pulled to ground as craft "pole-vaulted" up grass-slope. Instruments indicated craft struck at 161 MPH and that angle and flip allowed for survival. One passenger, right front, was ejected but survived.

Sources:

Survivor account, Wallace L. Ulrich. 3100 Mallard Road, Skyline Ranch, Jackson, Wyoming 83001 USA .

Images:



Crash Site, shortly after crash, near Urubamba, Peru 15:14 HRS November 22, 1979 by W.L. Ulrich

From: [Kathryn W Myers](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: 04/17 meeting re heliport
Date: Wednesday, April 15, 2020 12:48:34 PM

How is it possible to allow one company to benefit at the expense of thousands of others? The thwap, thwap, thwap of rotors, especially reverberating off granite walls and into canyons, is so inconsistent with a wilderness experience.

Kathryn Myers

From: [Liz Templin](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: 04-17 General Comment
Date: Wednesday, April 15, 2020 2:54:19 PM

On the Wind River Air proposal:

To whom it may concern,

Businesses and residents of Teton County, WY have the ability to be on the right side of history by reducing the drastic effects of climate change, and be leaders to the rest of the nation on how we value wilderness, wildlife, and conservation oriented working landscapes.

National Park's were created to not become amusement parks, or industry ridden tourist destinations, they were meant to preserve nature and allow opportunities for people to appreciate environments free from industrial society. Currently, America's best idea is being challenged consistently with threats of increased access for quick big buck efforts. These threats pose the potential of long term negative impacts.

While all of Teton County is not a National Park, it is an incredibly intact wild ecosystem that is a model of functional conservation prioritization. A status that many communities are trying to work back towards. Jackson's greatest commodity is it's ecosystem, allowing heli-tours and maximizing flights in the valley to increase profits and exploit our valley's greatest commodity will degrade and deplete it.

Heli tours, like the Wind River Air proposal, and any future heli proposals, should not be allowed in Teton County, WY.

From: [Mariah Radue](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: 04-17 Scenic Helicopter Tours Comment
Date: Wednesday, April 15, 2020 7:41:16 PM

I am against scenic helicopter tours out of Jackson Hole Airport. If you have been to Juneau, AK, you know what a disruption helicopters can make. They buzz around all day long, creating a stress-inducing din that you can't escape. And when you go high into the mountains to escape cars and traffic, that is where the helicopters are the loudest, disrupting a quiet alpine vista so those who spent money for the view can snap a photo and move on. In Juneau, you hear the peace of a cloudy day when the helicopters are grounded. We do not want this in Jackson. Please respect the needs of the wildlife and human visitors to the mountains.

From: [Maggie Radford](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Cc: [windriverair@gmail.com](#); [Bob Weiss](#)
Subject: 04-17 Wind River Air (WRA) application for heli tour
Date: Thursday, April 16, 2020 9:25:00 PM

We live full time in our home on Burcher Road in Wilson, just off Fall Creek Road. We are strongly opposed to the helicopter tours planned by WRA for several reasons:

* Helicopters are noisy and will directly impact the peaceful enjoyment of our home. After living and working for years in a large city, we chose this beautiful area for the quiet, the environment and the people. The proposed flight A is almost directly above our home.

* The other proposed flight C will also impact us because we will see the helicopter flying toward Shadow Mountain. Again, "peaceable enjoyment" of our home is not possible with helicopter noise and views of helicopters.

* These proposed flights pose a risk of crash and resulting forest fires. An unnecessary forest fire poses a grave economic risk for us.

* Lastly, Jackson Hole is filled with a variety of wildlife and birds. These creatures will undoubtedly be negatively impacted by the noise.

Jackson Hole has been our dream home for years. Now that we live here, we implore the WRA owner to withdraw his application so that we can continue to enjoy the peace and quiet of our home.

Sincerely,
Mary Radford and Bob Weiss

From: [Gabriel Nolan](#)
To: windriverair@gmail.com
Cc: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: 04-17 Wind River Air application to conduct helicopter flights
Date: Thursday, April 16, 2020 9:52:48 PM

To Whom It May Concern:

The idea of scenic helicopter flights in the Tetons and surrounding area is extremely disheartening. The specific model of helicopter WRA has chosen is loud and dangerous. This would be a huge mistake for our small community.

The noise pollution created by said helicopters would be devastating to hikers, climbers, bikers, boaters and all other outdoorsmen and women who want to recreate in peace. We as a community only have room for one purpose for a helicopter — the one flown by the brave men and woman of our emergency services, Teton County Search and Rescue, and life flights.

I can't imagine spending my quiet Sundays hiking and climbing in the park with the annoying buzz of a giant pest overheard. The reverberation of helicopter blades over the Tetons would be a severe reminder to our community that our voices don't matter. Please consider taking your business elsewhere. I say Heli No!

A concerned citizen,
Gabe Nolan

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Gerrit Bass](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: 04-17 Wind River Air application to conduct scenic helicopter flights
Date: Thursday, April 16, 2020 9:45:35 PM

I would like to start by saying that I see the value in providing an experience for those who may be unable to see the beauty of Jackson Hole by other means. However, I do not think helicopters are a viable answer. The impacts to wildlife, the environment, and the experience of those who are entering these spaces on their own two feet far outweigh the benefits of allowing these tours to occur. There are plenty of opportunities for vehicle bound persons to enjoy the beauty of this amazing valley without adding the noise and fossil fuel emissions of helicopters into the picture. The Gros Ventre and Jedediah Smith Wilderness Areas are pristine tracks of land set aside and protected with strict regulations to keep them as wild and untouched as possible. Allowing helicopters to buzz over these pristine landscapes would disrupt both the animals that call them home as well as the people who have worked hard to access them and experience the peace that they bring. For these reasons I do not support allowing Wind River Air to conduct helicopter tours in Jackson Hole.

Gerrit Bass

From: [Sharon Mader](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: 04-17 Wind River Air Comment Item V
Date: Thursday, April 16, 2020 9:56:59 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

April 17, 2020

Dear Members of the Jackson Hole Airport Board of Directors:

I submit these comments on behalf of the National Parks Conservation Association and our 1.4 million members and supporters of national parks.

Today, you are voting to decide whether Wind River Air will be granted a permit to operate helicopter tours based out of Grand Teton National Park. Visitors to Grand Teton come seeking peace and quiet, but if Wind River Air has its way, the park and adjacent federal lands will be filled with the incessant and jarring noise of helicopter traffic.

Although FAA rules appear to tie the Board's hands, please know that this is still a difficult choice on your part. Your vote could open the door to the only commercial helicopter tour operation in the nation that is allowed to base out of a national park. This decision could degrade the park experience for millions of visitors.

NPCA opposes Wind River Air's proposed helicopter tours over Grand Teton and other federal lands. This commercial use benefits very few visitors but could have an overwhelmingly negative impact on our public lands and community.

Sincerely,

Sharon Mader
Senior Manager, Grand Teton Program



Sharon Mader
Senior Grand Teton Program Manager | National Parks Conservation Association
P: 307-733-4680 | **C:** 307-690-5245 | smader@npca.org | npca.org
Your parks. Your turn.

From: [David Bowers](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: 04-17, Agenda Item V, Wind River Air
Date: Thursday, April 16, 2020 5:39:23 PM

Dear JH Airport Board,

I oppose WRA's helicopter flights over Jackson Hole and surrounding areas because of the negative impacts to our experiences on public and private lands where we seek solitude and peace.

I am a year 'round resident for 31 years and value the uniqueness of Jackson Hole. I've been a risk manager and mountain guide in the Tetons for over two decades, and I've explored and appreciate our remote neighboring mountain ranges. As a professional ski patroller and rescuer for 28 years, I coordinate and participate in joint training missions with both TCSAR and Jenny Lake Rangers, and am therefore familiar with helicopter operations. Capable helicopters do have a place here for rescuers, but not as a for-profit "High Thrills, No Skills" business. The distracting noise in the mountains is unsettling to both humans and wildlife, and contradicts what this ecosystem represents.

Our region is incongruous for any scenic helicopter company to profit at the expense of lost solace to others.. No dollar amount can represent these intangibles. Please maintain a high standard with your decision and allow us to continue to seek, and find, true wilderness experiences.

David Bowers

From: [Kate Wilmot](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: 04-17-2020 Wind River Air Proposal
Date: Wednesday, April 15, 2020 9:35:35 PM

I am writing to let the Jackson Hole Airport Board and Tony Chambers know that I am against the proposal to have scenic helicopter tours operate from Jackson Hole Airport by Wind River Air.

We are one of a few special places left that do not have scenic helicopter overflights and we are SO LUCKY. If you go to Glacier National Park, Grand Canyon National Park, or anywhere in Alaska your sense of wilderness is constantly interrupted by the sight and sound of helicopters and/or small planes. Tony is asking to fly over WILDERNESS. Think about the meaning and intent of WILDERNESS and the people and wild places that he will be impacting.

Please protect the ability for all Americans and international visitors to enjoy the Bridger-Teton National Forest/WILDERNESS and Caribou-Targhee National Forest/WILDERNESS without annoying overflights. Tony said he won't fly over Grand Teton but you know he just said that to appease people and that he will start flying over the parks as soon as he feels like it. There is nothing to stop him from doing so.

Tony, why do you feel the need to remind recreationists in our National Forests and eventually in our parks, the very people who are trying to get away and enjoy the outdoors/nature, that humans are everywhere and that we really do ruin everything when we can. Why do you see the need to destroy peoples wilderness experiences? Because you can? Because you have the right to be an entrepreneur?

Please think about the bigger impact that your overflights will have and don't be so selfish. **The pushback from the community alone should guide your conscious that this is not a good idea to pursue.** Please use your intelligence and entrepreneurship to start a different business that won't negatively impact thousands of people every year.

Thank your for the opportunity to comment.

K. Wilmot

From: [s.king](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: 04-17generalcomment
Date: Friday, April 17, 2020 8:05:54 AM

Grand Teton National Park is a place of immense silence. It's no place for the sound of helicopters. You can hear them long before you can see them. I've flown in them in Antarctica, Greenland, Alaska & the lower 48. They are amazing. They have no place ruining the experience of many for a very few in Grand Teton Park. The Jackson Airport is an island in the Park. No way to get there except flying over the Park, no way to do it quietly. I have lived in the shadow of the Tetons since 1974. I have climbed, skied, hiked, boated & biked in the park every year since arriving. Every year I camp at Leigh Lake. Lately, ever year the helicopter noise has increased. It is incredible how loud & long a helicopter passing takes. The mountains & canyons are echo chambers. There is a term that has come into our lexicon, noise pollution. This is exactly what this would be called if helicopters are allowed in the Park. Please, please ,please do not allow our Grand Teton National Park to be polluted with the intrusive sound machine. Now is the time to say no, if allowed, it may never be able to be taken away.
Steven King Victor, Idaho

From: [Frankie Gibbs](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: 4/17 Airport Board Meeting - Wind River Air Comment
Date: Wednesday, April 15, 2020 2:49:08 PM

To Whom it may concern on the Airport Board and management of Wind River Air,

I am contacting you to voice my opinion that no permit should be approved to Wind River Air. Helicopters should not be allowed to operate for commercial purposes over designated Wilderness areas. I believe allowing commercial helicopter travel would be intrusive and harmful to wildlife. Furthermore, the cacophony created by Helicopter travel is disruptive to the experiences of locals and visitors alike who come to our beautiful home to experience the peace and serenity inherent in the surrounding wilderness. For the sake of all who inhabit Jackson Hole, please to do not allow commercial helicopter travel to plague our home. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Frank Gibbs

From: [Mary Whitney](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: 4/17/20 General Comment
Date: Saturday, April 11, 2020 12:15:21 PM

> Dear JH Airport,

>

> Of primary concern regarding helicopter tours out of JAC is that one tour company with one helicopter will likely lead to more tour companies and more helicopters.

> The Jackson Hole area is so extraordinary because of the beauty, wilderness, wildlife and solitude.

> I can understand a tourist's desire to quickly see this area from above but as a year round resident I know the magic of allowing this unique place to slowly and quietly reveal itself on nature's terms.

> I strongly believe helicopter tours will jeopardize everything that's special about Jackson Hole, the National Parks, and surrounding area. It would be a terrible shame if the desire to satisfy tourists actually destroyed what they came here for in the first place.

>

> Thank you for your consideration,

> Mary J Whitney

> Jackson, WY

From: [Tim Green](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: 4/17/20, Wind River Air LLC, Scenic Tour Application
Date: Tuesday, April 14, 2020 2:15:02 PM

Thank you for hearing my comment. The balance of luxury and wildness is one of the most fundamentally important dynamics that makes this place so great to live. The line between those two resources is very thin, but also very distinct. This balance, and most importantly that line that divides them, is what so many of us appreciate about this place. It's what visitors come here to support our businesses for seek as well.

Right now that balance and that line are near a tipping point. Our roads, trails, restaurants, rivers and powder stashes are becoming more and more crowded each year. Fortunately most of those crowds concentrate at the roads, restaurants and trailheads; but supply and demand will continue to push people further afield.

If we allow helicopter tours to start flying sightseers over those trails and rivers and into the canyons then we allow that balance of luxury and wildness to be distorted and the line dividing them to be erased.

If we keep selling off what makes this place special then we will lose what we have here as well as the visitors that are the lifeblood of our local businesses.

Please do not put the desires one small business in front of the soul of Jackson Hole.

Thank you,
Tim Green

From: [Matt Mikkelsen](#)
To: windriverair@gmail.com; [publiccomment](#)
Subject: 4/23/20 Wind River Air LLC Public Comment
Date: Thursday, April 23, 2020 3:14:52 PM

I'm an acoustic ecologist living in Jackson, I document noise pollution and it's effects on ecosystems. I'd like to applaud Mr. Chambers and Wind River Air LLC for their desire to include our community input on their plans.

Aircraft are the main cause of noise pollution in Wilderness Areas and National Parks throughout the country. While noise pollution impacts our enjoyment of these pristine environments, impacts on wildlife are far greater. The studies related to negative impacts on wildlife due to noise pollution are numerous. While the proposed flight paths remain mostly outside National Park Service boundaries, we know that the health of these ecosystems doesn't rely on these boundaries. Sound travels and can be harmful to wildlife regardless of altitude or flight path. Without the health of the wilderness areas in the proposed flight paths, our surrounding ecosystems would suffer greatly. These plans should not move forward without a proper Environmental Impact Assessment including the consultation of wildlife biologists. This proposal poses safety risks to our citizens and wildlife with little economic benefit to our community. I ask Wind River Air LLC to halt these plans until more research on their impacts can be conducted.

Thank you for your time,
Matthew Mikkelsen

From: [Matt Mikkelsen](#)
To: windriverair@gmail.com; [publiccomment](#)
Subject: 4/24/20 Wind River Air LLC Public Comment (CORRECT VERSION)
Date: Thursday, April 23, 2020 3:34:46 PM

I'm an acoustic ecologist living in Jackson, I document noise pollution and it's effects on ecosystems. I'd like to applaud Mr. Chambers and Wind River Air LLC for their desire to include our community input on their plans.

Aircraft are the main cause of noise pollution in Wilderness Areas and National Parks throughout the country. While noise pollution impacts our enjoyment of these pristine environments, impacts on wildlife are far greater. The studies related to negative impacts on wildlife due to noise pollution are numerous. While the proposed flight paths remain mostly outside National Park Service boundaries, we know that the health of these ecosystems doesn't rely on these boundaries. Sound travels and can be harmful to wildlife regardless of altitude or flight path. Without the health of the wilderness areas in the proposed flight paths, our surrounding ecosystems would suffer greatly. These plans should not move forward without a proper Environmental Impact Assessment including the consultation of wildlife biologists. This proposal poses safety risks to our citizens and wildlife with little economic benefit to our community. I ask Wind River Air LLC to halt these plans until more research on their impacts can be conducted.

Thank you for your time,
Matthew Mikkelsen

From: [Benjamin Musser](#)
To: windriverair@gmail.com
Cc: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: AGAINST Helicopter Tours of Jackson Hole
Date: Wednesday, April 15, 2020 9:52:56 AM

Dear Mr. Chambers,

I'm a resident of Wilson, WY writing today to express respectful opposition to your proposed Helicopter tours of Jackson Hole.

The skies in Jackson Hole are mostly quiet, which is the way we like it, and the way it should remain. Occasionally, we hear a helicopter coming through the valley and it is loud, and it is obvious, but we know that it's likely Search and Rescue is helping someone, so we deal with it. The idea of having this obtrusive noise added to the lives of thousands of residents for the pleasure of a small handful of people and for the sake of your pocket book, is quite plainly, selfish. These tours would not be for the people who live here, but just the opposite; it takes away from the people and animals who live here and gives a piece to your company and tourists who are treating our sacred area with disrespect. Not to mention the incredible amount of fossil fuels you'll be burning and the pollution your company will be adding to our air. The wildlife in Jackson Hole is already a draw. Adding this noise pollution to our skies will unquestionably scare the wildlife, perhaps away to the north, where they won't experience the stress that your helicopter tours would cause, and thus making our area less special for the thousands who live here and come to visit. Again, a selfish move.

Please consider what a negative impact your proposed helicopter tours would have on our special area. It is not in the best of interest of the general public, the residents of the area, or the wildlife to exploit our air space and add both noise and air pollution.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Best,
Ben Musser

From: [ATT Service, Inc](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Air tours out of Jackson Airport
Date: Thursday, April 23, 2020 4:14:45 PM

I strenuously object to Air Tours over our parks, either Grand Teton or Yellowstone. It stresses the wildlife all seasons of the year. Since they are National Parks we own them and it doesn't give the right to some company to profit by making the wildlife stressed and contributing to a noise problem, most likely many times a day. The parks are a place of solitude and I, my friends and family don't go there to watch and listen to the helicopters. I have been to Hawaii, Kauai, and Maui and there is no solitude there as there should be. Vacationing tourists should enjoy the park quietly from the ground as we all do. I'm also building a house in the Moulton Loop subdivision about a mile south of the airport and the commercial air traffic now is fine. Air tours would be intolerable!!
John Campbell
Jackson Hole Resident

From: [Jason Hanold](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Airport Board Meeting - 04-17-2020 / Wind River Air Opposition
Date: Wednesday, April 15, 2020 12:37:16 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[Airport Board Meeting 04-17-20 Oppose Wind River Air.docx](#)

Members of the Jackson Hole Airport Board.

I'm a Jackson homeowner, member of the Jackson Hole Chamber of Commerce. Heaven will be no more, if Wind River Air's touring helicopter noise is permitted to pierce the souls of residents, visitors and wildlife with continuous bone-tremoring vibrations and the decibel-blaring thunder of whirling blades. For what? One man's profits, at the expense to so many and the immeasurable damage inflicted upon our valley's ethos and access to serenity?

This business defies who we are: promoting physical and mental fitness, and preserving open spaces, including airspace, so we may restore in the solitude of our public lands. The serenity of the Elk Refuge, Bridger-Teton National Forest, and Gros Ventre Wilderness is as precious as Grand Teton National Park. Although the park is restricted, noise will be awash throughout.

The Board already has pressure and a tough task with increased demand for commercial flights. Permitting dangerous recreational tours is unnecessary, costly, erodes our area's character, and poses significant risk for a future tragedy. Our weather is rarely ideal and change quickly. Money over safety endangers lives of passengers and citizens on the ground. Please do not approve Wind River Air's tours.

Jason Hanold

Jason Hanold
Managing Partner
Hanold Associates LLC
jason@hanoldassociates.com
www.Hanold-Associates.com



From: [Ken Knauss](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Airport Board Mtg. April 17, 2020/Wind River LLC
Date: Friday, April 17, 2020 7:27:24 AM

Dear Commissioners,

My family has lived in Teton County since 1979 and we currently live in the Owl Creek subdivision, located about one minute from helicopter ground zero. There is not one positive impact that allowing scenic helicopter tours can bring to our beautiful, historic, pristine valley. Helicopter tours are very expensive, allowing access to a handful of wealthy visitors and disproportionate profits to Tony Chambers Wind River LLC. We know that once the County Commissioners allow one helicopter company others will follow. It seems unconscionable that the Commission has to hear and act on this critical issue when all of society is quarantined. Please don't allow this horrific mistake to happen on your watch as our County Commissioners.

Thank you,
Tracy and Kenny Knauss
8525 Porter Loop
Jackson, WY

From: [chris mcgee](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Airport Board permit meeting this Friday April 17 2020 - public comments regarding Wind River Air
Date: Thursday, April 16, 2020 4:11:16 PM

This comment is regarding Wind River Air's permit application to provide scenic flights around the Greater Yellowstone/Teton Parks and natural areas.

Like many Americans who value nature, quiet, and solitude, I oppose this approval of this permit. The Yellowstone and Teton Park area is one of the wonders of the world. Wilderness is important. The health and safety of wildlife and people is important. This area needs greater protection from noise, pollution and intrusion - not a permit to increase human impact in a fragile and irreplaceable place.

Thank you.

Chris McGee
Golden, Colorado

Friday, April 17 at 9:00 AM. W

Information for the Zoom meeting: Call (346) 248-7799.

Meeting ID is 760-714-234.

Password is 254-671.

You can watch the meeting online [here](#).

EMAIL A PUBLIC COMMENT

If you are unable to call in to the meeting, you can **email the Airport Board** between now and 8:00 AM on Friday, April 17. Comments **under 200 words** will be read aloud. The subject line **MUST include a reference to Wind River Air and the date of the meeting**. Send comments to publiccomment@jhairport.org. Even if you have sent in a comment previously, please resend it, as comments received between now and Friday will be read aloud.

Please direct your comments to the Airport Board, but also address Wind River Air. While the Airport Board has to process this application, **Tony Chambers (who owns Wind River Air) could choose to postpone his application** until after this pandemic is over. I encourage you to call in during the meeting rather than email a comment if possible.
"Showing up," even virtually, is powerful!

From: [George Fout](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Application of Wind River Air, LLC (WRA) to conduct scenic helicopter tours from Jackson Hole Airport.
Date: Wednesday, April 15, 2020 12:57:36 PM

Please list me as one of the members of the public opposing helicopter service over Grand Teton National Park. I oppose the proposal for the following reasons:

1. There is enough, and more than enough, sound based air disturbance over the park already. The noise generated by aircraft already operating in and over the park already noticeably disturbs wildlife. The same noise also, often drastically, reduces, or eliminates altogether, the natural nature experience which was an element of the original purpose of the National Parks.

2. The general public will receive no counter balancing benefit from the service. Most members of the general public, including this citizen, cannot afford to expend money for a transitory fly-over in a noisy flying contraption.

3. Copters will crash. Period. There is no such thing as 100% safe flying. Its going to happen. Pilot error, maintenance failure. act of God, you name it. Various National Parks have already had aircraft crash on park land. It is park money that pays for the rescues and the clean up. People die, animals die, trees burn and/or landmarks are damaged. And the upside of this foreseeable COST to the general public is what?

Tank this proposal and take time to address the umpteen other problems that need dealing with that might lead to some actual BENEFIT to people in general.

Most Sincerely;

George D, Fout
Jackson, WY

From: [Mary Scott](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: April 17 Board Meeting, agenda item VI. G Wind River Air
Date: Thursday, April 16, 2020 3:02:36 PM

Dear Airport Board Members:

The proposed helicopter tours by Wind River Air are incompatible and an inappropriate use in Grand Teton National Park, adjacent to this national park, in the Bridger-Teton National Forest, the National Elk Refuge, in wilderness and over wilderness areas.

Grand Teton National Park is already burdened by having a commercial airport within its boundary. I recognize the significant commitment and dedication that the airport board, airport staff, NPS staff and community have made to making the park-airport relationship the best partnership it could be. It is, in fact, a national example of how seemingly conflicting uses can work together for the good of all. Adding helicopter use pushes this compatibility beyond the bounds of that partnership, and is truly a bridge too far.

Sincerely,

Mary Gibson Scott

Sent from my iPad

From: [Debra Patla](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: April 17 meeting helicopter tours Wind River Air
Date: Friday, April 17, 2020 7:44:28 AM

Please find a way to stop helicopter scenic flights in Jackson Hole and adjacent lands. The huge disturbance to wildlife, wilderness, and people in wild places should not be tolerated. Loud, low-flying helicopters are highly disturbing to mammals, particularly to wolves and coyotes which are shot from aircraft elsewhere in the state, possibly at some of the same places that Wind River Air would fly. The disturbance to nesting falcons, golden eagles, and other birds could also be severe.

Few things are more hated by humans than a helicopter used for playful or vanity purposes, given its strong associations with severe injury, death, and disasters. It is also shocking and repulsive for you and Wind River Air to be moving this at such a time of anxiety, illness, and economic suffering due to the corona virus pandemic. This exacerbates the great and growing divide between the super-wealthy minority and the rest of society, so cruelly evident in Jackson and by this meeting today, mocking the idea that “we are all in this together”.

Debra Patla and Merlin Hare
Moran, WY

From: [Diane Abendroth](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: April 17 Wind River Air proposal meeting
Date: Thursday, April 16, 2020 5:13:24 PM

I am writing to oppose the scenic helicopter rides proposal by Wind River Air. It threatens to greatly diminish the very resources that make this valley special and worthy of tourism in the first place: Wildlife, unblemished scenery, escape from urban trappings, backcountry recreation, historic themes from the old west, and more. I also believe that it subjects us to unnecessary risk. Thank you.

From: lsbrownlc@gmail.com
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: April 17th meeting RE: Wind River Air Proposal
Date: Wednesday, April 15, 2020 4:22:41 PM

Dear JH Airport Board... Though I have signed a petition, I wanted to have a concrete comment on record regarding the proposal from Wind River Air.

I have lived in this beautiful valley, full time, for 27 years. During these years, I have spent much time observing and studying wildlife as well as enjoying hiking and skiing activities in this magnificent region. My first "job" here was in 1993, when I worked as an irrigator, helping Gladys Moulton in the hay meadow on her ranch, just behind the airport. The relative peace that I knew when I walked those meadows will be with me forever.

There are countless reasons why I am completely AGAINST a scenic helicopter tour in our magnificent valley. The extent of noise pollution contributed by helicopters is noteworthy and noise is entirely amplified where regional mountain ranges are echoing and reverberating such noxious, intrusive sounds. We deserve to protect this beautiful treasure, our citizens and our extraordinary wildlife from any and all such noise pollution. The only reason for helicopter flights should be for emergency evacuation/transport to regional hospitals and or the efforts of TCSAR.

Thank you for your careful consideration with regard to this critical matter.

Sincerely,
Laurie Brown

Laurie Shepherd Brown MSN, ANP-BC, CCN, BCC
Board Certified Executive & Leadership Coach
Adult Nurse Practitioner-Board Certified
Integrative Health Consultant
Certified Clinical Nutritionist
www.allconnectedlifecoaching.com
1-307-690-8378

"What lies behind you and what lies in front of you, pales in comparison to what lies inside of you."

Ralph Waldo Emerson

From: [Brooke Sausser](#)
To: [Board](#); [publiccomment](#); [Jim Elwood](#); [Wind River Air](#); [denise_germann@nps.gov](#)
Cc: [Sharon Mader](#); [council@townofjackson.com](#); [commissioners@tetoncountywy.gov](#); [Ben Williamson](#); [Lisa McGee](#); [Peggie dePasquale](#); [Chris Colligan](#); [Kristin Combs](#); [Penny Maldonado](#); [Amy McCarthy](#); [Gary Kofinas](#); [Timothy O'Donoghue](#)
Subject: April 24, 2020 Wind River Air
Date: Thursday, April 23, 2020 5:59:45 PM
Attachments: [Please require COVID and bonding measures.pdf](#)

Dear Airport Board,

Please see the attached letter (really, it is attached this time!) where we describe the need for reasonable conditions on Wind River Air's permit for COVID-19 safety and bonds against future Search and Rescue and firefighting costs.

Sincerely,
Brooke

--

Brooke Sausser
Community Planning Manager
Jackson Hole Conservation Alliance
She/her/hers
(208) 771-2218



From: [Leslie Jones](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: April 24th Special Airport Board meeting
Date: Wednesday, April 22, 2020 10:34:48 AM

To Whom it may Concern:

I am writing to ask the Airport Board to consider postponing the Wind River Air's permit application to give controversial helicopter tours of our peaceful area at this time. During this unprecedented pandemic, it would be prudent to postpone this kind of a controversial application until the public voice can be heard in any meaningful way.

Sincerely yours,

Leslie Jones

From: [Joe Albright](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Cc: environmental@jhnewsandguide.com
Subject: Attention Jim Elwood - my comment on Wind River Air application
Date: Thursday, April 16, 2020 11:23:00 AM

Jim - Here is the statement that I hope will be read at tomorrow's airport board meeting. My word counter says it is exactly 200 words.

All best, Joe

Good morning, Board members. My name is Joe Albright, and I'm co-owner of Flat Creek Ranch.

When I came before you on February 15, I reported that 371 men, women and children have been killed in Robinson R44 accidents in the last quarter-century . I told you that this was 25 more than all the people than perished in the two Boeing 737 MAX accidents.

I'm here today to give you an update. As of yesterday, my count of the number of people who have died in R44 accidents has increased by another dozen lives. The total Robinson R44 fatalities I found in the NTSB database is now up to 383.

The latest R44 fatal crash happened just 17 days ago near Audubon, Iowa. The pilot and a passenger were killed when the helicopter was conducting a low-level aerial wildlife survey. I found only one thing unusual about this particular R44 crash. According to the local TV station, the National Transportation Safety Board said it would not visit the site of the accident due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

That made me wonder: is the right time to allow scenic helicopter tours in a Robinson 44 helicopter over high elevation terrain?

ps - if you have time, please send me a short email confirming you have received this.

1-307-734-7788
Fax: 1-307-734-7887

E-mail: joe@flatcreek ranch.com
Web site: www.flatcreek ranch.com

Mailing address:
P.O. Box 9760
Jackson, WY 83002

From: [Gurney, Lauren E CW2 USARMY NG WYARNG \(USA\)](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Cc: windriverair@gmail.com
Subject: Board for 17 April
Date: Thursday, April 16, 2020 1:37:53 PM

Good Afternoon to all representatives of the JH airport Board,

I am in full support of Wind River Air, LLC and Tony's efforts to work in conjunction with the JH board to approve this motion.

Why: We are economically and socially restricted as our County copes with the Covid-19 pandemic. Task Force leaders are developing the strategies to re-open Wyoming once we have mitigated covid-19. Our governor has stated his 5 objectives; two of which are specific to the case before you today.

1. Improve economic vitality
2. Preserve livelihood of Wyoming's People

Wind River Air LLC asks to work in conjunction with the Jackson Hole Airport under approved directives/corridors to begin scenic tours. Our tourism is going to look vastly different than ever before. Now I ask you to look at it from an aerial potential. A Safe Helicopter tour that abides by health safeguards, follows FAA rules and regulations, and will be establishing a relationship with JHA for fuel and new customer experiences in our town. Though Scenic Tours may not be available for some time in our current pandemic, the relationships we forge should be rapidly growing to ensure the success of our entrepreneurs and economy. We must support our small business owners, new ventures, and job initiatives more than ever. The potential of this company is vast and should not be a short-sighted resolute vote no. I trust that the JHA Board will consider the advantages for the airport, our community, and our economy as we all band together.

Thank You

Lauren

From: [Lloyd Gilman](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Board Meeting — April 17, 2020 Wind River Permit Application
Date: Wednesday, April 15, 2020 10:14:06 AM

Board Members,

Mrs Gilman and I have been short-term summer guests of the Grand Teton Lodge Company at the Jenny Lake Lodge each of the years since 1990. She, even earlier once, when Jenny was just a “porch”.

We enjoy all the amenities of the Tetons, Jackson, and the surround, which are quite numerous and well known and experienced by you.

We’ve had those experiences with friends and family: Two grandsons one year, two granddaughters another year, and all our seed and theirs during the eclipse.
Recommendations and gift-tickets for friends on their separate visits are measures of our opinion of everything from The Preserve, to Leaks Landing; And in between, the Oxbow and the Nation Museum of Wildlife Art.
Do Laurel, we recommend. Do Gather.

The park is special, we know, from our experience with Glacier, Olympic National Park, Zion, Yosemite, Yellowstone, and Rainier (in fact all the volcanoes, — those on the continent).

We are a middle class family and have not experienced Islands where helicopter tours might be appropriate. Around the Grand Teton, those kind of tours are inappropriate.

Such tours are In-appropriate and unnecessary for one's experience and distracting for others.

It would please us , if the proposed helicopter touring were not permitted; Denied at the outset, not delayed awaiting another opportunity to destroy park value.

Please let the only sound of helicopters be that of the beating blades of help and rescue.

Best,

Lloyd and Biz Gilman
Mercer Island, Washington

From: [Laura Garrard](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Cc: [Anna Valsing](#)
Subject: Board Meeting 4-17-20 Wind River Air Comment
Date: Thursday, April 16, 2020 12:25:31 PM

Attn: Tony Chambers/Wind River Air and the JH Airport Board
Re: Comments to be Read at the Virtual Board Meeting Held on 4-17-20 (197 words):

Those who have visited Hawaii, Sedona, AZ, and the Grand Canyon prior to helicopter tours, and then after, fully understand the extent to which this type of touring ruins the outdoor experience. During this COVID-19 era, more now than ever we understand what it means to make decisions as a community for the best of all concerned. The FAA ruling does not warrant what's best for all affected, human and wildlife alike. To run a loud, disruptive helicopter in the proposed routes within this iconic National Park region—one of the most premiere National Park areas and the most important contiguous migratory region of the lower 48—is unfathomable, unreasonable, and abhorrent. How embarrassing that a local presses for this among such obvious and unanimous opposition; and how destructive of Chambers to make such a selfish commercial attempt as this when the resolution against helicopter touring was made years ago and is still upheld by Jackson, the proclaimed steward and responsible gateway community. The opposed majority has spoken through petition (6,000+ in the past and 1,700+ to date in 2020); hundreds of public comments; local, regional, and national wilderness, conservation, and tourism organizations; and our local governments.

Sincerely, Laura Garrard

14-year Jackson Resident, Business Owner, Member Chamber of Commerce

Laura Garrard, MS, CST-T, CLT, CMT, BCTMB

Attuned Healing Bodywork

307-690-5308

attunedhealing@gmail.com

430 S. Jackson St. / Physical Office / Shipping Address

PO Box 12766 / Mailing Address

Jackson, WY 83002

www.attunedhealing.com

Manual Lymph Drainage ~ CranioSacral Therapy ~ SomatoEmotional Release ~ Reiki ~ Yoga

From: [gwf gwf](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Board meeting 17 April to consider Wind RiverAir application
Date: Wednesday, April 15, 2020 9:55:42 AM

Our beautiful valley is a haven of peace and tranquility not just for those of us who live here, but for all those who come from afar..It should be the duty for all to minimize its disturbance. Sightseeing helicopters would be an intolerable disturbance. I urge the board not to allow them.

George Ford

From: [Thomas Cronin](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Board Meeting April 24, 2020 - Comments on Wind River Air application
Date: Friday, April 24, 2020 6:18:00 AM

Jackson Hole Airport Board,

The inherent danger of helicopter operations and the associated noise pollution are not consistent with the intended purpose of GTNP as envisioned by its benefactor John D. Rockefeller. There is no support in the community for the sightseeing operations and I would hope the Airport Board would recognize the peaceful beauty of Jackson Hole which should not be disturbed by the Wind River Air operations. I urge the Board and Tony Chambers to consider postponing consideration of the sightseeing application until the pandemic is over. At a minimum the Board should put significant conditions on any permit, such as requiring a bond to pay for rescue efforts and/or wildfire extinguishment caused by any helicopter tour crashes on private or public lands.

Thomas Cronin

From: [Harold Kelley](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Chambers airport access
Date: Tuesday, April 14, 2020 8:09:59 AM

I would like to reaffirm my support for mr chambers airport access for the purpose of conducting helicopter tours for the same reasons that I expressed to the airport board in a email on March 23 of this year respectfully Harold Kelley. Pinedale

From: [Ann Harvey](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Comment for Wind River Air public meeting April 17, 2020
Date: Friday, April 17, 2020 7:58:07 AM

Dear Airport Board:

I oppose Wind River Air's application for scenic helicopter tours over the Jedediah Smith Wilderness, the Gros Ventre Wilderness, and other public lands around Jackson Hole. Our great wilderness areas, as well as the Palisades and Shoal Creek Wilderness Study Areas, are protected by the 1984 Wyoming Wilderness Act. By law, wilderness areas are to be kept free of motorized intrusions. They are magnificent landscapes, full of wildlife, and they are havens of quiet for humans who make the effort to get there without mechanical assistance. It would be a travesty to open the air above them to noisy, intrusive helicopter flights. One man should not be allowed to destroy the peace for hundreds or thousands of others, not to mention the wildlife that depend on the sanctuary provided by wilderness. He wants profit, but these lands have been set aside for something else, something far more important and valuable—to preserve our precious public lands in their natural state, for current and future generations to have a chance to experience what wilderness feels like.

We don't need noisy, dangerous helicopter flights over our wild, remote public lands. Please deny this application.

Sincerely,

Ann Harvey
Wilson

Word count = 199 including signature

From: [Brot Coburn](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Comment on heli permission
Date: Wednesday, April 15, 2020 3:00:33 PM

Dear JH Airport Board:

The proposal of a private operator to run scenic helicopter tours was a bad idea even before the beginning of this year. Now, as the economy almost certainly struggles for the coming year, and perhaps longer, the idea has become outlandish. I'm a property owner and resident of Wilson, and see no value in unnecessary helicopters transiting overhead. Other than a small handful of individuals, who in the community will benefit from this? I see it as nothing more than a dangerous annoyance catering to rich people.

Brot Coburn
Wilson
690-7574

Brot Coburn
PO Box 1022
1520 Fish Creek Road
Wilson, Wyoming 83014
Phone 307-733-4124
Cell 307-690-7574
<http://broughtoncoburn.weebly.com/>

From: [Patrick Fortino](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Comment on proposed scenic helicopter tours
Date: Sunday, April 12, 2020 2:12:51 PM

Dear Board,

I am submitting these comments on the proposed Wind River Air scenic tours. I think the Teton area, both the east and west sides and everywhere in between, is already extremely busy and noisy due to jets, airplanes, and Harley Davidson motorcycles. You can hear jets, planes, and motorcycles all day long from the top of the Grand Teton. Now you want to allow MORE noise. I say NO.

For the past 12 years, my wife and I have rented a house in Sedona Arizona. It's equal to the Tetons in natural beauty. I love it there, but there is one thing that really spoils the beauty of Sedona: Scenic helicopter and airplane flights ALL day long. They make it seem more like a war zone than a desert wonderland. Whenever you go outside in Sedona during the day, in the wilderness or to the store, you are disturbed by the sound of helicopters or planes every 15 minutes. Is that what we want for the Tetons?

Pat Fortino
writenowdesign.com

From: [Dippel, Cris](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Cc: [Jim Elwood](#)
Subject: comment on proposed wind river helo tour operations
Date: Thursday, April 23, 2020 11:20:16 AM
Attachments: [NER comments helo tour signed final.pdf](#)

Feel free to contact me with any questions.

Thank you.

Cris Dippel

U.S.Fish and Wildlife Service

National Elk Refuge

Jackson WY 83001

desk 307-201-5436, cell 307-203-6798, fax 307-733-9729

From: [Laura & Randy Curtis](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Comment on Wind River Air hell tour application
Date: Thursday, April 16, 2020 6:40:24 PM

We would like to see the GTNP and surrounding areas preserved from the added noise pollution of helicopter tours. This great resource is best encountered up close and personally. Unfortunately some may not be physically able to do this and may need to resort to virtual means of experience. That's life - you can't always do everything you like. The visitors centers and online resources provide great videos with the aerial perspective included, in a manner that does not adversely impact persons in the park attempting to enjoy nature, sans man-made, mechanical noise.

Please consider denial the appropriate action.

Laura & Randy Curtis
Driggs, ID

From: [Elizabeth Cassen](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Comment on Wind River Air/April 24, 2020 Meeting
Date: Wednesday, April 22, 2020 10:28:53 AM

To Whom it May Concern,

I am a retired commercial airline pilot, and in the late 1980's, flew 737's into the Jackson Hole Airport, and would respectfully like to add a comment on the proposed helicopter tours in the area.

We flew into the airport under strict noise abatement procedures, as the airlines still do today, for essential air service. We were in and out as quickly as possible using standardized procedures, keeping in mind the airport is located in a national park, and always keeping safety as our first priority.

I oppose the proposed helicopter tours, due to the unnecessary added noise intrusion over wilderness areas, affecting the stress levels of wildlife. I also do not personally use a snowmobile anywhere in the local area for the same reason. As humans, our footprint should be as small as possible.

Please vote no on this proposal.

Thank you,
Elizabeth Cassen
Wilson

From: [Elizabeth Cassen](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Comment on Wind River Air/April 24, 2020 Meeting
Date: Wednesday, April 22, 2020 10:28:53 AM

To Whom it May Concern,

I am a retired commercial airline pilot, and in the late 1980's, flew 737's into the Jackson Hole Airport, and would respectfully like to add a comment on the proposed helicopter tours in the area.

We flew into the airport under strict noise abatement procedures, as the airlines still do today, for essential air service. We were in and out as quickly as possible using standardized procedures, keeping in mind the airport is located in a national park, and always keeping safety as our first priority.

I oppose the proposed helicopter tours, due to the unnecessary added noise intrusion over wilderness areas, affecting the stress levels of wildlife. I also do not personally use a snowmobile anywhere in the local area for the same reason. As humans, our footprint should be as small as possible.

Please vote no on this proposal.

Thank you,
Elizabeth Cassen
Wilson

From: [Jacqueline Potter](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Comment on Wind River Helicopter Tours out of Jackson Hole Airport, Board Meeting Friday April 24th
Date: Thursday, April 23, 2020 11:56:54 AM

Dear Members of the Airport Board:

I would like to provide a comment regarding Wind River Air's permit application for the upcoming meeting on Friday April 24, 2020:

I am in strong opposition of approval of Wind River Air's permit application for helicopter tours out of Jackson Hole Airport. Grand Teton National Park and the surrounding area continues to have increasing negative pressures and disruption to it's natural resources, especially the wildlife. Adding noisy tours would only make things worse. Wildlife closures that are designed to minimize disturbances to critical nesting, denning and feeding behaviors would be trampled and violated. I believe allowing tours will have grave consequences for the area's wildlife and will also change the entire nature of the park for visitors and locals.

Thanks for your consideration.

Jacqueline Potter
6895 E. Little School Rd.
Kelly, WY 83011

From: [Dave Jenkins](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: comment
Date: Thursday, April 16, 2020 6:59:09 AM

To Whom it may concern,

I am writing the board to let them know I am in full support of giving Wind River Air a permit to give scenic helicopter rides out of Jackson hole airport.

It would be a great service to have available for the community.

I think they are proven to be professional operators and a classy addition to our community.

Sincerely,



Dave Jenkins

Store 307-654-4444

Fax 307-654-7526

Mobile 307-880-4444

From: [Caitlin Coates](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Comment
Date: Tuesday, April 21, 2020 3:16:25 PM

Hello,

As a great lover of the outdoors one of the most remarkable parts of exploring GTNP is how untouched the land is. You do not have to go very far to feel as though you are truly among nature. Allowing helicopter tours of the Tetons would be incredibly detrimental to the area. I fear for the animals who call this land their home and I believe that allowing for these tours will only further open the door for human interference in this magnificent natural area. Keep JH and GTNP wild and let's work to protect, not invade, the homes of animals who reside here.

Best,

Caitlin Coates

From: [Phil Hocker \(o\)](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Cc: [Phil Hocker](#)
Subject: Comment: JH Airport Board Meeting Friday, April 24, 2020, on Wind River Air, LLC, Permit
Date: Thursday, April 23, 2020 7:51:13 PM

Public Comment submitted to be read at the Jackson Hole Airport Board
Special Meeting, April 24th, 2020 -
regarding Wind River Air, LLC, application for Heli-Tour permit:

Comment to be read is between the horizontal lines --

My name is Phil Hocker. In 1972, sightseeing flights in Teton canyons led me to oppose Airport impacts as a Sierra Club volunteer. Today's Board takes better responsibility to the Park, and the vision in the County Plan. But, approving this Wind River Air permit will reverse this good trend.

Since 1972, the Airport Board has claimed, "Don't blame us, the FAA made us do it." The Board should not be passive. The Airport can obtain special recognition of its special situation.

For example, in 2003 Senator Thomas included terms in the FAA Re-Authorization Act to bar noisier private jets from the Airport.

Today, the Board should –

- Formally ask Congress to exempt Jackson Hole Airport from the alleged compulsion of the FAA;
- Ask the Town and County to formally support this, and –
- Defer action on the Wind River Air permit so legislation can succeed.

If you do approve a Permit, it should be for a short term. It should include strict noise-control measures. Airport agreements with the Park require this. It should include penalties for violations. Control Tower construction approval was justified to reduce noise impacts. Let's use it.

Thank you. Stay healthy.

Phil

Philip M. Hocker
20 West Chapman Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22301
Mobile: 307.480.0200

Valley resident 1972-1987. Still active with many Valley issues and friends.

Word Count between lines - 196.

From: [Zarrin Leff](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: comments in reference to Wind River Air meeting on Apr. 17, 2020
Date: Wednesday, April 15, 2020 9:00:17 AM

This comment is directed to the Airport Board and Wind River Air LLC:

Wind River Air LLC has applied for a permit to use something called a "helicopter" to run tours around the Jackson Hole area. I believe the permit should be denied, though a permit for tours conducted with a more suitable type of flying machine may be approved. To wit: I believe the use of noisy and inefficient 19th century air pump technology tuned to run on 20th century liquid carbon-based fuels, as is done in said proposed helicopters, should be disallowed in order to facilitate innovation and unlimited economic growth transpiring from technological innovation. In this case, technological improvement in the near term may include electric helicopters, but I would suggest these also be disallowed for the transportation uses intended by Wind River Air LLC. I suggest Wind River Air LLC's permit only allows for them to run a transportation business around Jackson Hole area with completely quiet flying saucer-like technology, or teleportation.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Zarrin Leff

From: adausti@gmail.com
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Commercial helicopter tours
Date: Tuesday, April 21, 2020 3:58:30 PM

I disagree with the possibility of commercial helicopter tours over grand Teton national park. It will cause a lot of constant excess noise in the valley and ruin the beauty and the tranquility of these mountains that hikers, climbers, locals and visitors all seek when they enter them.

Sent from my iPhone

From: [annette osnos](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Dangerous, disruptive and insane
Date: Thursday, April 16, 2020 3:40:04 PM

The idea of allowing helicopters to do tours of Grand Teton is insane. There are so many ways to enjoy our beautiful setting; hiking, walking, biking etc. None of these ways disrupt nature and the animals. However a noisy helicopter flying overhead is a nightmare for everyone. It will be horrible for the animals migrating or just living in Grand Teton along with the noise levels for hikers etc. Please revisit this issue and vote no. We definitely do NOT need this in the park. It would be a shame.

--

Annette Osnos
516-669-5946-Mobile
307-203-2009-Home
917-584-0435-Noah

From: [William Eckerle](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Cc: ["Clare Stumpf"](#)
Subject: Delay Wind River Air application until coronavirus social distancing is lifted
Date: Wednesday, April 15, 2020 10:50:32 AM

This comment is in regard to the 8:00 AM, Friday, April 17 meeting regarding the Wind River Air application.

I am opposed to approval of the application without a written ban on helicopter scenic flights over U.S. Forest Service and National Park Service managed lands.

In any case, I believe that the Wind River Air application should be put on hold until after coronavirus social-distancing is lifted.

William Eckerle
130 Targhee Towne Rd.
Alta, WY
801 533 0667
bill.eckerle@westerngeoarch.com

From: [Brian Bales](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Deny Wind River Air 04/24/20
Date: Wednesday, April 22, 2020 11:04:48 AM

Dear Jackson Hole Airport Board,

I would ask that the board postpone the decision for Wind River Air's operating permit until proper input and representation can be allowed from the community after the pandemic has subsided. There is no rush to allow operation of these tours if Grand Teton is closed and visitors are not coming to our community.

I would also ask the following paragraph be read during the board meeting on 04/24 regarding Wind River Air's operating permit.

Allowing helicopter tours of Grand Teton National Park will be a degradation to the National Park, its natural inhabitants, and visitors experiences who seek to escape the sounds of developed civilization. Our community thrives on the ability to enter the rugged wilderness and national park. To be immersed in a landscape that is nothing short of spectacular and filled with beauty, beyond that which words cannot describe, is only that without the involvement of mechanized civilization. Our community and visitors have flocked to this part of the country not for the noises and disruptions of helicopters, but rather for the solitude and reminder that we need wilderness to be wholesome. Allowing Wind River Air to operate helicopter tours above Jackson Hole and Grand Teton National Park would steal unparalleled experiences from 99% of the community and ONLY give to 1% who would not even set foot in the mountains that we call home. Please deny Wind River Air operating abilities to fly helicopters above our valley and park. The sound of the mountains is not of helicopters above, but instead a reminder that we are but visitors to a landscape that does not need humans to thrive.

--

Brian Bales
brianbales.ca@gmail.com
530-251-7241

From: [Barbara Little](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: FOR: April 17 Board Meeting COMMENTS - NO ON HELICOPTER TOURS
Date: Thursday, April 16, 2020 2:37:24 PM

Hello, my name is Barbara Burch Little. I'm a homeowner at 130 Woodreed Rd. Jackson, WY.

I strongly urge the board, and all involved, to say No on the proposal for scenic helicopter tours in GTNP.

There are many reasons against allowing helicopters to fly over the park for only pleasure and monetary gain. It could be summed up by saying, this is a National Park, not an amusement park!

I urge the decision makers here to reflect on the past. There would not be a GTNP if it were not for the Rockefeller family. Laurence Rockefeller donated the last of his family's private land to the park. Laurence's vision for the land was to provide a place to connect with nature and an opportunity for solitude and reflection. Helicopters flying overhead in any part of GTNP will destroy the tranquility of this particular park.

Please continue to preserve the legacy of the Rockefeller family by voting against scenic helicopter tours.

Thank you,

Barbara Burch Little

From: [Jack Glasbrenner](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Friday April 18th 2020 Wind River Air
Date: Wednesday, April 15, 2020 9:58:11 AM

Hello Airport Board,

I am reaching out to let you know I am opposed to Wind River Air operating in the Tetons. From my perspective, there is zero benefits to Teton county residents or wildlife. I don't want commercial helicopters zooming around me while hiking.

Jack

From: [Zach Andres](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Friday, April 17 at 9:00 AM - Wind River Air - HELI NO!
Date: Thursday, April 16, 2020 11:14:45 AM

Dear Airport Board --

Please do not allow this Wind River Air to set a precedent for operating helicopter tours in Jackson Hole. There is already enough noise pollution from the plethora of commercial and private airplanes flying into the airport. If Wind River Air is allowed to operate helicopter tours, I am afraid it will invite more companies to apply for permits which would further the noise pollution. Think of the birds, man!

Thank you for your time,

Zach

From: [Eric Culley](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Friday, April 17th, Wind River Air Metting
Date: Wednesday, April 15, 2020 9:22:38 AM

I hiked through the grand canyon last year. My walk into that beautiful, vast landscape was constantly interrupted by helicopters flying their high paying clients across their designated lanes overhead and interrupting the wilderness experience I'd worked so hard to get to. Don't let Wind River Air turn Grand Teton NP into a noisy airfield for those who can afford to pay for helicopter flights at the cost of those looking to get a true wilderness experience on our public lands.

-Eric

From: [KO Strohbehn](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Friday, April 24 at 8 a.m. Wind River Air LLC
Date: Tuesday, April 21, 2020 3:36:18 PM

JH Airport Board:

The noise pollution caused by Life Flight helicopters is something all Jackson residents understand and accept. Indeed, the town is very lucky these helicopters are available to transport critically injured residents or visitors. However, the public does not need scenic helicopters buzzing around, disturbing hikers, wildlife and interrupting the tranquil beauty our national park.

If tourists want to see Grand Teton National Park, they should walk the trails.

Respectfully,

'K.O.' Strohbehn

kostrohbehn@gmail.com

582 E Kelly Ave PO Box 2623

Jackson, WY 83001

913-269-6408

From: [Elana Selinger](#)
To: windriverair@gmail.com
Cc: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: From a community member re: heli tours
Date: Thursday, April 23, 2020 6:56:07 PM

Hello Mr. Chambers,

My name is Elana Selinger and I am a resident of Wilson, Wyoming. I am writing to ask you to please reconsider your plan to fly helicopter tours out of Jackson Hole and through our wilderness areas. The areas included in the proposed tours are important wilderness areas and must be preserved for the survival of our local wildlife. We have already impacted so much of the migration routes that run through this valley and cut off access with fences, the town, the ski resort, and backcountry recreation. The line has to be drawn somewhere. Please do not let this happen to our home!

Thank you for your consideration.

Best,
Elana Selinger

From: [Rutledge Deas](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Fw: Helicopter Tours
Date: Thursday, April 23, 2020 10:44:15 AM

Please see email sent to Wind River Air

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: Rutledge Deas <coachdeas@yahoo.com>
To: windriverair@gmail.com <windriverair@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 23, 2020, 11:42:51 AM CDT
Subject: Helicopter Tours

I would strongly suggest that Wind River Air retain lawyers all the time, because our HOA and individual homeowners and property owners will sue over invasion of privacy and nuisance laws as well as obstructing private commerce if buyers back out of sales because of noise from Helicopters. I heli ski every winter, but we don't fly over peoples houses. Years ago the Jackson Hole Airport put into place noise abatement laws to make the airlines reduce noise. This will happen to Wind River Air. Lawyer up ya'll, cause there a bunch of wealthy people that oppose this and will be able to put you out of business.

Rutledge Deas
W Gros Ventre Butte

From: [Michael JBSA](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Fw: Meeting of March 18, April 17 Jackson Hole Airport Board to discuss Wind River Application
Date: Monday, April 13, 2020 9:23:04 PM

Below please find the truncated 200 word public comment to the airport board in reference to the contract between the airport board and wind river. A longer version with examples was sent to operations email is also found below. Please use whichever version best fits your requirements.

200 word truncated public comment on the contract between the Jackson Hole Airport Board and Wind River, not including this heading.

- a. Insurance rider to cover collection of debris, removal of debris, and rehabilitation of land caused by a planned or unplanned landing and/or crash.
- b. Insurance rider to cover the harm to multiple parties due to actions or inaction's or acts of god such as weather to all parties in the aircraft. Insurance to cover third party, innocent bystanders and their belongings.
- c. Insurance rider to cover creation of, or involvement in, localized disasters such as fire, water, and/or wind.

Other contract suggestions:

- 1. Information presenting Airport Board, County, and Nonprofits positions to purchasers and sightseers for applicants sightseeing services.

Similar in concept to warnings presented on cigarettes and ski tickets.

- 2. Rescue costs for purchasers and sightseers for applicants route presented to purchasers and sightseers so know their potential expenses.
- 3. Fines and penalties for flying too low, disturbing the peace, landing in Wilderness Areas, National Parks, or unauthorized areas discussed with applicant, and placed in contract. If applicant fails to pay legitimate fines and/or follow legitimate penalties, the airport board cancel the contract. An agreed to limit of number of times the applicant can "break the rules" before declaring contract null and void.

Michael Scheller

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: "Michael JB SA" <michaeljbsa@yahoo.com>

To: "operations@jhairport.org" <operations@jhairport.org>

Cc: "Jim Wilson" <jwilson@silverstar.com>, "Janet Conway"

<lazyeyeranch@msn.com>, "Jay Pence" <jay.pence@usda.gov>, "Mark Newcomb" <mnewcomb@tetoncountywy.gov>

Sent: Fri, Mar 13, 2020 at 11:00 AM

Subject: Meeting of March 18 Jackson Hole Airport Board to discuss Wind River Application

TO: Jackson Hole Airport Board,

Thank you for keeping the local residents informed and in allowing us input on the Wind River helicopter sightseeing application out of Jackson Hole Airport, Teton County, WY. Your representation of our concerns has been exemplary. In case I am unable to attend the meeting, I would appreciate if the following is included in the public comment.

After reviewing the contract between the Airport and Wind River and placed before the public I have the following insurance suggestions. There are three types of insurance riders the contract should specifically mention:

a. Insurance rider to cover the collection of debris, removal of debris, and rehabilitation of land caused by a planned or unplanned landing and/or crash.

Example: Unplanned Landing in Jedediah Wilderness at 9,000 feet. Party needs rescue, and a part and repair technician needs to be brought in by horseback to repair and inspect aircraft. Costs to pick up rescue, parts, and rehabilitation of landing spot should be covered independent of applicant by the insurance rider. The applicant's business may no longer be operating after the incident and the funds necessary to resolve the issue should be covered independent of the business entity.

b. Insurance rider to cover the harm to multiple parties due to actions or inaction's or acts of god such as weather to all parties in the aircraft. Insurance to cover third party, innocent bystanders and their belongings.

Example: Engine of Applicant has difficulty after crossing Teton Pass and applicant looks for nearest reasonable landing spot. For a third of that route, that landing spot may be the Teton Canyon access road. Applicant while landing on Teton Canyon Road creates a localized dust storm that damages 3 cars and 2 RVs.

c. Insurance rider to cover the creation of, or involvement in, of any localized disasters such as fire, water, and/or wind.

Example: Applicant's forced landing starts a localized brush fire that threatens Kelly, WY. and burns down one ranch.

3 other suggestions for the contract are:

1. Information clearly presenting the Airport Board, County, and Nonprofits positions to all purchasers and sightseers for applicants sightseeing services.

This would include, but not be limited to, verbal, written, and digital information in multiple languages, that the purchasers would sign off and agree that they have read and understand the concerns that have been expressed by the airport board, county, and nonprofits. Cost of this material to be paid for by the applicant. This is similar in concept to the warnings presented on cigarette packs and ski lift tickets.

2. Rescue costs for purchasers and sightseers should be estimated for the applicants route and should be spelled out and agreed to by purchasers and sightseers so they know their potential expenses.

3. Fines and penalties for flying too low, disturbing the peace, and/or landing in Wilderness Areas, National Parks, or any other unauthorized areas should be discussed with the applicant and understood, placed in the contract, and signed off before the first flight. There should be a clear path for remuneration from the applicant to the appropriate federal authorities. There should also be a clear path for the applicant to contest such fines and penalties. If the application fails to pay legitimate fines and/or follow legitimate penalties, the airport board should have the authority to cancel the contract. There should also be an agreed to limit to the number of times the applicant can "break the rules" before declaring the contract null and void.

Regards,

Michael Scheller
Local Resident
Teton County

From: [Chuck Harris](#)
To: [publiccomment](#); windriverair@gmail.com
Subject: Fw: Proposed Helicopter Tours
Date: Friday, April 10, 2020 10:59:59 AM

Dear Mr. Chambers, It seems that no government entity has the power to stop you from a plan to offer scenic helicopter tours out of JH airport.

That is unfortunate, as it seems to me that concerns for public safety and potential noise and impacts on public lands should take precedence over private business opportunities and profit to an individual.

I have lived in Jackson for 40 years.

Admittedly Roger Kjerstadt ran a heli-operation from the southern edge of town when I first arrived.

I don't remember much about it; few of us lived or worked down that way, but much has changed since then.

Town borders have expanded.

Our county population has grown.

Seasonal visitation has ballooned.

Both private and commercial air traffic is much busier.

Town is noisier.

Grand Teton Park is noisier.

And the public lands and wild places that offer humans and animals a chance to breathe in the quiet seem much smaller.

Yes, there are seemingly vast tracts of forest land where people can "feel lost" in the wild...but all it takes is a few obnoxious helicopters to take away that experience for so many of us trying to re-create.

Unlike 40 years ago, there are now designated Wilderness Areas, to be protected from the impacts of modern machinery.

There are people of all ages going quietly into the mountains for an experience that is raw and wild and non-mechanized.

Yes, there will be wealthy visitors who pay fine sums for a brief but thrilling experience.

At the same time there will be animals who are displaced or stressed by helicopters.

There are people, both residents and visitors, who will be stressed and pissed off by helicopters.

There will be accidents.

What a shame.

Apparently it is entirely within your legal right to build this business

Please do not pretend that you are serving this community to benefit **US** in any way.

I do not wish you or your clients harm, but I also do not wish you success, and hope that you will reconsider your plans for flights from Jackson Hole Airport.

Chuck Harris, P.A.-C

Manager, Grand Teton Medical Clinic

Provider, Emerg+A+Care

Grand Teton Backcountry Ranger, retired

USFS Biologist, retired

From: [Michael JBSA](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Cc: [Mark Newcomb](#); [Jim Wilson](#)
Subject: Fw: Whirlybird tours fly back onto Jackson Hole radar
Date: Friday, April 24, 2020 8:35:11 AM

Tony Chambers at 8:26 am April 24, 2020 commented at the Airport Board public meeting that he has had zero feed back on routes proposed. That is factually incorrect as I personally sent Tony Chambers the email below back in November and he personally responded back to me, also below.

Regards,

Michael Scheller
Alta Resident

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: "Wind River Air" <windriverair@gmail.com>
To: "Michael JBSA" <michaeljbsa@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sat, Nov 2, 2019 at 9:01 AM
Subject: Re: Whirlybird tours fly back onto Jackson Hole radar
Michael,

Thank you for the email, and the input.

It is highly unlikely that I would be able to utilize the flight route on the West side of the Tetons for scenic rides. I believe there would be too many days where the winds and the weather would prevent that in an R44. The reason that route is on my proposal is from early discussions with Grand Teton National Park - they recommended I use / propose the exact same routes the fixed wing operator Fly JH is using. I guess they felt that was precedence of sorts, or that would keep the impact in the same place. Do you notice their aircraft in any of those areas?

I can't argue with you that the helicopter would add sound impacts. All I can do is seek out routes that have as few people as possible.

You appear to have a good knowledge of the West side of the Tetons, if I were to do flights on that side - could you recommend a route with as low as possible of an impact. I would be open to a sound study.

One other side note is the map that was published in the JH News/ Guide was not my map - it was a recreation of my map.

Again thanks for the input.

Tony Chambers

On Fri, Nov 1, 2019 at 9:48 AM Michael JBSA <michaeljbsa@yahoo.com> wrote:

Ref: <https://www.jhnewsandguide.com/news/environmental/whirlybird-tours-fly->

[back-onto-jackson-hole-radar/article_49176613-4e31-51fa-b7a1-8480ba58333a.html](https://www.backpacker.com/stories/best-hikes-ever-teton-crest-trail-wy)

Tony,

Your proposed helicopter tour over the West side of the Tetons follows the Teton Crest Trail (<https://www.backpacker.com/stories/best-hikes-ever-teton-crest-trail-wy>) and flies over or near the following popular hiking, horseback riding, and camping locations:

Table Mountain
Hurricane Pass
Alaska Basin
Sunrise Lake
Teton Canyon
Moose
Darby Canyon
Fox Creek Canyon
Aspen Trail
Death Canyon
Devils Staircase

As the R44 Helicopter has a listed ceiling of 14,000 feet, you will be flying over some of these areas between 500 and 2000 ft. You will be introducing an alien noise source of 78.9 to 81.9 decibels (R44 Pilot's Operating Handbook - Section 5-7 Noise Characteristics) to Wilderness Areas that exist at noise levels of 30-35 decibels. The AIM (requested 2000 ft above Wilderness Areas) won't protect these areas from your sound, and it may be impossible to fly 2000 ft over/around Battleship Mountain due to weather conditions on any particular day. In addition, the noise in this area is reverberated through multiple canyons.

Get professional sound readings from an agreed upon, independent third party at requested and minimum altitudes over the Jedediah Smith Wilderness Area at key locations such as Alaska Basin Campground, Hurricane Pass, Table Mountain, Teton Crest Trail near Battleship Mountain, and the Death Canyon Shelf during flyovers. Share the results with the governing agencies and regional population if you find your noise level to be inconsequential.

Do you really think your helicopter operation is commercially positive when disturbing the 1,000s of people on the ground who frequent this area each day? Many of these people come to escape the noise of their daily lives and spend significant funds in our region on transportation, outfitting, guiding, meals, and lodging before, during, and after their treks. Your revenue stream from scenic flights in this area and its associated taxes will most likely be offset by those that are discouraged by the noise your helicopter will generate.

Best of luck on your non wilderness area commercial endeavors!

Regards,

Michael Scheller
Resident
Alta, WY

From: [Windy Kelley](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Fwd: [Public Comment] Wind River Air Proposal for a Permit to Operate Scenic Helicopter Tours
Date: Saturday, April 11, 2020 5:50:42 PM

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

From: **Windy Kelley** <windykelley@gmail.com>
Date: Sat, Apr 11, 2020 at 5:48 PM
Subject: [Public Comment] Wind River Air Proposal for a Permit to Operate Scenic Helicopter Tours
To: <publiccomments@jhairport.org>
Cc: <windriverair@gmail.com>

April 11, 2020

To Whom It May Concern:

I want to express my full support for Tony Chamber's proposal for a permit to operate scenic helicopter tours out of the Jackson Hole Airport.

Since 2012, I have flown throughout western Wyoming with several helicopter pilots and companies in different makes and models of helicopters – primarily in a search and rescue capacity. I have spent hours talking with pilots about general safety, and safety protocols and procedures of the various aircraft – as well as exploring their decision-making process to fly or not to fly.

I have also had the opportunity to fly with Tony in his R-44 on several occasions – from short-duration to longer flights. Through conversations with Tony – and in watching him work – it is more than evident that he genuinely believes in and lives by safety first – a personal philosophy that includes knowing and respecting the limitations of his aircraft.

As a Wyoming resident & native, I want to thank the Board for your service, and for your time & consideration.

Sincerely,

Windy K. Kelley

From: [Mary Ellen Fausone](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Fwd: Airport Board meeting 4/17 public comment re: Wind River Air
Date: Wednesday, April 15, 2020 10:28:06 AM

To the Airport Board:

The Jackson community is overwhelmingly opposed to heli tours. And the citizens of Teton County deserve and must have their voices heard on this issue. This operation, resulting in daily, earsplitting helicopter noise, would destroy locals' favorite quiet spots, turn off tourists, and disrupt wildlife. Proposed flight paths are directly over neighborhoods! This is unacceptable.

I am mystified why Mr. Chambers would persist in a business venture that the community does not need, does not want, and would affect its citizens and visitors in such an adverse way. I urge Mr. Chambers to withdraw his application, or, at the very least, to postpone it until the pandemic is over and community members have a chance to appear before the airport board in person.

There is magic in the sounds and in the quiet of the wilderness. We need that magic much more than Mr. Chambers or a few tourists need the “thrill” of a helicopter ride.

Respectfully,
Mary Fausone
Jackson, Wyoming
mebdoc84@gmail.com

From: [Josephine Gwilliam](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Fwd: Heli Tours
Date: Thursday, April 16, 2020 12:13:11 PM

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

From: **Josephine Gwilliam** <gwilliamjosephine@gmail.com>
Date: Fri, Mar 13, 2020 at 3:17 PM
Subject: Heli Tours
To: <board@jhairport.org>, windriverair@gmail.com <windriverair@gmail.com>

To whom it may concern—

My name is Josephine Gwilliam. I was born and raised in this valley and I couldn't imagine living anywhere else.

I am so excited for heli tours to return to Jackson and offer a different view of this wild landscape.

I stand in strong support of Wind River Air's heli tours.

Thank you

Josephine

From: [Mary Wendell](#)
To: [Luther Propst](#)
Cc: [publiccomment](#); clare@jhalliance.org
Subject: Fwd: NO Heli Tours!
Date: Wednesday, April 22, 2020 7:14:42 PM

Luther, I am re-forwarding my letter of opposition that I had previously sent to you, regarding Heli tours in the Jackson Hole area (or in any area, where land is preserved and wildlife protected). I may try to call in in the morning, but Claire from the alliance had asked me to call or write. Please deliver my message to the commissioners and all relevant parties on my behalf, reading it aloud at the meeting if it is appropriate.

Thank you so much for caring so deeply for this land and for all the hard work you do on behalf of Teton County residents and visitors.

- "Mary Wendell" Lampton

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Mary Wendell <mwlampton@silverstar.com>
Date: March 16, 2020 at 9:50:15 PM MDT
To: lpropst@tetoncountywy.gov
Subject: Fwd: NO Heli Tours!

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Mary Wendell <mwlampton@silverstar.com>
Date: March 16, 2020 at 9:42:02 PM MDT
To: lprobst@tetoncountywy.gov,
commissioners@tetoncountywy.gov
Subject: NO Heli Tours!

I am writing to vehemently oppose helicopter tours to be allowed in the greater Jackson Hole area. Where heli tours have occurred to date, I understand that they have caused an enormous disruption in the way and quality of life – particularly because these areas are some of the last places not to be so fully developed.

Helicopter tours will no doubt bring about terrible noise pollution both for ourselves and for the wildlife they are stalking. It will stress animals and humans alike.

Here in Jackson Hole, we are stewards of the natural world. We have the opportunity to teach the millions of tourists who come through what it means to honor, admire and respect wildlife and wild places. We do not exploit. We are one of the last sacred places to show reverence, as human beings, to the natural world that surrounds us.

By allowing helicopter tours, not only are we going against all of our principles as a community who has chosen to live in lands dedicated to wild animals and their habitat, not only are we no longer good stewards of the land, but we are setting a bad example to the rest of the world- who follow our lead.

Now more than ever, we need to be the community, not just of a place but in a larger sense of the word, who stands up for the natural world and all that it offers us over money and greed.

This is sacred space. It is imperative that we continue to treat it as such or we have lost everything that we have fought for- everything that is truly meaningful, valuable and abundant to human health and well-being as well as to all life.

Thank you-
Mary Wendell Lampton
Wilson, Wyoming

From: [Mercer, Reagan](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Fwd: Support for Wind River Air
Date: Tuesday, April 14, 2020 3:07:44 PM

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: Mercer, Reagan <rjmercer@mail.smu.edu>
Sent: Sunday, March 15, 2020 9:23 PM
To: board@jhairport.org
Cc: windriverair@gmail.com
Subject: Support for Wind River Air

Hello,

As a Jackson local, I would like to express my support for Wind River Air to be able to provide scenic helicopter rides by flying out of Jackson Hole Airport. The demand is there and these are experienced pilots who respect the land.

Best,

Reagan Mercer

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: [Clare Stumpf](#)
To: [publiccomment](#); windriverair@gmail.com
Subject: Fwd: Thank you for saying Heli NO!
Date: Friday, April 17, 2020 8:49:38 AM

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

From: s king <kioteking@gmail.com>
Date: Fri, Apr 17, 2020 at 8:17 AM
Subject: Re: Thank you for saying Heli NO!
To: Clare Stumpf <clare@jhalliance.org>

Sorry Clare but I didn't make the 8:00 send time by 5 minutes & I didn't count the words.

Can my comments be added now but not read at today's meeting?
My apologies, here's my comment,

Grand Teton National Park is a place of immense silence. It's no place for the sound of helicopters. You can hear them long before you can see them. I've flown in them in Antarctica, Greenland, Alaska & the lower 48. They are amazing. They have no place ruining the experience of many for a very few in Grand Teton Park. The Jackson Airport is an island in the Park. No way to get there except flying over the Park, no way to do it quietly. I have lived in the shadow of the Tetons since 1974. I have climbed, skied, hiked, boated & biked in the park every year since arriving. Every year I camp at Leigh Lake. Lately, every year the helicopter noise has increased. It is incredible how loud & long a helicopter passing takes. The mountains & canyons are echo chambers. There is a term that has come into our lexicon, noise pollution. This is exactly what this would be called if helicopters are allowed in the Park. Please, please, please do not allow our Grand Teton National Park to be polluted with the intrusive sound machine. Now is the time to say no, if allowed, it may never be able to be taken away.
Steven King Victor, Idaho

From: [Teresa Taylor](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Fwd: Wind River Air
Date: Thursday, April 16, 2020 12:08:54 PM

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Teresa Taylor <tktaylor333@gmail.com>
Date: April 16, 2020 at 12:05:56 PM MDT
To: publiccomment@jhairport.org
Subject: Wind River Air

To those of you considering this:

Please, please, please find some inner strength from deep down inside to oppose this. You know it's wrong. Our beautiful landscapes offer not only the opportunity to see gorgeous vistas, incredible wildlife, but also offer one of the last commodities known on this planet - SILENCE.

People come from all over to indulge in the quiet to reconnect with themselves and spirit and nature. The noise of helicopters in these areas will be a sure sign to all that Jackson Hole has indeed sold its soul...

There are known adverse effects of noise on our wildlife... please ask for impact studies. A perfect example is the panda couple who everyone thought was infertile ... just recently after the crowds were gone and they had solitude, they began mating...

Nature knows best.

Humbly submitted,
Teresa Taylor

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Dorie Schwertz](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: General Comment on Wind River Air April 17 9 AM meeting
Date: Wednesday, April 15, 2020 12:13:35 PM

To whom it may concern:

My name is Dorie Schwertz. I live on Moulton Loop Road with my husband, Peter Austin. We would both like to go on record in **opposition** to the Wind River Air LLC's proposal to run scenic helicopter tours out of the Jackson Hole Airport.

We built a house in this area north of town because we were looking for a peaceful, quiet environment where we would see plenty of wonderful wildlife. These noisy, unregulated heli tours flying low over our neighborhood multiple times a day would be physically and psychologically disturbing to us as well as to the wildlife.

Safety issues with the R44 helicopter that has high risk of crashing due to poor performance at high altitudes is another major concern. A helicopter crash in this area would not only lead to loss of life could potentially lead to a wildfire, further loss of life and property, and stress our emergency response system - unduly putting first responders at risk.

One individual's desire to run these tours should not over-shadow the majority's appeal against it.

Sincerely,

Dorie W Schwertz
Peter Austin

From: [Al Dorsett](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Golf Creek Resident
Date: Wednesday, April 15, 2020 2:51:44 PM

PLEASE DO NOT GO FORWARD WITH THIS!!!

I have owned in the Teton Valley for many years and recently moved to Golf Creek because of the tranquility and proximity to town. There is already way too much air traffic in the skies above us. The last thing we need is sight seeing helicopters chopping up the air. And btw, I am a former Heli pilot. PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE reject this plan.

Thank you
Al Dorsett
525 E Golf Creek Lane, #34
Jackson, WY 83001

From: mrssharkbait@hotmail.com
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Heicopters
Date: Wednesday, April 15, 2020 7:23:12 PM

This idea is completely at odds with all that living in the Tetons embraces. The noise impact on wildlife and residents cannot be defended. This invasion of our peaceful home benefits solely this operator and wealthy tourists who can be entertained elsewhere. NO to this greedy enterprise!

Janyce Johnson

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

From: [Bob](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Heli
Date: Wednesday, April 15, 2020 10:21:34 AM

I am totally opposed on many levels to the Heli tour proposal it is totally incompatible with the use of our national forests and national park on a practical level the protests and lawsuits have just begun

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Jennifer Kohlhardt](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Heli NO to WindRiverAir on April 17, 2020
Date: Wednesday, April 15, 2020 9:14:45 AM

Airport Board and Wind River Air,

Please do not allow Wind River Air a permit to fly helicopters over our valley! We all live here to witness the quiet of the valley, the darkness of our night skies. Businesses like this are eroding away at the life style that we all relish. I can't imagine the wildlife needing another thing to have to contend with.

Traffic has become so bad, airplanes flying over the National Park and valley are so bad. These motorized vehicles are already interrupting the wilderness experience. We are bombarded with noise and can't get away from technology impacting our every moment.

Helicopters in particular are hard to ignore. I live off of Fall Creek Rd and do not want to have to live with daily tours flying over my home or even hearing them off in the distant.

With this recent pandemic the one good thing coming from it is the quiet, slower moving way to be. Helicopter tours, ATV's, Safari tours!!!! Where will it end? Can't tourists enjoy the beauty of the Tetons without adding to pollution, which is air, water and quality of life pollution? Perhaps they would love to do something novel and take in nature from the trail or the comfort of their own deck!!

Maybe helicopter tours are a good thing in the Grand Canyon, but they are not a benefit to this valley flying over our homes, neighborhoods, and scaring the wildlife.

HELI NO!! Thank you for letting me speak my mind.

Jenifer Kohlhardt
Wislon resident

From: [kathy mccance](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Heli NO
Date: Friday, April 24, 2020 2:20:04 PM

Please KEEP OUR SKIES QUIET and the TETONS NATURAL
We must PROTECT their beauty and not have the addition of risky behaviors via helicopters
Please do not allow helicopters circling the Tetons
Thank you——John Wolfer and Kathryn McCance

From: [Ariel Kazunas](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Heli No
Date: Friday, April 24, 2020 8:08:18 AM

I've been a resident of Jackson for about six years after living on the road for the ten years previous, traveling for guide work. I've seen many phenomenal places in this world as a result, and yet nothing, in my mind, tops this heart-wrenchingly beautiful place we all call home.

I've also seen what it looks like when towns don't choose to protect the qualities that give their places character. On my first visit to Sedona, Arizona, I was awed as suburban sprawl of Tucson and Phoenix gave way to huge red cliffs and precariously balanced rocks. And then I was shocked as helicopter after helicopter thumped loudly overhead while I was hiking down remote, sandy trails.

The noise echoed off those same red cliffs and balanced rocks (it seemed incredible that they didn't tumble in the cacophony) and raised the hair on my arms – helicopters make an unnerving sound, one I associate with emergencies, rescues and the possibility of death. The magic of the place instantly faded.

I'm here today to ask our leaders to prevent the same disruption and detracting from the character that I witnessed in Sedona from happening here. Please do not allow scenic heli tours in Jackson.

From: [bill mcclure](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: HELI NO
Date: Thursday, April 16, 2020 10:53:32 AM

To Whom It Concerns,

As a year round resident who lives opposite the airport in the Solitude subdivision I am dead against issuing a permit to allow for helicopter site seeing flights.

You have ramped up so much commercial traffic and private jet traffic that we don't need helicopter site seeing traffic all day long.

In addition who in their right mind would want to be interrupted and harassed by a helicopter when out hiking, fishing or skiing.

Finally this would have unintended consequences on wildlife and not in a good way.

Bill McClure
1240 E Glacier Rd.
Jackson, Wy 83001
307-6904952

From: [Charles Woodward](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Heli NO
Date: Thursday, April 16, 2020 8:21:36 AM

The great outdoors is a huge part of my life. This includes remote access, wilderness, and peace and quiet. In the Grand Canyon, along rivers, and many other places, tourist aircraft operations cause a lot of noise, commotion and are negatively intrusive in the natural environment. In addition, mountain flying is inherently dangerous and generates occasional rescues (as well as facilitating them). I strongly request that you do NOT have helicopter tourist trips in either Teton county or GTNP. The short term pleasure of a few rich people is not an adequate reason to disrupt the natural world we value to much, and which is our real scarce commodity.

Sincerely,
Charles Woodward
Natural Resource Consultants
PO Box 91
Victor, ID 83455
idpv16@gmail.com

From: [Patrick Greene](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Heli No
Date: Tuesday, April 21, 2020 7:01:30 PM

To who it may concern,

My name is Patrick, I'm a resident here in the valley. The main reason I moved here, along with a large percentage of current residents, is to enjoy what our beautiful landscape has to offer. I'm an avid paraglider, and the idea of a helicopter flying around the region daily sounds incredibly frustrating and rather dangerous for us. Having a helicopter continuously buzzing around over the peaks of the Tetons would really take away from the pure enjoyment of being out there in the wilderness, whether it be hiking, camping, fishing, etc. I strongly disagree with the idea of scenic helicopters, and I hope my input helps with the decision on whether not to allow it. Thank you for your time.

Patrick Greene

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Thekla von Hagke](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Heli -no
Date: Friday, April 17, 2020 9:04:57 AM

To Whomever It May Concern

I am writing to express my extreme opposition to guided helicopter tours in Jackson Hole. I recently vacationed in Kauai and hiked the Napali Coast. All three days of our hike was fraught with the constant presence of Helicopter tours buzzing over us. Helicopters flying over wilderness is one of the greatest violations of the wilderness experience imaginable.

As a resident of Kelly, the proposed tours would be a violation of our peace and quiet at home as well. It is pure insanity to mar our beautiful ecosystem with air presence and pollution. The airports presence is bad enough as it is without adding helicopter traffic to our valley, much less National Park!!!

Please--- Heli- No!!!!

Sincerely

Thekla von Hagke

From: [Donald & Karen Saner](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Heli- No
Date: Wednesday, April 22, 2020 9:00:59 AM

Please do not allow this to happen. I do not believe these helicopters that he has are as safe as what we need for what he wants to do. We need to make sure we have the safest possible helicopters to fly. No accidents- No life loss.
Karen Saner

From: [Brian Simon](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Heli Tour Disapproval
Date: Tuesday, April 21, 2020 2:32:46 PM

Hi,

I want to state my opinion that I believe it would not be in the public's best interest to allow helicopter sight seeing tours in the Jackson area. The beauty of GTNP and the area is our ability to go into the wilderness, enjoy the natural sights and sounds. Mostly, I fear for what is to come if you give the go ahead on this helicopter tour. It would open the flood gates of many companies trying to accomplish the same as Mr. Chambers. It would be a shame to see and hear helicopters constantly flying around the Tetons.

Thanks for taking my comments into consideration,
Brian

From: [Rutledge Deas](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Heli Tour Invasion of Privacy + Nuisance Issues
Date: Thursday, April 23, 2020 10:30:32 AM

To the Board:

I would strongly suggest that the Board remind Wind River that there are Invasion of Privacy and Noise Abatement Laws. They will open themselves up to lawsuits on both issues. Certainly, if it will interfere with possible sales of real estate. If the flights become a nuisance, I would think that property owners through the HOA could file suit against the Helicopter Company.

Rutledge Deas
W. Gros Ventre

From: [Andy Bardon](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Heli Tour opposition
Date: Friday, April 10, 2020 12:59:35 PM

Name: Andy Bardon

I oppose the approval of a scenic helicopter tour operation. Noise pollution, disruption to wildlife, and the visual disturbance of our skyline go against the values of this valley. Maybe in Las Vegas, but not in Jackson Hole.

photo

P +1.307.690.0212

E andy@andybardon.com

Website www.andybardon.com

Prints shop.andybardon.com



From: [Colleen](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Heli tours application
Date: Thursday, April 23, 2020 9:11:31 AM

Dear Board Members,

I have submitted my email opposing the Heli-tours. If you proceed in allowing the permit, I request that you give serious consideration to placing significant conditions on the permit- possibly requiring a bond to pay for any SARs and/or wildfire extinguishments that may be caused by helicopter tour crashes on public lands. In addition, times/seasons of the tours and flight patterns must also be considered for those living near the airport.

With Regards,
Colleen M. Crook

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

From: [David Fischel](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Heli tours around the Tetons
Date: Thursday, April 16, 2020 8:21:27 PM

Hello,

We are strongly opposed to helicopter flights over the national park. We go to the national parks for solace, for the sounds of nature, for peace. It is imperative that these natural places remain available to the public without the infringement of unnatural sounds/sights. There are many places that are equally beautiful for these tourist helicopter flights to occur in the surrounding area. Please maintain and protect the serenity of our national parks as was the original intent in setting them aside.

We, and the local wildlife, thank you.

Melanie and David Fischel

Victor, Idaho

From: [Michele Yacoub](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Heli tours in Jackson
Date: Friday, April 17, 2020 8:23:20 AM

Dear Jackson Hole Airport, and Wind River Air LLC,

Hello, my name is Micha I have lived in the valley for 7 years. I am emailing in regard to the potential helicopter tours that you will be discussing in your 9 am meeting today Friday April 17. I am proud to stand by my fellow community members whom I know share the same love for the outdoors that I do. THERE IS NO NEED FOR HELI TOURS in our community. It hasn't been made clear to the public what model of helicopters will be operating in this business. However, Airbus AS350 series of helicopters, the most popular among tour operators, produces 950 pounds of carbon dioxide emissions per hour! Not only will this add more pollution and go directly against the goals of Teton county Comprehensive Plan, it will also disrupt habitats of countless animals. We have one of the last remaining intact ecosystems in the United States, I fear if you go through with this you will be ruining one of the most magical places on earth. Please don't sell out, Keep Jackson Hole wild.

Thanks for taking the time to read my thoughts and concerns.

Best,

Micha

From: [kim smith](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Heli tours
Date: Thursday, April 16, 2020 8:41:07 AM

Hi,

My name is kim armington. My ex-husband was in the Park service and I lived in moves for eight years. I now live on the north end of town. I was still living in the park there's no way that I would think a sightseeing helicopter company would be a complement to a national Park. Now that I am living in town I know that this operation would affect me both with my experience going into the park and as an intrusion on my living space in town. This is just not the place or such an operation. It's a form of pollution, both noise pollution and visual pollution. Please do not allow this to happen.

Kim

Sent from my iPad

From: [Anne Rutherford](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Heli Tours
Date: Wednesday, April 15, 2020 9:11:07 AM

Please register this email as a strong No from this Jackson resident.

The objections to this commercial enterprise in this community have been well enumerated so I will not repeat the same arguments here. However, please do not take that to mean the points are not valid to protect the character of our slice of paradise as well as the health of our lands and population.

Thank you.

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Dee Gustafson](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Heli tours
Date: Thursday, April 16, 2020 3:56:23 PM

I have no problem with heli tours. It's an opportunity for visitors to enjoy our countryside like we did in the Grand Canyon and Hawaii. However, I would limit the amount of tours to placate the people who don't want helicopters overhead, which I think are cool watching. Personally I feel everyone who has a great business model should be allowed to succeed as long as there are perimeters. Life is all about different people enjoying different activities and we can allow it with a certain amount of control

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Emily McGowan](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Heli Tours
Date: Wednesday, April 15, 2020 5:03:43 PM

I am emailing to urge you to keep the Tetons quiet by NOT allowing heli tours. This land around our communities is a part of the Yellowstone ecosystem and we have a responsibility to the animals and to this land. The land and animals are what make this place so special. It is why people come here. The addition of heli tours above the Tetons would greatly impact wildlife and would negatively affect the experience of visitors to our area.

I strongly oppose helicopter tours in the Tetons.

Thank you,

Emily McGowan
Driggs, ID

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Sally Walsh](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Heli tours
Date: Friday, April 17, 2020 6:10:26 AM

To whom it may concern,

As property owners in the Jackson Hole area, my husband and I would like to voice our strong opposition to the idea of Heli-tours being allowed. The notion that this pristine national treasure would be blighted with the noise of helicopters violates everything that makes this National Park such a jewel of our nation. As we all now recognize with even greater clarity, we need the beauty and quiet of our natural world now more than ever to restore our spirit. The notion that a few people can spend the money to have an air visit to the Tetons instead of walking through them goes against the intent of the National Parks. And, how ironic that Grand Teton National Park has car restrictions and yet might allow this. PLEASE do not allow this to happen. As stewards of the beauty and uniqueness of this most special part of the world, you would be violating our trust in you.

A concerned citizen,

Sally Walsh
Teton Village

From: [Jan Bauer](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Heli Tours
Date: Thursday, April 16, 2020 9:02:35 AM

Respectfully,

The development of Helicopter Tours in Jackson Hole is purely about money.

It is an intense intrusion on residents visitors and wildlife.

The Park and Gros Ventre is not a coddled landscape of amusement.

Helicopters rob us of a signature quality..... silence.

Thank you

Jan Bauer

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Mary Schmitt](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Heli tours
Date: Tuesday, April 21, 2020 7:00:05 PM

I'm writing to express my disapproval of operating helicopter tours out of the airport at Jackson hole. There have been so many times in the park that my experience has been marred by planes taking off and landing. I don't think you understand the impact of the noise on users of the park. That horse is out of the barn, but adding helicopters to the mix is a no-go for me. They will be flying lower, and the sound of a helicopter will no longer mean that somebody is in trouble up in the mountains. That's the only reason I want to hear a helicopter here. People need to get off their butts and experience the Park and the area on their feet, a horse, a bike where permitted, or a boat. If they want to see something from above, they can take a balloon tour. This period where the planes have been largely grounded due to the coronavirus has really emphasized the importance of no more noise pollution in the valley for me. It is LOVELY, and while I know it won't last, I see no reason to add to the cacophony.

Mary Schmitt
Cayuse Western Americana
www.cayusewa.com

From: [Kathleen Renfro](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Heli Tours
Date: Thursday, April 16, 2020 7:50:10 PM

To whom it may concern:

I am a full time resident of Alta, Wyoming, and am opposed to heli tours operating in the area. I moved to the Teton Valley from Virginia Beach Virginia, where my family lived since the mid 1600s. The naval air traffic destroyed the quality of life in the Tidewater area, and is one of the reasons I moved out here. I would be devastated to see that happen here. Please protect the wildlife, and beauty of the Tetons.

Sincerely,
Kathleen Renfro

From: [Patricia Feltz](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Heli Tours
Date: Thursday, April 16, 2020 7:31:38 PM

Heli Tours around the Tetons is not a good idea for the wildlife or for the people that are trying to enjoy a wilderness experience.

Patricia Feltz

From: [Noah Hurley](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Heli tours
Date: Tuesday, April 21, 2020 4:38:33 PM

Hi there, I'm writing to say I feel heli tours will have a negative impact on not only the peace of the valley and wild life, but those who live and make the community out here. Helicopters are very loud, and impact the air surrounding them in a way that can lead to free flight fatalities. One of the amazing things about the tetons is the atmosphere surrounding them, being out on long hikes in the park has inspired myself and countless others. The thought of the semi constant hum of a chopper while out in that setting is heartbreaking. I really hope you will choose to keep commercial tours out of this valley.

Thank you,
Noah Hurley

From: [Linda S Unland](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Cc: [John Unland](#)
Subject: Heli Tours
Date: Thursday, April 16, 2020 7:01:12 PM

Good afternoon,

My name is Linda Unland, and my husband, John, and I live in Driggs. We are unequivocally opposed to the approval of Wind River Air's application to run Heli Tours over the Tetons. Those of us who live here - as well as the visitors over decades - are moved, inspired and are in daily awe of The Tetons and this amazing wilderness area. There is no reason to disturb the silent beauty, and we believe that visitors can experience the powerful majesty of these mountains from either side by observing and photographing from below or while hiking. It would be a travesty to allow commercial exploitation of this area. Please protect this special wilderness.

Respectfully,

Linda and John Unland

[Linda Unland](#)
[Barley Creek Camp](#)
[PO Box 711](#)
[Driggs, ID. 83422](#)
[970.471.5740](#)

From: [Morris Weintraub](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Heli Tours
Date: Thursday, April 16, 2020 11:34:39 PM

Hello, I am writing to express my dismay over the allowance of heli tours in the valley. As someone who's visited Sedona and other picturesque places that allow such tours, I've experienced first hand just how destructive their noise can be. These flights will no doubt destroy the peacefulness and solitude for which our area is known. For the love of what's right, peaceful and beautiful - please ban heli tours in the valley.

Thank you,
Morris Weintraub.
theimagewell.com
307.690.8120

Sent from my iPhone tours

From: [Matt Noble](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Heli Tours
Date: Tuesday, April 21, 2020 11:18:36 AM

Hello,

I have spent the last 8 years living and working in the Tetons. My summers have always been spent in Grand Teton National Park. The airport operating within the Park has always been a point of contention, however most of us understand that it serves an important role in our local economy. A small helicopter tour operation does not. Few stand to benefit from a business that will disrupt many persons and wildlife. Obviously many people that oppose this aren't fully aware of the quantifiable: proposed flight patterns, estimated noise decibels, hours/dates of operation. Regardless of how the proponents spin this data, no amount of added disruption in the Teton Park area is justifiable. To allow a helicopter tour company to operate in Grand Teton National Park would be the textbook definition of bad land stewardship.

-Matt

From: [Alina Cornejo](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Heli Tours
Date: Tuesday, April 21, 2020 11:29:11 AM

Hello,

I've called Jackson my home for two years and spend most of my free time recreating in Grand Teton National Park. I think that allowing heli tours in this area would cause an unnecessary disturbance for both humans and wildlife. The decibel that these helicopters would operate at are extreme and could have terrible impacts on the wildlife in this area. I enjoy the park because of it's beauty and peace. Allowing helicopters would be a violation of that peace and ruin the wilderness experience for those who enjoy it.

--

Alina Cornejo
Ph. (386) 717 - 6092 | Email: alina.cornejo6@gmail.com

From: [whitney royster](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: heli tours, of course
Date: Tuesday, April 21, 2020 5:27:36 PM

Dear Airport Board, I was on the line last week to comment "in person" for the heli tour proposal. My first comment is just to put the emailed/mailed public comments on a link rather than read them all at the meeting. That will take forever.

Having said that, it will be weird if you read my comment, but here goes.

Sometimes when we're asked to consider something, we don't need to determine where it is on "the line." We just need to determine if it over or under "the line." In this case, the line is guarding our wilderness values. Helicopter tours is over the line of guarding those values. I appreciate that the company has gone through all the right channels, and is now asking for local approval. We respect the application, but determine it is over the line of our values. The buck needs to stop here.

Thank you
Whitney Royster
Jackson, WY

From: tdocavon@aol.com
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Heli tours....
Date: Thursday, April 16, 2020 3:40:53 PM

Sirs:

Although I live in Florida, I have been a frequent visitor to beautiful Jackson Hole for some 25 years. I have seen it change dramatically and not always for the better.

In its pristine state, there are few places on this earth that are more heartstoppingly beautiful and I beg you NOT to permit helicopter "touring" of the valley and its magnificent surrounds. What really is to be gained by allowing this other than a few dollars perhaps?? And will those dollars make up for the loss of tranquility or the terrified wildlife trying to escape from the noise overhead? I think not and sincerely hope you will not, too.

Keep Jackson Jackson!! It isn't a western theme park; don't make it into one.

Thank you.

Diane Docherty
Palm City, FL

From: [George Cornelson](#)
To: windriverair@gmail.com; [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Heli tours
Date: Wednesday, April 15, 2020 12:30:24 PM

Tony,

I am writing to tell you that we are against your proposed helicopter tours. We have lived in Wilson, Wy for 13 years and enjoy the peace and quiet our valley offers. Having helicopters buzzing overhead is going to ruin our peace and quiet. We chose to live on the west bank specifically to avoid the noise of the airport. Your flight path over to Idaho will fly over our place. That is WRONG!! We will vigorously oppose your efforts to make money at everyone else's expense.

The animals live in relative peace and your choppers flying overhead will disturb the wildlife which makes our home so special. I see your proposed business as a threat to the very reason many of us live here.

Sincerely,

George Cornelson

From: [neil Rudo](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: heli tours
Date: Wednesday, April 15, 2020 6:08:10 PM

Helicopter tours over the valley would be an enormous detriment to the peace and tranquility of the whole valley. The sound pollution would be huge. If people want tours, have them bike or hike. PLEASE do not destroy the joy of living here with heli tours. Keep the tours in Manhattan or the Hamptons, not here.

This email is in reference to the meeting Friday April 17th about heli tours.

From: [Mark Schweizer](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Heli Tours
Date: Tuesday, April 14, 2020 1:23:54 PM

Hi, my name is Mark, I am a local resident and would like to comment on the heli tour proposal. First off, I am most certainly against the idea of helicopter tours in the area. If anyone that reads this has been to the beautiful island of Kauai, this seems to me a good example of what I do not want here in Teton County. The drone of helicopters has no place in a wilderness setting, unless for essential work, studies, fires, or rescue. It is a slippery slope and once permission is granted it is very difficult to take away, and also difficult to limit it. The Grand Canyon has taken a middle-ground approach to the issue but it seems like a compromise that did not give wilderness a say. Safety seems to be the main argumentative point anti-helitours are making, perhaps because of the legal standing, but lets face it, there is no part of this county that will not be severely and negatively affected by allowing heli tours. The park, the Gros Ventre, the Leidy Highlands, Togwotee Pass, the Snake River bottomlands and range, and our crown jewel of wilderness, the Teton Wilderness. This areas will all be negatively affected and will lose their wilderness character.

Please do not allow helicopter tours, it will be one more nail in the coffin of wilderness in the area for humans, wildlife, and all of our senses.

Thank you,

Mark

From: [Kurt Karst](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Heli tours/ Teton mountains
Date: Wednesday, April 15, 2020 11:34:22 AM

As a resident of Teton valley Idaho with year around property in close proximity to the Tetonia and the Jedediah Smith wilderness, I am opposed to allowing any company to operate helicopter tours of the Teton range. The presence of helicopters over the Jedediah will detract from the solitude of the wilderness that many of us enjoy. All for the benefit of a couple of operators. Don't turn this special area into a Disneyland ride. Keep it wild.

From: [Mary Whitney](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Heli tours?
Date: Friday, April 10, 2020 2:37:31 PM

Dear JH Airport,

Of primary concern regarding helicopter tours out of JAC is that one tour company with one helicopter will likely lead to more tour companies and more helicopters.

The Jackson Hole area is so extraordinary because of the beauty, wilderness, wildlife and solitude.

I can understand a tourist's desire to quickly see this area from above but as a year round resident I know the magic of allowing this unique place to slowly and quietly reveal itself on nature's terms.

I strongly believe helicopter tours will jeopardize everything that's special about Jackson Hole, the National Parks, and surrounding area.

Thank you for your consideration,
Mary J Whitney
Jackson, WY

From: [Hurst, Scott](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Helicopter Flight in GTNP
Date: Wednesday, April 22, 2020 4:52:32 PM

I don't think you should disrupt the scenic and quiet beauty of Grand Teton National Park by allowing helicopter flights for sightseeing tourists.

Scott Hurst
Brigham Young University-Idaho
Director Outdoor Resource Center
Sent from my iPhone

From: [robert righter](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: helicopter flights
Date: Friday, April 24, 2020 2:34:11 PM

My comment is the same as it was to Gary Kauffman in 2001 WHY???? The community doesn't want flights, the park doesn't, and tourist don't need it (the best views are from the North inner road or the river). The only answer to WHY is to make money. Sorry that doesn't make it!

Robert Righter
Historian

From: [Ellen Karpf](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Helicopter rides
Date: Friday, April 10, 2020 3:12:01 PM

I can think of nothing worse to destroy the natural beauty and increase the noise pollution in Jackson than permitting tourist helicopter rides here. I am sure there isn't one resident in our city that would approve this. Would you knowingly approve this project to make one man wealthy while consequently disturbing every resident, animal and bird? Turn this project down! Find a way.
Ellen Karpf

Sent from my iPhone

From: [MELINDA WOOD](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Helicopter rides Teton
Date: Saturday, April 11, 2020 6:11:58 AM

I have been on Mr Chambers helicopter rides and they would be a disruption to wildlife in the park not good for the ecosystem and would open the door for many companies to try to come in and do the same thing. I'm totally against it. Sincerely Mindy Wood

Sent from my iPhone

From: r.sanford@bresnan.net
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Helicopter Sightseeing Flights
Date: Saturday, April 18, 2020 9:56:33 AM

Good Morning,

Please do not approve the Heli sight seeing flight application that is now before you.

Grand Teton National Park should be kept pristine and QUIET; not buzzed by constant helicopter over flights! The proposed aircraft for this operation has a horrible safety record for flying at the proposed altitudes in the application. It is only a matter of time before we have a crash with fatalities and/or severe injuries.

Thank you for doing the right thing for GTNP and our community.

Sincerely,

Robert C Sanford
Jackson, WY

From: [Susan Patla](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Helicopter tour application
Date: Friday, April 17, 2020 12:46:36 AM

As a retired state wildlife biologist, I feel strongly that helicopter tours are completely inappropriate at the Jackson airport. Noise levels from helicopters will disturb both wildlife and humans on public and private lands. Tours have never been permitted before for valid reasons. Don't allow them now.

Susan Patla
2840 Grandview Drive
Tetonia ID. 83452
307 413-1222

Sent via Passenger Pigeon

From: [Joshua Ziolkowski](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Helicopter Tour Application
Date: Tuesday, April 14, 2020 6:38:01 PM

Dear Airport Board,

Jackson Hole airport is already very busy with well over 10 commercial flights a day in the busy season and dozens of private charters arriving via private aviation. Regular additions to this will not significantly boost the economy and will only add to the noise pollution of this beautiful area we call home. The scenic flight company already operating out of Jackson Hole Airport already does a wonderful job offering sightseeing tours. No need to add even more traffic. Grand Teton already offers many ways to enjoy its grandeur and a helicopter tour service will not greatly increase enjoyment of the park. Well most likely negatively affecting the experience of many with the additional noise.

Please make the right choice for Jackson Hole and vote no to the helicopter tours in Grand Teton National Park.

Best regards,

Josh Ziolkowski

From: [Joanne Oliver](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Helicopter tour comments
Date: Thursday, April 16, 2020 10:22:22 PM

To Jackson Hole Town Council members,

I'm a full time JH resident, originally from New Zealand, and I have seen how helicopter tourism can negatively impact a pristine scenic environment. Helicopters are used heavily in New Zealand for glacier, mountain, lake tours and the noise pollution is relentless. One tour company will lead to more.

This will not provide a lot of jobs for Jackson and we are already flooded with tourists.

How will Wind River Air comply with Jackson Hole's 2020 Zero carbon commitment?

Grand Teton National Park is a serene, majestic sanctuary. Allowing helicopter tours through any part of it, or near it, will commoditize the very few quiet places we have left, and does not feel in alignment with our environmental and community values.

Joanne Zorkendorfer

From: [Rutledge Deas](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Helicopter Tour Meeting March 24th 8 am
Date: Thursday, April 23, 2020 10:34:36 AM

To the Board:

I would strongly suggest that the Board remind Wind River that there are Invasion of Privacy and Noise Abatement Laws. They will open themselves up to lawsuits on both issues. Certainly, if it will interfere with possible sales of real estate can be subject to real estate laws and interfering with private commerce. If the flights become a nuisance, I would think that property owners through the HOA could file suit against the Helicopter Company.

Rutledge Deas
W. Gros Ventre

From: [Tim Green](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Helicopter Tour Proposal Comments
Date: Tuesday, April 14, 2020 2:09:35 PM

Thank you for hearing my comment. The balance of luxury and wildness is one of the most fundamentally important dynamics that makes this place so great to live. The line between those two resources is very thin, but also very distinct. This balance, and most importantly that line that divides them, is what so many of us appreciate about this place. It's what visitors come here to support our businesses for seek as well.

Right now that balance and that line are near a tipping point. Our roads, trails, restaurants, rivers and powder stashes are becoming more and more crowded each year. Fortunately most of those crowds concentrate at the roads, restaurants and trailheads; but supply and demand will continue to push people further afield.

If we allow helicopter tours to start flying sightseers over those trails and rivers and into the canyons then we allow that balance of luxury and wildness to be distorted and the line dividing them to be erased.

If we keep selling off what makes this place special then we will lose what we have here as well as the visitors that are the lifeblood of our local businesses.

Please do not put the desires one small business in front of the soul of Jackson Hole.

Thank you,
Tim Green

From: [caroline drayton](#)
To: windriverair@gmail.com
Cc: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Helicopter tours Grand Teton National Park
Date: Thursday, April 23, 2020 6:48:27 PM

Hello,

As a community member of the town of Jackson I am strongly opposed to the addition of helicopter tours near GTNP. I would like to start by saying that I understand the value of ecotourism in natural spaces. I have worked in environmental education and as a guide and am very much in support of connecting people to places. That being said there is intrinsic value in these spaces as well and human enjoyment is only one small piece.

Part of the reason the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem is so sought after is because of its "wildness". These tours would be disruptive to wildlife, increase our carbon footprint, and disrupt other recreationalists. It is also important to note that skirting the park boundaries means nothing to wildlife and is still incredibly disruptive to migration patterns. I hope that you will consider these drawbacks and the well-being of the Jackson Community when making this very important and impactful decision.

Sincerely,
Caroline Drayton

From: [James Mathieu](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Helicopter tours in GTNP
Date: Saturday, April 11, 2020 5:57:39 PM

To Whom It May Concern:

Helicopter tours over Grand Teton National Park are entirely inappropriate to the values that dictate public policy on public lands. The helicopters are intrusive, for wildlife and for people, which carry a very few privileged individuals to places that threaten the resident wildlife and, in so doing, narrow the definition of “public” to a statistical anomaly of helicopter tourists.

Respectfully: James Mathieu

P.O. Box 1659
Jackson, Wyo. 830001
307.690.5206

From: [Carole Baker](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Helicopter tours in Jackson Hole
Date: Tuesday, April 21, 2020 12:26:57 PM

No helitours!! No plane tours either!

No, no, no! Too much noise- we live near the airport and we regularly hike in the Tetons.

Please do not inflict more noise and chaos into our lives.

Carole and Burke Baker

435 Moulton Loop Road

From: [Jill NaylorYarger](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Helicopter Tours of Tetons
Date: Wednesday, April 22, 2020 9:49:11 AM

I would hope that this proposal did not pass. Although the Tetons are truly magnificent, they must also be somewhat silent. People can see the Tetons more clearly without the noise of a helicopter, which generally means a rescue operation, by taking a balloon trip or a glider tour. Much more peaceful for all involved; both for the tour taker and the folks on the ground. Or, better yet, take a hike or a horseback tour into the mountains. Support existing services, which offer less impact on our mountain communities.

I would also wonder about the impact on our snow cover as well as the wonderful animals who dwell in our lovely mountains.

Want to see wild, get out in it.

Thank you for this opportunity to offer my opinion.
From Teton Valley Idaho, Victor resident

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Jill Naylor Yarger
naylorjargerj@gmail.com
218-368-3383

From: [William Barker](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Helicopter tours over JH Airport
Date: Wednesday, April 22, 2020 10:22:58 AM

I just want to state that both my husband and I, residents of Teton County, Idaho are opposed to licensing heli tours out of the JH airport. More commercial air traffic over Grand Teton and Yellowstone National Parks will diminish the National Park experience. Please refer to air restrictions over the Grand Canyon National Park. That park has a very enjoyable noise level – as in it is tolerable. Jackson already has jet traffic inside a national park. Please do not allow the heli tours as they are loud and flying at a much lower elevation which is disturbing to both human visitors and the animals. We live close to a heli Life Flight landing zone and are aware (noise wise) every time a helicopter takes off or lands. We understand that these flights are necessary here in an area with so much wilderness, but please deny the new tours as the noise is unnecessary and also could conflict with commercial flights that are vital to this area.

Carol Barker
Driggs, Idaho

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

From: [John Aubrey](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Cc: [John Aubrey](#)
Subject: HELICOPTER TOURS OVER THE GROS VENTRE NORTH NEIGHBORHOOD
Date: Wednesday, April 22, 2020 8:49:11 PM

To the Board Members of the Jackson Hole Airport:

With respect to the proposed Helicopter Tours by Wind River Air, LLC: There are several simple but annoying factors related to this decision: Safety being a considerable one, as well as, the negative economic impact on the Homeowners and the plain annoyance of having purchased a home in a pleasant setting and having that disrupted by a loud, whirring mechanism. It just can't be good to have regular helicopter flights possibly distracting drivers, conceivably startling wildlife, perhaps even causing them to wildly dash onto the bike pathways and heavily trafficked roads. Additionally, and even more importantly, interrupting the peace and quiet of our residences with their flight plans, flight heights and regular occurrences.

I just reviewed the estimated tax statement for my property in Gros Ventre North. This is a home that I purchased for its existing standards of living long before Wind River Air, LLC was even formed! The assessed valuation set by the county has led me to expect More Protection of my premises and rights – not Less! I believe there is a commitment from the City, County and the related entities, like the JH Airport Board, to protect the residents and the wildlife from “irritations” like the sight and noise of the helicopter tours. As a further irritant, I strongly believe their flights will very likely result in property devaluations not only in Gros Ventre North, but on private lands throughout their flight paths, resulting in lower tax valuations, assessments, revenue for the City and County and most importantly lowering the Quality of Life here.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

John C. Aubrey

From: [Guides of JACKSON HOLE](#)
To: windriverair@gmail.com; [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Helicopter Tours public comment (under 200 words)
Date: Thursday, April 23, 2020 7:02:42 PM

Helicopter tours are a bad idea, and that is why I say HELI-NO! This pandemic (sickness, death, recession) is far more pressing than this recreational issue right now and this meeting must be postponed. It is disrespectful to dozens of people who literally cannot attend. As a biologist, wildlife guide, and someone who was raised in Jackson my entire life - I know helicopter tours are neat, but they are irreversibly negative for wildlife, especially species that migrate, or seek privacy from human disturbance. We live in a special place, where many species exist here and nowhere else. **The disturbance of helicopters will impact wildlife behavior and survival.** It will also be extremely annoying for anyone trying to recreate. Have you ever been to the Grand Canyon or Hawaii with helicopters buzzing by nonstop? It's horrible. In Kenya we tried using drones to photograph zebras and even at 1000ft they were spooked by a tiny flying machine no bigger than a laptop - so we immediately aborted that mission. How do you think elk, bighorns, bison and bears will respond to constant helicopter chatter?

Please don't let one company ruin it for everyone!

Sincerely,
Trevor Bloom
Guides of Jackson Hole
Research Associate, Northern Rockies Conservation Cooperative

From: [Craig Clarke](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Helicopter Tours
Date: Tuesday, April 14, 2020 2:10:11 PM

Dear JH Airport: We have been lot owners at Bar-B-Bar for 20+ years. We are planning to build but are very concerned about the noise from the airport as is everyone in the flight path. Helicopter tours just add to the nuisance. We ask you to view this in the broader context of what is happening to Jackson. The place can be overrun with tourists and traffic. The parks are packed – just try to get a place to park at Jenny Lake. All this is because of an accumulation of little things, such as the helicopter tours and private jets, that cumulatively add up to big disruptions to the community. Another example of a little thing with big consequences, if we advocate stopping feeding elk and they leave why wouldn't BLM sell the refuge to developers – then what? Viewed individually the helicopter tours are a pain, but they have rights – right? Viewed in the broader context their rights pale next to community rights and will collectively degrade this valley, spoiling it now and for future generations.

Craig & Emily Clarke

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

From: [rico zorkendorfer](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Helicopter tours
Date: Wednesday, April 15, 2020 12:37:54 PM

Hello,

My name is Benedict and I am 8 years old. I don't think we should have helicopter tours because its going to be very loud and disturbing. It will be disturbing the animals in the Grand Teton national park. If you were to go hiking or canoeing or camping and the same helicopter came flying over you two or three times that would be pretty loud and not so peaceful. The climate change will keep getting higher if we keep using fuel and helicopters use a lot of fuel.

Thank you,

Benedict Zorkendorfer

From: [Nicholas Branch](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: helicopter tours
Date: Thursday, April 16, 2020 8:59:32 AM

This is crazy. Don't do it.
Nick Branch

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

From: [Scott Johnson](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Helicopter Tours
Date: Thursday, April 16, 2020 11:34:49 PM

I am against Helicopter tours over Jackson Hole. People and Wildlife do not need the noise. Areas like this should be explored on foot and in a way that wildlife is not disturbed.

Thanks, Scott Johnson

From: [Gordon Hansen](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Helicopter tours
Date: Wednesday, April 15, 2020 4:32:13 PM

I am very opposed to these tours. I do not want the noise and air pollution on the Teton Idaho side of the mountain. Residence should have been ask, before this tour was even considered. What financial benefit would there be for Idaho?

Thanks, Ida Hansen

Sent from my iPad

From: [Christine Paige](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: helicopter tours
Date: Thursday, April 23, 2020 10:05:22 AM

To the Jackson Hole Airport Board:

I would like to express my strong opposition to the proposed helicopter tours over Grand Teton National Park and adjacent National Forest Wilderness Areas.

I realize that helicopter tours would not violate current laws or FAA regulations. However, the constant helicopter activity would destroy the quiet, peace, and wilderness quality of our beloved Tetons. The noise and activity would impose on the wild experience everyone seeks here and create a Disney-esque carnival atmosphere over the park and wilderness. I'm especially concerned about the potential impacts on wildlife — particularly bighorn sheep, which are declining in the Tetons, and the hawks and eagles that would have their air space over the mountains invaded. The helicopters would also be all too visible and audible to those of us living at the foot of the Tetons, disrupting the rural quiet we enjoy.

For the sake of the pleasure of a few wealthy tourists, this business would impose a significant impact on everyone else, both locals and visitors, who seeks peace, silence, and connection with the majesty of wilderness in the Tetons.

Please do not allow the heli-tours to go forward. This would be such a travesty — please do not allow this business to turn the Tetons into an amusement park.

Thank you for considering my opinion.

Best regards,
Christine Paige

Christine Paige, M.Sc.
Wildlife Biologist, Owner
Ravenworks Ecology
962 Dusty Trail Rd.
Driggs, ID 83422
406-544-6143
wanderofftrail@gmail.com

From: [Barbara Agnew](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Helicopter Tours
Date: Friday, April 17, 2020 7:21:05 AM

Dear airport board,

If u allow helicopter tours of a National Park, there is no purpose to have a national park. The main purpose of a park, the park, is to protect the resource. Helicopters harass wildlife. Wildlife needs protection from helicopters. National Parks are sanctuaries. Toss this applicant out. He is not providing a service. He is serving himself, not the public. If u as board member allow him in, u must be serving yourselves because u are certainly not serving the public interest.

Thank you for allowing me to remind you of your purpose and your function as a board. Sincerely, Barbara and David Agnew

Sent from my iPhone

From: Leslie.Petersen@wyoming.com
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Helicopter tours
Date: Wednesday, April 15, 2020 5:56:43 PM

To the Jackson Hole Airport Board and Mr. Tony Chambers of Wind River Air,

Though it seems hopeless, I would once again like to express the revulsion I feel at the idea of helicopter tours buzzing around this valley. The citizens of Jackson Hole have made it clear that they are definitely not in favor of this dangerous intrusion into a world famous valley. It is hard to conceive of a more inappropriate place for this activity. If the Airport Board must indeed approve it because it has no choice, I certainly hope you will individually express your own antipathy to this travesty.

Sincerely,

Leslie Petersen
leslie.petersen@wyoming.com
307-733-2016 or 307-413-5004

From: [alec walsh](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Helicopter Tours
Date: Tuesday, April 21, 2020 10:34:30 AM

Dear Sir/Madam,

As a resident of Teton Village, I wanted to share my feelings with the Jackson Hole Airport Board with regard to allowing helicopter flights by Wind River Air LLC over the Teton National Park.

I believe that helicopter flights would greatly diminish the wilderness experience for many, while benefiting very few. The sound of the rotors and engines are a distraction and obtrusive. Mechanized equipment is not allowed in any areas of the Park beyond the parking lots, for this very reason. Why should we allow non-emergency mechanized equipment in the air space above the Park when land-based equipment is confined to lots on the periphery of the Park?

I hope the the Airport Board will exercise its good judgment in preventing Wind River Air's proposal from being approved for the good of the community.

Best,
Alec Walsh

From: [Johnson, Jeff](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Cc: [Scherry Johnson \(scherryjohnson@hotmail.com\)](#)
Subject: Helicopter tours
Date: Thursday, April 16, 2020 12:07:08 PM

Hello,

My wife and I are residents of Jackson and we are absolutely opposed to Helicopter tours. The Park System was created to preserve... "the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wild life therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same". It's hard to commune with nature while watching a helicopter fly over the mountains or listening to noise from the rotors. There's no justification for diminishing the enjoyment of 3,000,000 visitors just for a tour operator and a handful of passengers.

Thank you,

Jeff and Scherry Johnson

From: [cynthia dietzmann](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Helicopter Tours
Date: Wednesday, April 22, 2020 7:00:44 PM

Dear Airport Board Members - I strongly encourage you to postpone the Helicopter tour decision until it is safe for all of us to participate. We are under a county ordinance now to shelter in place and only mingle with household members.

I don't understand why you would hold a meeting for something as NON-URGENT as helicopter tours at this time and under these circumstances.

But if wisdom, and the healthy/safely of Teton County residents does not persuade you to postpone, then I would like to add my voice in vehement opposition to these "tours".

We do not need to additional noise pollution, the additional consumption of fossil fuels, as well as the awful carbon footprint and destruction of air quality. Our precious wildlife does not need to endure the untenable noise pollution either. Additionally, Teton County does not need the risk of heli accidents for our public and/or our first responders. It is a horrific idea!

There is nothing about these Heli-tours that is positive, save for lining someone's pockets at considerable expense to the residents, the flora, and the fauna of Teton County. Tourists can walk in the parks to see it.

Please do the responsible thing and postpone the hearing. And then vote to deny this horrid business idea. We are NOT Disney world here. We are a pristine area that should fight to protect our beautiful lands!

Thank you -
Cynthia Dietzmann
Wilson, WY

From: [Marguerite shaw](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Helicopter tours
Date: Thursday, April 16, 2020 3:59:35 PM

Greetings,

I do not go to nature to hear engines. I can hike away from a roadway to avoid this intrusion, but helicopters flying overhead will be inescapable. This is a terrible Idea, and introduces an element to the outdoors that is unnecessary and polluting. Keep the helicopters for rescues, not recreation.

Sincerely,
Maggie Shaw
Driggs, Idaho

--

Sent from Gmail Mobile

From: [sheree petrovic](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Helicopter tours
Date: Thursday, April 16, 2020 8:30:41 PM

Good Morning:

I am sending this letter in opposition to Wind River Air's proposal:

I oppose this because we don't need any more air activity which only contributes to NOICE and AIR pollution. Who benefits from this? Tourists ?? Certainly Not the wildlife, that could easily be disturbed and frightened and, Not the local residents, I definitely don't want helicopters flying low over my house especially since I spend so much time outdoors at home and in the wilderness as do most residents do. Please vote NO.

Thank you,

Respectfully,

Sheree Petrovic
1487 Horseshoe Lane
Driggs Idaho

I'm pretty sure that i have seen their helicopter flying over the Teton Valley and my house. Where are their flight paths?

From: [Noah Osnos](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Helicopter tours
Date: Friday, April 17, 2020 9:07:08 AM

Please accept this comment in opposition to allowing helicopter tours of the Greater Teton area. Aside from the inherent danger that helicopters present (unstable air, remote locations in Teton County), the excess noise will be a suppressant on normal recreation activities, and will be a disruptor for wildlife, and any form of quiet contemplation in the areas where the helicopters would fly. The economic benefit is de minimus, and there are many other ways to help promote the economic well-being of the local economy than to allow for helicopter tourism.

Regards,

Noah Osnos

Jackson, WY

From: [Jan Cogbill](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Helicopter tours
Date: Tuesday, April 21, 2020 5:39:12 PM

As Teton Valley, Idaho residents we are writing to strongly oppose the flights of helicopter tours over the Tetons, Big Hole Mountains and Palisade Range that surround our valley. It is a classic example of something that benefits the very few with the money to take a helicopter tour over the negative effects on the long time residents who pay taxes and live in this area because we so appreciate the solitude, the wildlife, and pristine views which are negatively affected by helicopter tours. These tours also will turn off many tourists who also value the attributes which we have mentioned above. Please consider these issues carefully. Thank you. Tom and Jan Cogbill

From: [Andrea Rosenthal](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Helicopter tours
Date: Tuesday, April 21, 2020 5:36:11 PM

PLEASE do not approve the helicopter tour company from being able to run tours over Teton County.

-The noise will ruin the ambiance of this wonderful area.

-Helicopters should only be used for emergency medical personnel.

-If you allow this, the next phase will be private helicopter owners wanting to helicopter into Jackson from elsewhere...causing crowding in the skies, MORE NOISE, and probably air accidents.

Thank you.

Andrea Rosenthal

From: [Karri Sloan](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Helicopter tours
Date: Wednesday, April 22, 2020 7:25:58 AM

To those with the power to preserve,

Please preserve the peace and quiet Grand Teton National Park offers the world. In a world with so much noise pollution please preserve this special place as a sanctuary where people can listen to the sounds Mother Nature provides.

Imagine sitting by a bubbling stream listening to the chirping of the mountain blue bird, and this peaceful moment disturbed by the intense, loud chopping of a helicopter.

In this place, you have an opportunity to preserve. It is integral to save the quiet nature of Grand Teton National Park. Allowing helicopter tours would be so disappointing.

Respectfully,
Karri Sloan
Idaho Falls, Idaho

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Robert Andersen](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Cc: ["Clare Stumpf"](#)
Subject: Helicopter tours
Date: Wednesday, April 22, 2020 9:41:05 AM

We are a resident in Jackson.

We request by this email that any hearings regarding the approval of Wind River Air helicopter tours, be postponed until the current pandemic situation is over and when the public can have a meaningful discussion in person

Thank you
Robert Andersen

From: [Warren Gardner](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Helicopter tours
Date: Friday, April 24, 2020 3:09:18 AM

Hello,

I am writing this Board to ask that you do whatever is in your power to discourage helicopter tours from occurring in our valley. My wife grew up in Sedona, AZ. A couple of years ago, she was so excited to share this magical place with me. Within minutes of our arrival, I noticed the whirl of a helicopter. Over the course of our visit, the noise was incessant and distracting from the otherwise pristine environment.

There is plenty to do and see here on our own magical valley without having to get a bird's eye perspective. And there is no way that the sacrifice of the many is worth the pleasure or profit for a few. Please use your authority to force wind river air into carrying onerous bonds for emergency situations to mitigate for the cost of search and rescue or fires caused by the applicant when/if the situation arises. Please do whatever is in your creative power to keep this menace from our valley.

Thanks,
Wes Gardner

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Nancy Pasfield](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Helicopter tours
Date: Friday, April 24, 2020 11:01:36 AM

Clearly while listening to the public comments for the past 3 hours, it is obvious that the Airport Board owes the public a response to the concerns of holding this meeting during a global pandemic, with stay at home orders in place for the valley. Before voting, I would expect the board to respond to the numerous comments regarding this concern. What is the urgency? Is the board under a legal obligation to address this permit during this pandemic? The rush to a decision at this time is taking away our rights as local citizens to voice our opinions in person and allow a question and answer opportunity for questions to the airport board, town council and Wind River Aviation.

Nancy and Bruce Pasfield

From: [Kristin Hegedusch](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Helicopter Tours
Date: Saturday, April 11, 2020 5:03:45 PM

April 11th, 2020

Dear Members of the Jackson Airport Board,

Not only are helicopter tours dangerous and fatal, but they're also loud and will disturb the serenity in Grand Teton National Park. Please think of the families who've lost their loved ones in a helicopter in recent months. We haven't forgotten Kobe Bryant and the 8 other passengers who died in January. In December 2019, the island of Kauai had a helicopter crash that killed 4 people. Do not permit (what could be) preventable deaths on innocent people. Do not allow this land to be exploited. Please consider public safety and continue to preserve the tranquility in our park.

Thank you,
Kristin Hegedusch

--

Kristin

From: [Christine Kruger](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Helicopter tours
Date: Monday, April 13, 2020 1:10:26 PM

My name is Christine Kruger, for the record. I provide tours of Grand Teton and Yellowstone National Parks and increasing the air traffic over the park would negatively influence the guest experience for all the people on the ground. When I stop around Moose, several planes fly overhead and our tour stops because guests can't hear. This is not to say that helicopters would be as loud, but the comments from guests are always negative about any air traffic, even when they themselves have flown in. They come to the park for the natural experience. Additional noise pollution reduces the natural experience that people come to the park craving. It also takes away from photographs that people are taking of the mountain range, which they are already waiting for the plane to clear the shot. Helicopters reduce natural experience by visually being in the area, the sound drowns out the natural sounds we're all looking for in a national park and adding unnecessary air traffic only adds unnecessary pollution to our environment as well. This isn't an amusement park, it's a national park. Let's try to remember the millions of visitors on the ground, who would be negatively impacted by additional air traffic from touring helicopters.

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

From: [Nancy Pasfield](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Helicopter tours
Date: Friday, April 24, 2020 11:01:36 AM

Clearly while listening to the public comments for the past 3 hours, it is obvious that the Airport Board owes the public a response to the concerns of holding this meeting during a global pandemic, with stay at home orders in place for the valley. Before voting, I would expect the board to respond to the numerous comments regarding this concern. What is the urgency? Is the board under a legal obligation to address this permit during this pandemic? The rush to a decision at this time is taking away our rights as local citizens to voice our opinions in person and allow a question and answer opportunity for questions to the airport board, town council and Wind River Aviation.

Nancy and Bruce Pasfield

From: [Georgie Stanley](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: helicopter tours
Date: Friday, April 10, 2020 10:33:32 AM

I am Adamantly opposed to any helicopter tours in the Tetons for several reasons. Firstly, having lived under the flying route of helicopters before, I find the noise obtrusive. I do not want more noise pollution when I am at home, in town or while recreating. Secondly, scenic helicopter tours are an unnecessary and excessive use of fossil fuels. Our community is attempting to become more environmentally sustainable and helicopters use an absurd amount of energy, adding to our air pollution and our carbon footprint.

Please do not allow this business to take place.

Sincerely, Georgie Stanley

--

Georgie Stanley
PO Box 928
Jackson, WY
208-201-3625

From: [Barb Conitz](#)
To: mpbray.mobile@gmail.com; [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Helicopter trips
Date: Wednesday, April 15, 2020 12:15:40 PM

As years ago, I still do NOT want helicopter trips over our national parks. Concessions like this should NOT be allowed in Yellowstone National Park or Teton National Park. Safety is one issue. The high altitudes the helicopters would have to fly does NOT guarantee safety. Also, these are NATIONAL parks, not playgrounds for the wealthy, only.

Sincerely,

Barbara L.Conitz

PO Box 8828, Jackson, WY 83002

Bconitz@gmail.com

From: [Worthington Georgina](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Helicopter
Date: Friday, April 24, 2020 12:05:40 PM

Please do not allow helicopter rides to disturb our quiet and beautiful valley.

Many of the hikes we take up into the Tetons are habitat for wildlife. The noise would scare them.

I have seen big horn sheep, elk, bears, deer etc. and even a mountain lion.

We also have wolves, coyotes and many other smaller critters.

Near the Teton river we have Trumpeter swans and Sandhill cranes and many other species of birds.

I have lived here since 2003.

Sincerely,

Georgina Worthington

From: [T.H](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Helicopters in Teton Park - Hell No!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
Date: Thursday, April 16, 2020 7:06:24 PM

How is this even being considered, much less potentially approved?

Does money run logic or common sense?

Why do people go to National Parks??

To get away from the city.

To get into nature.

To find solitude, peace and quiet. To rejuvenate.

The Parks are a refuge to escape noise pollution, yet you are considering allowing a service that is akin to the distraction and noise of a nascar event to fly over hikers, campers and all park users who are there trying to get away from these things? Ridiculous!

Have some decency. This is an outrageous proposal that only shows that the US is driven by money and profits ahead of the needs of people, and the entire the reason the Parks were established in the first place.

This benefits absolutely no-one except the company who will profit and the rich who are too lazy to hike. Meanwhile their "good time" will ruin the experience for the other 99.9% of people who are going to the park to be with nature and in solitude.

This is a disastrous potential change to the vast majority's user experience.

Vote hell no!!!!!!!!!!

Trey Hackney
Jackson WY resident of 23 years

From: [steven summers](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Helicopters in the Tetons.
Date: Thursday, April 16, 2020 3:58:22 PM

Commercial flights are unacceptable. I have no problem with the SAR teams and Air ambulances, the rest is useless noise. Thank's Steven Summers PO box 450 Driggs. Id 83422

From: [Janna](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: helicopters over my head
Date: Thursday, April 16, 2020 8:09:15 PM

I've just climbed the Devil's Staircase up Teton Canyon and I sit for a bit on a rock thinking about how amazingly beautiful our world is and how fortunate I am to be able to bring my late husband's ashes along on this hike. I'm a bit teary, but, at the same time, grateful for the wildflowers and solitude. Just then a red Wind River helicopter flies over disturbing the peace which I had taken for granted when I entered designated Wilderness. Please don't allow this to happen. Vote no on this proposal. And please don't allow the argument that this will allow the elderly to view the Teton range. I am 76 years old and when I can no longer hike I will carry memories in my head.

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

From: [Don Wadsworth](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Helicopters tours.
Date: Saturday, April 25, 2020 5:38:20 PM

To all concerned with making this big decision:

Isn't it bad enough that there is an airport in our National Park? To have very noisy helicopters flying up and down the Teton Range just seems way over the top. We sincerely hope that the Airport Board and all involved in decision making will not allow Wind River Air to conduct tourist flights. There are so many ways tourists can learn about and enjoy our park, helicopters tours are really not necessary. We love and want to care for our park, wildlife and environment.

Sincerely yours, Don and Gwenn Wadsworth Jackson Hole



Virus-free. www.avast.com

From: [Teresa Taylor](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Helicopters
Date: Thursday, April 16, 2020 12:01:18 PM

To those of you considering this:

Please, please, please find some inner strength from deep down inside to oppose this. You know it's wrong . Our beautiful landscapes offer not only the opportunity to see gorgeous vistas, incredible wildlife, but also offer one of the last commodities know on this planet - silence.

People come from all over to indulge in the quiet to reconnect with themselves and spirit and nature. The noise of helicopters in these areas will be a sure sign to all that Jackson Hole has indeed sold its soul...

Teresa Taylor
Sent from my iPhone

From: [Richard L Brown](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Heliflights
Date: Friday, April 17, 2020 6:25:46 AM

We are strongly opposed. Such flights will destroy the peace that wilderness affords ALL of us in order to provide cheap thrills to the few who can afford flights. Vote no.

Sent from my iPad

From: [Beverly Koller](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Heli-no and Wind River Air
Date: Friday, April 24, 2020 7:30:53 AM

Regarding the Wind River Air meeting, Friday 4/24/20 at 8:00 am. I am asking that the board members postpone all **non-essential and controversial matters--like intrusive helicopter tours--until the public can meaningfully engage in person.**

Please put significant conditions on any permit, such as requiring a bond to pay for rescue efforts and wildfire extinguishment caused by helicopter tour crashes on public lands. may be fines for getting too close to wildlife.

I moved to this valley from Vail where it was very hard to find silence. My self as many others bought homes or rent properties for the quiet enjoyment of our surroundings, which has usually been so rare other towns/cities. Many residents have second homes here for the same peace and quiet. Our visitors I believe, come for those same reasons. We all love our wildlife sitings, biking, fishing by a stream, hiking all day to climb up to a beautiful lake to quietly enjoy the surroundings. There are very few places left for quiet enjoyment in our lives these days.

My fear is for the wildlife also, they have been impacted by people, pets, roads and now you suggest by one ore more helicopters. You would never fly close to wildlife, right? We live quite a drive from highways on purpose for some of us. This would be like a highway in the middle of a quiet rural neighborhood. Just this week I had 3 moose, coyote, fox, sandhill cranes, geese and elk on the hill above me.

I had a scary moment when a helicopter visiting in my neighborhood and he had no idea I was on a narrow bushy trail below him when he came in for a landing, it was very unexpected and scared the horse which then put me on alert and scared. Visibility was blocked.

please decide on another location. Not here where it would be invasive in so many ways. This is not like planting a tree or putting in a fountain for the enjoyment for all. You have to live here to understand our concerns. You and your passengers for the most part will come and go and never realize the dramatic negative impact you will have made.

Beverly Koller
Alta, Wyoming

From: [Sale Rhodes](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Heli-NO!
Date: Wednesday, April 15, 2020 1:11:11 PM

To Whom It May Concern:

Grand Teton National Park is wild. It is rugged, it is harsh, it is astoundingly beautiful. Home to so much life, in the water, soil, brush, trees, and air, it is one of the few places a human feels small, almost inconsequential. That feeling brings immense peace and unmatched inspiration to get outside, dream up and rise to meet challenges, and take slow, necessary pause to consider the scale of a human life amongst the vastness of a rich and demanding ecosystem. Helicopter tours of GTNP will highlight and exacerbate socioeconomic disparities among park visitors, present significant detriment to the integrity and enjoyment of the park ecosystem, and introduce massive safety risks and medical stress throughout the surrounding community.

I approve of accessibility in a National Park. I believe in *sharing* wild lands, awe-striking vistas, and opportunities to observe and appreciate the many actors in these exquisite ecosystems. There is much to be done to address inequities in accessing and enjoying outdoor communities and natural spaces. Helicopter tours will impair these efforts, offering a view to those who can afford it while inhibiting the enjoyment of those who can not, or choose not to, ride along.

Recreational air traffic, an "activity" for only the highest of bidders, promises to combat efforts to protect and sustain GTNP as well as efforts to promote its enjoyment by a wider community. Helicopter traffic in GTNP will bring habitat disruption, noise pollution, and a dismantling of the pristine privacy and grandeur of the park. It would not be surprising for park visitation, popularity, and biodiversity to suffer greatly in the way of such activity.

Safety is critical in the outdoors, in particular in more remote environments with smaller health care infrastructure. Jackson's SAR efforts are highly regarded and the park does a great job. However, helicopters are referred to as "flying death traps" in EMS communities everywhere. This is NOT unfounded. Helicopters are outrageously dangerous. A great tool for convenient travel, rescues, and access to the otherwise inaccessible, they are *not* suitable as recreational vehicles for the general public. The unintended consequences of helicopter traffic within GTNP will include stress on medical systems, an especially poignant consideration right now.

I am adamantly against approval and permitting of this activity and respectfully request postponement of the permitting meeting, at the very least, until the aforementioned concerns are thoroughly addressed and fully appeased.

With Hope and Sincerity,

Sale Rhodes

From: [Patty Ewing](#)
To: [Board](#)
Subject: Heli-No
Date: Friday, April 17, 2020 12:51:50 AM

Heli-No

April 16, 2020

Jackson Hole Airport Board
board@jhairport.org

Dear Members of the Board:

Thank you for the opportunity to once again express our opposition to scenic heli tours.

Twenty years ago our elected officials and members of our community clearly opposed scenic helicopter tours. Twenty years later, our elected officials and members of our community are again clearly opposed. Twenty years later numerous non-profit organizations in the Greater Yellowstone/Grand Teton Ecosystem, whose collective missions are to protect the ecosystem and who represent thousands of citizens, oppose scenic heli tours. The National Parks Conservation Association (over a million members) also opposes scenic heli tours.

In previous letters we wrote about important opposition issues, but in the interest of brevity, we'll not repeat them.

Please continue to firmly OPPOSE scenic heli tours. Please request the FAA revoke its authorization. Give Congress time to respond to the need for restrictions in sensitive and special places such as Jackson Hole.

Thank you.
Sincerely,
Patty and Frank Ewing

Copy:
Wind River Aviation, LLC
windriverair@gmail.com

From: [Kacy O'Hare](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Heli-operator
Date: Tuesday, April 21, 2020 3:36:06 PM

Dear Members of the Airport Board,

I believe the operation of helicopter-tours from the JH Airport will be highly detrimental to the quality of life in the Jackson Hole area for both humans and wildlife. Heli-tours involve TOO much noise and a high risk of accidents. Please, NO heli-tours.

Thank you,
Kacy O'Hare
Gros Ventre West

From: [Jean Anderson](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Heli-Tour Application
Date: Thursday, April 23, 2020 10:45:39 PM

To the Airport Board:

I urge you to postpone all further consideration of the proposal to conduct helicopter tours from the Jackson Hole Airport over various parts of Jackson Hole until after the current coronavirus pandemic is sufficiently contained that the Airport Board can hold one or more public meetings, in person, for public comment and discussion of the proposal. The apparent current notion that sufficient public comment is possible by some virtual means in the midst of a pandemic that is occupying the attention of much of the local population is, in my view, incorrect, and in any event there is no reason to expedite consideration of the proposal when tourism in Jackson Hole will necessarily be discouraged for some time into the future due to the pandemic.

This proposal, and its certain detrimental effects on wildlife and the peaceful outdoors this valley offers to residents and visitors alike, are too important to be given short shrift by the Board.

Please postpone this. If you cannot postpone consideration of the application, the only appropriate action is to reject the applicant's proposal.

M. Jean Anderson
Wilson, WY

From: [ed minczeski](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: HELI-TOURING
Date: Friday, April 10, 2020 4:16:32 PM

Teton County (WY) is not, should not and cannot be in the business of what constitutes “safe” operations from the JH airport. The FAA certifies aircraft, pilots and mechanics as being safe and competent, and there is no “in between.” Air-taxi operators are subject stringent to safety regs over and above those required of a non-commercial pilot, and aircraft are held to a higher standard. The only flaw with the Robinson helicopter is that it is too popular. If Subaru constituted over 50% of the vehicles on the road you wouldn’t be surprised by it’s accident statistics.

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

From: [Neela Seenandan](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Helitours. Teton County
Date: Thursday, April 9, 2020 9:19:19 PM

I am writing to register my strong opinion about allowing Helitours to fly over the village and the elk refuge. We have a home in the refuge which is a “literal refuge” away from home. We love it here and enjoy the beauty and tranquility of the area. A helicopter tour and constant noise over the refuge and village would be a huge noise issue for the town. It would also destroy the beauty and tranquility that we all love about Jackson. Please do not agree to this. Allow our town to continue to be beautiful, a place of peace and quiet and an escape from noise and pollution.

Thank you

Neela Hanold.
2055 N Nowlin Trail.
Elk Refuge Road.
Wyoming.

From: [Kristen Fritschel](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Hello torus
Date: Thursday, April 16, 2020 5:23:59 PM

We have just become of aware this and are vehemently opposed to this.

We must protect our wilderness areas period!

We cannot have helicopters buzzing around the beautiful and sacred wind rivers or Teton - Bridget area.

Please stop this madness now!

Thank you

Kristen Fritschel
Sent from my iPhone

From: [art miller](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: I AM AGAINST THE SCENIC HELI TOURS PROPOSED FOR TETON PARK
Date: Thursday, April 16, 2020 7:10:42 PM

The Robinson 44 is the most accident prone-deadly civilian helicopter in existence.
The accident rate is 50% higher than any other civilian helicopter.

Scores of R44 pilots and passengers have been killed in “preventable” post crash fires, or in helicopters that suddenly dropped from the sky when they lost lift.

Due to their unique rotor design, the R44 can roll rapidly to the right and likely break up before a pilot can recover.

In early 1995, the NTSB asked the FAA to ground Robinson helicopters to allow for further research and testing.

The FAA responded by issuing “Special Flight Aviation Regulation 73”, which requires extra pilot instruction.

Reports by the NTSB detail examples of experienced pilots who were killed in what the agency said should have been survivable accidents.

In July 2006, Robinson addressed a fuel tank issue of fuel tanks exploding in a post-crash fire.

This is ROBINSON SAFETY

NOTICE 40:

“TO REDUCE RISK OF INJURY IN A POST-CRASH FIRE, IT IS STRONGLY RECOMMENDED THAT A FIRE-RETARDANT NOMEX FLIGHT SUIT, GLOVES AND HOOD OR HELMET BE WORN BY ALL OCCUPANTS”.

In 2009, a suitable Bladder was retrofitted for the R 44.

Some R 44s with aluminum tanks continue to fly, despite the company’s best effort to urge owners to retrofit them.

Does the R 44 under consideration have this retrofit?.

I live a mile South of the airport-probably in the proposed flight path. This business proposal is a danger to my community and my family.

Teton County and Jackson Hole airport may be comfortable with a \$50,000,000. Insurance liability policy.

I do not want this business to operate in Teton County.

Sincerely,

Art Miller

From: [Tracy Bowers](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Jackson Hole Airport Board 4/17/2020 meeting on Wind River Air
Date: Thursday, April 16, 2020 7:16:43 PM
Attachments: [To the Jackson Hole Airport board.docx](#)

From: [Jonah Gocke](#)
To: windriverair@gmail.com
Cc: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Jackson Hole Airport Scenic Heli Flights Permit Consideration
Date: Wednesday, April 15, 2020 7:19:41 PM

To whom it may concern,

I was born in Jackson in 1996. Growing up in Jackson I have grown to greatly appreciate the surrounding ecosystems. To me, Jackson, Grand Teton National Park, and the surrounding area are some of the most beautiful locations on the planet. This beauty is a natural beauty. The mountains, lakes, grasslands, and the animals that reside in them create this natural beauty. While the views may be incredible from above, scenic heli flights will negatively impact the natural beauty below. Noise pollution from helicopters will drastically change the experience of enjoying the natural parks. It will be difficult to appreciate the natural beauty of GTNP with the sound of a large buzzing insect constantly in your ear. Animals may radically change their behavior, which could effect the ecosystems in any number of ways. It may be difficult to predict exactly how drastically these flights will effect the GTNP ecosystem, which is why we must use caution. In addition, these helicopter flights will only add to humanities carbon footprint. If capital is continuously placed with a higher priority than preserving the natural environment, the Teton Range and other incredible sites may end up covered in a layer of smog. Due to these concerns, I strongly encourage Wind River Air to rescind their application to conduct scenic helicopter tours.

Respectfully,

Jonah Gocke

From: [Lynne Wagner](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: JH Airport Board Meeting Comment-Wind River Air LLC, April 17, 2020
Date: Thursday, April 16, 2020 11:30:21 PM

Hello, My name is Lynne Wagner. I've been a resident of Jackson for the past 31 years.

I am begging the Jackson Hole Airport Board to deny the permit request to Wind River Air LLC and its helicopter for scenic flight tours. Locals live in Jackson and tourists visit Jackson for its quiet beauty, incredible solitude and its majestic wildlife. The helicopter tours will fly over our public lands and will cause noise for all and extreme disruption to our wildlife and unintended consequences to our tourist industry. No one visiting Jackson Hole wants to hear helicopters overhead while they are hiking, fishing, camping and trying to escape into this special and unique ecosystem. Tony Chambers, please withdraw your permit request. This is no place for scenic helicopter flights!

Again, I am asking the JH Airport Board to Please deny the permit to Wind River Air LLC. And Mr Chambers, please withdraw your permit request.

Thank you,
Lynne Wagner
Jackson

From: [Rick Miller](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Date: Wednesday, April 15, 2020 9:53:37 AM

My wife and I oppose helicopter tours in Teton Valley.

Thank you,

Rick & Elaine Miller
6205 Heck of a Hill Road
Wilson, WY

From: [Rick Miller](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Date: Wednesday, April 22, 2020 9:23:09 AM

Please postpone, until after the Covid 19 pandemic, the Wind River Air meeting schedule for this Friday, April 24th.

Thank you,

Rick Miller
Wilson, WY

From: [Susan McDowell](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Date: Thursday, April 23, 2020 1:12:40 PM

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed Helicopter flights over Jackson Hole. They will disturb the tranquility for residents on the butte and interrupt the serenity in the valley. Let's enjoy our special place and if you want to see the valley take a hike, bike or ski the mountain.

Susan McDowell

From: [DOUGLAS R PITMAN](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Date: Saturday, April 11, 2020 11:09:32 AM

Please,

Do not allow helicopter tours in GTNP. The noise is horrible and completely destroys the joy and peace we seek in nature. Please, please, do not allow this.

Doug Pitman
drpitman50@msn.com
307-733-7288

From: [Mary Burdin](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: My husband and I have been part time residents and will become full time residents this year. Please vote AGAINST the helicopter tours.
Date: Wednesday, April 22, 2020 11:46:43 AM

We have been visitors since 1981 and residents since 1996. We still backpack every year. I understand the airport board has indicated this business has a : "right" to exist, so do not know the exact legal issues involved, but to the extent we can prevent this from happening legally, PLEASE pursue a NO HELICOPTER TOUR agenda. Ken and Mary Burdin

From: [Shane Rothman](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: No Heli Tours please
Date: Friday, April 17, 2020 12:22:16 AM

Hello Airport Board,

Please do not allow unnecessary helicopter traffic in our National Parks and surrounding wilderness. It is inappropriate, and unwanted. They should remain for emergency uses only, such as rescues, life flights, avalanche control, firefighting, and also to build/maintain infrastructure in mountainous terrain. When we see and hear a loud helicopter in the sky, this is what we associate them with, and a “scenic heli tour” would be the most obnoxious type of “recreation” imaginable.

It is also a slippery slope for the future. It is foreseeable that the number of paragliders will continue to grow, which could cause conflicts and potentially fatal accidents. It could also open up the door for skydiving, which is more appropriate elsewhere. It’s also obvious that pilots would fly more aggressively to thrill their passengers, or be unable to resist getting a closer view at herds of wildlife. It would be impossible to constantly monitor their flight paths, and enforce altitude and speed guidelines. The airport board, GTNP, and the BTNF would surely be flooded with complaints.

Currently, there is just one applicant, but others will surely follow suit to stop a potential monopoly. Within 20 years, it is foreseeable that humans could have personal helicopters/drones, and everyone will want to joyride wherever they are permitted. Currently, we are thankful that drones are not even allowed in our parks and wilderness, and drone pilots will likely be angered by the double standard.

There are alternatives for people who seek an aerial adventure tour. We have hot air balloons, gliders at the Driggs airport, and the best paragliding operation and venue in America.

Please deny the application, and work to enact new regulations, so this won’t be brought up again.

Thanks for your consideration,
Shane Rothman and Whitney Ballard
Jackson WY

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Zach](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: No Heli Tours!
Date: Tuesday, April 21, 2020 3:02:05 PM

Hello,

As an 13 year Jackson resident I am writing to voice my strong opposition to your consideration of Heli tours originating from the Jackson Hole Airport. The increase in flights is enough of a detriment to our treasured natural environment. Thank you,
Zach Zimmerman

From: [Shauna Baron](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: No Heli Tours
Date: Thursday, April 16, 2020 10:19:04 PM

Hello,

As a naturalist guide in YNP, and a frequent visitor to GTNP, I do not want helicopter tours disrupting the peaceful tranquility that makes the Tetons unique.

Please do not allow this type of tourism to take hold.

Thank you,
Shauna Baron, M.S.
Naturalist Guide,
Yellowstone National Park
406-223-3142

From: [Arianna Alibabaie](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: No heli tours
Date: Wednesday, April 15, 2020 9:33:29 AM

To whom it may concern,

Please do not allow helicopter tours into our wild spaces. I visited Sedona recently and the racket from the constant commercial helicopters overhead really diminished the enjoyment of the grandeur and beauty of the majestic surroundings. I would hate for Jackson Hole to make the same mistake. Please do not allow scenic helicopter tours to operate out of our airport.

Sincerely,

Arianna Alibabaie

From: [Allana Kennedy](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: No helicopter
Date: Thursday, April 16, 2020 9:07:03 AM

To whom it may concern,

Since living in Victor in the Teton Springs area for over 10 years, we have had to deal with the helicopter at Teton Springs in the winter months. We did not like the idea of it being there in our community because of the noise and toxic fuel. We have since moved out of the Springs area due to the helicopter and other HOA issues. We are now about 2 miles down the road from Teton Springs and we still get the noise from the helicopter, but not quite as bad.

Being in Teton Valley is a pleasure, with the peacefulness this area has to offer. That's why we have chosen to live here rather than Jackson Hole Area. We Do NOT need tourists invading our privacy and peacefulness via helicopter tours around our valley. It probably will also have an impact on the wildlife, whom are disturbed enough as it is. Have they done any studies on this? It would be a good idea to do that before starting up these helicopter tours.

Sincerely,
Allana Kennedy

Sent from my iPad

From: [Michael Behrendt](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: No Helicopter Tours!
Date: Tuesday, April 21, 2020 4:37:57 PM

Hi there, I am a local Paragliding Pilot who has joined the free flight community in the last year. As a new pilot and a support of the National parks and local environment I would like to voice my opinion and say NO to helicopter tours in the Valley. The negatives outweigh the positives on this one, in multiple ways.
Thank-you for considering my comment.

-Michael

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Charlotte Kidd](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: No helicopter tours!
Date: Tuesday, April 14, 2020 6:18:31 PM

Please consider how additional aircraft noise will impact the wilderness character of our valley. Helicopters will have a negative effect on wildlife as well as human sensibilities within Grand Teton National Park. I also have safety and pollution concerns for nearby neighborhoods.

This helicopter touring business does not belong in our valley.

Charlotte Kidd

From: [Barb Richter](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: No helicopter
Date: Thursday, April 16, 2020 7:03:01 PM

To whom it may concern:

I'd like to express my opinion in regards to helicopter tours over the Tetons. This would have a negative impact on wildlife and people. It directly contrasts the experience people want to have, vacationers expecting to be surrounded by the quiet beauty of the Tetons and National Forest and also the residents that live here having the disturbance of helicopter noise. Not to mention how disruptive it will be to the wildlife's natural habitat. I strongly encourage you to vote against this proposal.

Barb Richter

From: [Virginia Lynch Dean](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: No Helicopters here in Jackson for public use
Date: Thursday, April 16, 2020 1:46:08 PM

Please do not allow public use of helicopters to land here in Jackson. There is a very serious wind current and it is unsafe to assume 100% safe! I am a few miles from the airport and there are enough flights coming in and out of Jackson all day and into the night. There are times late at night when a plane will fly over our house and I will jump out of bed in fear. This is not a theme park area to allow even one helicopter flight a day. The helicopters are loud and disruptive to humans; imagine what it does to animals!!

Virginia Lynch Dean

--

Virginia Dean
cell: 203.331.6710
203.255.5353

From: [Juan Gallego-Calderon](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: No helicopters in GTNP
Date: Wednesday, April 22, 2020 1:28:12 PM

Hello,

I would like to point out that this area is reserved for conservation and preservation of natural resources. There is already enough human intrusion in the park, e.g. man made structures in the lower saddle. The peaks can be viewed from far and if you want a closer look you are always allowed to hike and climb to get a better experience. Why is there this notion that everyone has to have access to every single place no matter the consequences and the means? A helicopter businesses will ruin the experience for us that are deeply connected to the wilderness of the place.

I oppose firmly to a tourist helicopter operation.

Thank you,
Juan Gallego-Calderon

From: [Kevin Taylor](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: No Helicopters in the Tetons
Date: Friday, April 17, 2020 7:05:07 AM

Dear Airport Board,

When I see a helicopter in the Tetons, I always say a prayer for the injured hiker or climber and for the rescuers. Please don't allow helicopters in the Tetons for any other reasons. A joy ride for a few will be stressful on animals and will remove joy from the experience of many hikers, backpackers and climbers. There are so many places that helicopters and other motorized vehicles can go, please keep the Tetons sacred.

Sincerely,

Kevin Taylor

18 year Jackson Resident

From: [Ryan Burke](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: No helicopters near GTNP!
Date: Thursday, April 16, 2020 5:54:06 PM

Please don't let helicopters anywhere near GTNP unless it's a rescue!
Sent from my iPhone

From: [Jennifer Seligmann](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: No helicopters over the valley!
Date: Wednesday, April 15, 2020 3:50:15 PM

To whom it may concern,

As a life long visitor of the valley, I have been blessed with the love of and learned to value to silence of the park. I, along with millions of visitors have had the luxury of seeing the wild life, hearing the birds and experience the profound silence of the mountains with limited sounds of industry and development. I beg you, for future generations and for the sake of the wildlife, to revoke the temporary and block the permit given to Wind River Air for helicopter tours over public lands. Please make the choice to preserve not exploit the beauty of our parks.

--

Jennifer Seligmann

From: [chris morelli](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: No more air traffic
Date: Wednesday, April 15, 2020 11:05:14 AM

The wilderness areas and the people will not benefit from one companies attack of the airspace to make money. Say no to the helicopter tours.

From: [Freda Felcher](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: NO on Heli Tours
Date: Thursday, April 16, 2020 9:04:13 PM

To whom it may concern: Jackson homeowner and full-time Teton County resident here. I implore you: deny helicopter tours over and around Grand Teton National Park. The inevitable visual degradation, auditory harassment and impossible-to-mitigate risk of an accident should seal the deal alone, for this is a clear-cut case of the interests and desires of a very few wanting to supersede the many and no doubt a clear abomination of the democratic principles we all operate under. In addition please think of the economic impact of losing those visitors to our national parks that have ZERO interest in witnessing helicopters flying over the Tetons and thus pass by without spending a dollar. Please do not approve this permit for it is directly against the long-term interests of both our local and tourist communities.

Regards,
Leif Routman

From: [Gloria Smith](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: NO on Helicopter tours
Date: Wednesday, April 22, 2020 9:36:11 AM

Please do not allow Helicopter tours in Grand Teton National Park. Please do not destroy the peace we can find hiking in the Tetons.

Thank you,
Gloria Smith
Driggs, Idaho

From: [Fredrik Marmsater](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: no scenic heli tours
Date: Thursday, April 16, 2020 8:04:56 PM

Have you ever been to Zion or lower Grand Canyon during the tourist season, or the wasatch when the Heli Birds are flying? If you have, then you would be opposed to this.

Non stop heli noise. Non stop. Just to take few privileged people around for selfies. We should be way past this at this point. The wilderness and the park has plenty of noise pollution and pollutions from all the air traffic already. And you know this operator will not abide by the flight celilngs. No heli operator does. Period.

Please come to your senses and stop this nonsense.

Thanks,
Fred Marmsater
Victor ID

From: [Christie Goss](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: No to Heli tour operations or any kind!!
Date: Thursday, April 16, 2020 1:52:27 PM

It is not okay to allow this or even consider this! As Jackson locals, we are absolutely against this. Most of us live here, and millions travel here every year, for the PEACEFUL outdoor opportunities and experiences which our area provides. This includes a chance to get away from NOISE POLLUTION, which Heli tour operations will bring in abundance. We cringe at the thought of having to listen to the buzzing and chopping of helicopters over head while we are in the mountains or enjoying a day at the lake.

Sincerely, Christie, Thea and Oliver Goss

From: [Joseph](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: No to Helicopter Tours in Jackson Hole
Date: Thursday, April 23, 2020 4:00:50 PM

Good morning Airport Board members,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to helicopter tours in Jackson Hole proposed by Wind River Air. Our valley serves visitors and our community as as a priceless opportunity to connect with the outdoor world; this is the lifeblood of our way of life. Nothing about this operation strikes me as aligned with the values we have in the Jackson Hole community. We would tarnish the pristine, natural beauty that we all seek to experience. And for what? So that few privileged tourists can get their kicks?

I work as a river guide in the summer and know first hand that visitors to the Snake River value the feeling of total encapsulation in the natural world. Wind River Air will detriment the value of river, equine, ski, climbing, and fishing tours.

One man's right to swing his fist ends when he brushes the nose of another. It's obvious that the Wind River Air proposal is brushing a whole lot of noses.

Thank you for your consideration.

Best,
Joseph Smith

From: [Gini Van Siclen](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: NO to scenic helicopter rides out of Jackson airport!
Date: Tuesday, April 21, 2020 5:23:47 PM

Please do NOT allow scenic helicopter rides out of the Jackson airport. The Park and the Tetons are too special, too beautiful for that. The helicopters will disturb wildlife and people who seek the quiet and peace only wilderness can provide.

Recent events with COVID 19 are showing just how important and special and needed nature experiences are, as people turn to nature for solace and strength. Please help the Park and surroundings retain their wildness and quiet and do NOT allow scenic helicopter rides.

Thank you for your consideration.

Regards,

Gini Van Siclen
1435 W 8750 N
Tetonia, ID 83452
208-390-1573

From: [Frederick Harness](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: No to Wind River Air Heli permit application 4/24/2020
Date: Wednesday, April 22, 2020 8:47:53 AM

This is an incredibly bad idea to allow helicopter tours around our valley. I can't even believe I'm having to write this email opposing turning Jackson Hole into Kauai, HI, or the Grand Canyon with the constant noise of a helicopter flying around our valley. For one person to profit off of this approval at the ruining of the quiet enjoyment of our public lands is not only rude, but it is also irresponsible. Please do the right thing and deny Mr. Chambers's application to fly heli-tours around our valley.

--

Best Regards,

Fred Harness
Associate Broker



Cell: 307-690-0417
www.LivingtheDreamJacksonHole.com

From: [Joan Anzelmo](#)
To: [publiccomment](#); [Board](#); [Jim Elwood](#)
Cc: [commissioners@tetoncountywy.gov](#); [Council@jacksonwy.gov](#)
Subject: No way to meaningful engage the public at airport board mtg. on Friday
Date: Tuesday, April 21, 2020 11:16:42 AM

Dear JH Airport Board and staff,
Cc: County Commissioners and Town Council

I have previously submitted my written public comments twice, once for the earlier March airport board meeting that was cancelled and again for last week's scheduled meeting with new comments, though I shortened them to meet last week's airport staff direction that verbal comments be under 2 minutes, or written comments be under 200 words.

While I appreciate the hard work of the airport staff to attempt to find a better technology for the public to participate at Friday's airport board meeting to consider the Wind River Aviation Heli-Tour application, your news release attempts to discourage live participation. Instead it suggests public comments already received or yet to be received before April 24 at 7:00 am will be read into the record with your preference being that written comments be the primary way to share comments versus participating live online. This is the opposite of what meaningful public participation should be.

Excerpt from news release:

The JH Airport Board encourages the community to provide public comment and **recommends participants submit comments in writing as the primary way to share**, prior to the meeting Public comments to be read during the meeting, may be emailed to publiccomment@jhairport.org. Emails must be received before 7 am on April 24th to be read into the record and should be two hundred words or less. Public comment can also be made on the WebEx platform, using the "raise hand" feature. This should be considered a secondary way to share comment. JH Airport has kept a thorough record of all public comments submitted. **(end excerpt)**

There is no mention in the news release if written comments will be limited to 200 words. Or if longer comments previously submitted will be read into the record, or what time limit for verbal comments on April 24, assuming the technology works this time for the public to participate in real time. So I would appreciate knowing what of my previous two formal public comments will be a part of the record on Friday and if they must be shortened.

I urge you to wait until the airport board public meetings can be held in person and where directions or methods to comment, or length of comments don't change every week. It has been very confusing for the public.

At present the news release makes it seem like the board is simply going through the motions of a required public comment session, but at the same time is comfortable just having public comments read into the record by staff, to get the end of the meeting, so you can move forward and then vote to permit the heli tours. That is how the Jackson Hole community perceives your news release. When the public feels like an organization or government entity is stymieing public participation, things do not bode well for the outcome.

Please reconsider holding this meeting in person when the airport board public meetings can again be held with people attending the meetings in person.

Thank you.

Joan Anzelmo
Jackson, WY

From: [Joan Anzelmo](#)
To: [publiccomment](#); [Board](#); [Jim Elwood](#)
Cc: [commissioners@tetoncountywy.gov](#); [Council@jacksonwy.gov](#)
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Please reconsider holding this meeting in person when the airport board public meetings can again be held with people attending the meetings in person.

Thank you.

Joan Anzelmo
Jackson, WY

From: [Connietyler](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: No way!
Date: Friday, April 17, 2020 7:49:48 AM

Noise pollution over some of the only serene landscapes left in this country. Terrorizing wildlife
Stop ruining what little nature we have left!

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Rebeca nolan](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: No Wind River Air heli tours
Date: Thursday, April 16, 2020 8:25:21 AM

I'm a combat veteran and I participated in three separate KIA recoveries with helicopter evacuations during my first tour to Afghanistan.

Being in these mountains remind me of northwestern Afghanistan and this landscape has helped me find peace with the memories of war I'm stuck with.

I do not want to see or hear helicopters flying around the backcountry I frequent for rejuvenation & healing.

If you want to see the back country get off your lazy ass and walk there.

Best regards,
Rebeca Nolan
Tetonia, ID

(Formally: SGT Rebeca A. Baker, 27th Eng BN, Combat Airborne)

From: [carl askegren](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: NO!
Date: Saturday, April 11, 2020 12:40:00 PM

Hello,

O am a resident and small business person in Teton County Wyoming. I am writing in regards to Helicopter tours in the Teton Range.

Hard NO!

Have you been in the lower part of the Grand Canyon? It is absolutely disgusting what has happened there with helicopter tours. The place is over run by Helicopters and noise. NOiSE. LOUD NOISE from those guys. NO NO NO. This is a horrible idea for our region.

No to heli tours in The Tetons.

Carl Askegreen
Tetonvanworks.com

Sent from my mobile device. Please excuse any typos.

From: [Christine Mara](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: NO
Date: Friday, April 24, 2020 9:54:50 AM

Big no from us on the helicopter tours. Please. We're not that kind of town and don't want to be.

Thanks.

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Holly Balogh](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Opposed to Wind River Air
Date: Wednesday, April 22, 2020 10:08:58 AM

Dear Airport Board,

I am writing to let you know that I oppose the Scenic Heli-tours proposal. I do not think it is appropriate to create unnecessary noise pollution in one of the most iconic scenic places in this country for the benefit of one for-profit company and their wealthy clients. I use the mountain trails and environment during all four seasons and enjoy the solace and beauty. This experience would be greatly diminished by a noisy and unnecessary helicopter tour being allowed during any period of time of the day or year. I also believe it is completely inappropriate to consider such a proposal during a pandemic when people who may want to comment in opposition to this are unable to do so for health or other personal reasons.

Thank you,

Holly H. Balogh
Sales Associate, RARE Properties of Jackson Hole
hollyhb@yahoo.com

From: [CATHERINE WEITNAUER](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Opposed: Application Wind River Air
Date: Tuesday, April 21, 2020 7:58:05 PM

I oppose the application Wind River Air and any heli-tourism, heli-commuter business in the greater Jackson Hole WY area. The desire of the few should not be allowed to be a nuisance to the many in community nor 4.9 million annual park visitors. I oppose the application for the preservation of lands, wildlife and solitude. I oppose it for the environmental impact and polluting emissions (PAHs and Co2).

This is an unnecessary, non-essential service that creates a terrible burden on the community, the wildlife, and the environment.

Jackson Hole is a leader in it's environmental and sustainability initiatives — vertical farming, elimination of plastic single-use grocery bags zero-waste resolution — approving this application is a step in the wrong direction.

Thank you for your consideration,
Catherine Weitnauer

From: [LeAnn Talbot](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Cc: [LeAnn Talbot](#)
Subject: Opposing heli tours
Date: Thursday, April 16, 2020 6:14:30 PM

We are Victor, Idaho residents Tom and LeAnn Talbot and we would like to go on record opposing the proposed helitours around the Tetons. After living many places around this country, we chose this valley in 1986 because of the quality of life. Our son graduated from Teton High School and spends every moment hiking and exploring the mountains and rivers on both sides of Teton Pass. Our daughter attended the graduate program at Teton Science School. Like us, she attended the UW for her graduate degree. She became a naturalist, working in Grand Teton National Park at Jenny Lake, for Friends of the Teton River and as a teacher at the Community School with a focus on nature based curriculum. We raised them to appreciate the wilderness and above all protect it. If motorized vehicles aren't allowed in wilderness, then why the noise of helitours. Protect the animals, the wilderness, this community. Say no!

From: [Carol Schoner](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Opposition to Helicopter Tours
Date: Wednesday, April 15, 2020 12:06:52 PM

I am opposed to allowing Wind River Aviation to conduct helicopter tours in Jackson Hole. I was a volunteer in Grand Teton National Park for 12 years, working with the Wildlife Brigade. The focus of our work was NOT to protect the visitors from the wildlife, but rather to protect the wildlife from the visitors! I have seen first hand how visitors approaching wildlife stresses the animals, as does noise from motorcycle and car engines. There is no question that helicopters overhead would be detrimental to the well being of wildlife in this ecosystem.

Carol Schoner
Jackson, WY

From: [Eric Midgley](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Opposition to proposal by Wind River Air LLC at 4/17/20 airport board meeting
Date: Friday, April 17, 2020 7:55:23 AM

Please read this aloud into the record at today's meeting. Thank you.

I am writing to record my opposition to the proposal by wind River Air LLC.

We should not allow easier access to our pristine lands, increasing air and noise pollution in our parks and national forests. The land is attractive for tourism precisely because it is natural and quiet. The wildlife that helicopter tours seek out, will be hugely stressed by their presence.

My fervent hope is that the airport's board will not approve this proposal.

Sincerely,
Eric Midgley

From: [Brenda Cubbage](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Opposition to Wind River Air Heli-Tours in Tetons
Date: Wednesday, April 22, 2020 11:39:19 AM

To the Jackson Hole Airport Advisory Board:

I am a resident of Teton Shadows on Sagebrush Drive in Jackson. I am totally opposed to the approval of helicopter scenic tours in the backcountry (or the front country) of the Tetons. As a backcountry user for more than 37 years, the idea of extremely noisy sightseeing choppers flying over any of the canyons, peaks and trails of the Tetons is repugnant to me. The beauty and solitude of these special mountains will be impaired significantly by allowing such an intrusive and unnecessary use. Wildlife of all kinds will suffer, and people seeking an escape from the cacophony of daily noise will be sorely disappointed. I urge you all to vote **against** this proposed use.

Thank you,
Brenda T. Cubbage
330 E. Sagebrush Dr.
Granite B
Jackson, WY 83001

From: [Ashley C. Nowygrod](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Opposition to Wind River Air permit approval, to be read at 8AM meeting on 4/17/20
Date: Wednesday, April 15, 2020 2:37:23 PM

I am writing to formally oppose the approval of Wind River Air's application to run helicopter tours of our public lands.

I choose to live in our community because my family enjoys outdoor activities on our public lands in peace and quiet. The loud whir of helicopter blades overhead completely ruins this experience. Our public lands are designated for the quiet enjoyment of nature by all. Allowing helicopter tours would limit the quiet enjoyment of our wild lands to only the wealthiest visitors.

Furthermore, studies have shown that the noise from air traffic is detrimental to our wildlife. For example, sound levels during peak periods in a high air traffic corridor in the Yellowstone backcountry, for example, were elevated by up to 5 decibels, resulting in as much as a 70% reduction in the size of an area in which predators can hear their prey. We as a community cannot afford the harmful impact that helicopter tours would impose on our natural landscape.

Ashley Nowygrod

From: [Cernicek, Mary -FS](#)
To: windriverair@gmail.com; [publiccomment](#); [Pence, Jay -FS](#)
Subject: Perspective from Bridger-Teton National Forest regarding Wind River Aviation's proposed helicopter flights from Jackson Hole Airport
Date: Thursday, April 23, 2020 11:02:27 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[scenic overflight letter 042320 final.doc](#)

File Code: 1500

Date: April 23, 2020

Wind River Aviation
Anthony Chambers
Post Office Box 3885
Jackson, WY 83001

Dear Mr. Chambers:

We wanted to share our perspective regarding Wind River Aviation's proposed helicopter flights originating from Jackson Hole Airport. Enthusiasm for overflights across National Forest System lands has implications for the Bridger-Teton National Forest. The commercial air tour industry will likely continue to grow in the future. The Forest appreciates opportunities to participate early in the discussion process regarding proposed air tour routes, and to interact in a way that can influence decisions about where and under what conditions air tours operate over the National Forest.

Bridger-Teton National Forest is entrusted to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the Nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations. The Forest strives to serve multiple uses, though it is not required to provide for all uses in all locations. Therefore, it is the responsibility of Forest managers to ensure that visitor experience and quiet is conserved in areas where solitude, natural quiet, and the sight and sound of aircraft may be most intrusive. This proposal involves flight paths over the Gros Ventre Wilderness and Jedediah Smith Wilderness on the Caribou-Targhee National Forest. Preserving solitude with absence of sight and sound of mechanized equipment in designated wilderness areas is a high priority. Though the Forest Service does not regulate flights over wilderness areas, it is important to highlight Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) guidance on flights over designated wilderness. FAA recommends through an advisory circular the voluntary practice of not flying any lower than 2,000' AGL (above ground level) to avoid impacts to "noise sensitive areas" such as Wilderness. FAA guidance for noise sensitive areas can be found at:

https://www.faa.gov/documentLibrary/media/Advisory_Circular/AC91-36d.pdf

Noise pollution affecting wildlife and visitors will be of particular interest to Forest managers; especially within any of the three designated wilderness areas.

Bridger-Teton National Forest feels it is critical to address safety and "potential conflicts" with fire or search-and-rescue operations. Aviation missions occur almost every day during the summer operating season on both an emergency and nonemergency basis, including search and rescue operations. Aviation resources are used for initial attack and incipient stage fires,

and to frequently assess smoke reports.

Safety concerns will play an important part in regulation of air tours. The Forest would appreciate the opportunity to assess how potential rescues, emergency plans, and contributing use of air space would affect management activities.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide our perspective on your proposal. For additional information, please contact District Ranger Todd Stiles at todd.stiles@usda.gov.

Sincerely,

/s/ Todd M. Stiles
TODD STILES
Blackrock District Ranger
Bridger-Teton National Forest

/s/ Robert D. Hoelscher
ROB HOELSCHER
Jackson District Ranger
Bridger-Teton National Forest

cc. Jackson Hole Airport Board
Jay Pence- Teton Basin District Ranger- Caribou-Targhee National Forest



Mary Cernicek
Public Affairs Officer
Forest Service
Bridger-Teton National Forest

p: 307-739-5564

f: 307-739-5010

mary.cernicek@usda.gov

340 N. Cache/ P.O. Box 1888
Jackson, WY 83001

www.fs.fed.us



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From: [Valerie Hawksley Beck](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Cc: [Heli-No](#); [Sharon Mader](#)
Subject: Please delay your meetings
Date: Tuesday, April 21, 2020 10:23:55 AM

. . . until all the public that wants to can join the meetings and have the opportunity to ask questions and make comments. And PLEASE give us more notice than only three days.

Thank you.

Valerie Beck
Jackson
metafore@frii.com

From: [Chris Denny](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: PLEASE deny Wind River Air LLC scenic flight permit approval at 4/17/20 meeting
Date: Wednesday, April 15, 2020 11:33:21 AM

Dear Jackson Hole Airport Board,

First off, I hope this message finds all of you and your families safe and healthy during this unprecedented time in our country.

I am writing to you this morning imploring that the Jackson Hole Airport Board deny applicant Tony Chamber and Wind River Air LCC for scenic helicopter tours in Grand Teton National Park and the surrounding ecosystem. As you know we live in already delicate times where we are seeing nature fight for itself. We are seeing nature heal itself around the globe - from the now clean waters in the canals of Venice to the lower emissions in mainland China to India where they can see the Himalayas for the first time in decades, the earth is trying to tell us something through this pandemic. So in the name of our sacred Mother Earth and all of her current healing, please do not grant Wind River Air access to the skies above Jackson Hole, something if approved will instantly pollute our skies and ruin the wild serenity of our magical valley. Thank you for putting the citizens of Jackson Hole and the surrounding area first! We do not need scenic helicopter tours in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. Not now. Not ever.

Thank you for your consideration, please use your power as a group to mitigate this environmental threat.

Sincerely,
Chris Denny

30 year resident of Wilson Wyoming
15 year local business owner
Proud parent
Friendly Neighbor

From: [Rami Benayad-Cherif](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Please Do Not Allow Heli Ops in the Valley
Date: Tuesday, April 21, 2020 5:06:42 PM

Hi there,

While I understand the intention I believe the measure to allow helicopter tour companies to operate in the Tetons would harm a naturally beautiful place. To start off, the noise pollution would disturb the wildlife and serenity that many people yearn for when visiting the parks. Second, this would create a danger for many that descend on the Tetons to free fly. Besides, the beauty is on the ground - not in the air.

One would be better off sight seeing on a helicopter tour in NYC.

Thanks,
Rami

PS - I am a private pilot.

--

Best,
Rami Benayad-Cherif
C: (339) 970-4029

From: [Meghan Warren](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Please Dont Ruin the Valley by Allowing Helicopter Tours
Date: Wednesday, April 15, 2020 10:06:20 AM

Hello,

Please consider the impact that the noise from helicopters will have on the residents of Jackson Hole - both human and wildlife. I grew up in Sedona, AZ where helicopter tours are rampant and they RUIN your time in nature. They are so loud and obtrusive and take you out of the moment. Why should a handful of wealthy people who can afford those tours get to ruin the ambiance of the valley for everyone else? PLEASE VOTE NO!

Thank you,
Meghan Warren

From: [Travis Goodman](#)
To: windriverair@gmail.com
Cc: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Please no Heli tours in JH!!!
Date: Thursday, April 16, 2020 7:33:49 PM

Helicopters are awesome. I've been in a few and it is an awesome experience. But damn, they are LOUD. Whenever a Search & Rescue or other emergency helicopter is in the valley, I know something bad is happening, and I'm alerted by its rotors miles away. I'm happy that we have those tools to help keep our valley safe, but I'm also really glad I don't have to hear that thunder all the time. Most of us choose to live in this outdoor Mecca because of the peace and solitude. I do not want this place to turn into another Grand Canyon or Zion with helicopters constantly booming overhead and ruining the tranquility that most of us live here for. Please do not go through with your plans to operate helicopter tours in the Jackson Hole region, it will be a detriment to all that live here and our visitors that come from across the globe to visit one of the few remaining in-tact wildernesses.

Sincerely,

Travis Goodman

Sent from my communicator

Sent from my communicator

From: [neesha Zollinger](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Please no to Helicopter Tours
Date: Thursday, April 23, 2020 1:51:21 PM

Dear JH Airport Board,

I am a 20 year citizen of Jackson Hole and love the place, the people, the wildlife and the visitors that come to enjoy the beauty of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem.

Please do not allow Mr. Chambers to operate the Helicopter tours over the valley and mountains.

The noise will be disruptive to people and wildlife, and some places should just be left wild. So many people and organizations have fought to preserve these lands and the wilderness experience. Helicopter tours are obtrusive in sight, sound and feeling of wild places.

In addition, please postpone the meeting so that a live meeting can happen after this pandemic has eased up and slowed down.

Thank you for considering mine and others comments,
Sincerely,
Neesha Zollinger

Neesha Zollinger, Owner and Principal Teacher
Neesha Zollinger Yoga and Akasha Yoga
E-RYT-500, Certified Anusara® Yoga Teacher, Yoga Alliance Continuing Education Provider

c. 307.690.1350
neeshazollingeryoga.com
akashayogajh.com

Neesha Zollinger Yoga

From: [Peggie dePasquale](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Cc: [Sharon Mader](#); [Brooke Sausser](#)
Subject: Please push back heli tour meeting
Date: Tuesday, April 21, 2020 1:11:32 PM
Attachments: [WWA Mission logo.png](#)



Dear Airport Board,

I am writing today on behalf of the Wyoming Wilderness Association to ask that you please push back the rescheduled meeting concerning the permit for Wind River Air. Three days heads up is simply not enough. Our community cares deeply about this issue and deserves adequate time to prepare.

Last week's tech glitch was unfortunate for everyone. The current meeting date of this Friday needs to be reconsidered and deferred.

Thank you,

--

Peggie dePasquale
Bridger-Teton Community Organizer
Wyoming Wilderness Association <<http://www.wildwyo.org/>>
631-871-3707
peggie@wildwyo.org

From: [Joe Mazzeo](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Please read
Date: Friday, April 24, 2020 11:55:31 AM

Joe & Shelly Mazzeo of Moulton Loop

Like the vast majority of the Jackson Hole and GTNP community, we oppose the proposed helicopter tours for all the reasons expressed by our community today.

With all due respect: It was extremely disconcerting to hear - this morning - the attorney for the airport read to us a litany of laws and bond covenants that explain why we have NO choice NOR rights in the decision to allow Wind River Air to move forward.

Might it be appropriate to find a law firm that can find options under the law to delay or turn down this application, and to find answers that reflect the will of the people?
For the benefit of our community, we should leave no stone unturned!!

Thank you.

From: [JJ Little](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Please Reject WRA Application
Date: Thursday, April 16, 2020 6:27:39 PM

I strongly urge the Jackson Hole Airport Board to reject the application from Wind River Air (WRA) to operate helicopter tours from JAC. Allowing WRA to conduct regular and ongoing sightseeing flights will significantly add to the existing noise pollution already present at JAC. Approving WRA's application is incompatible with the mission of the National Park Service, Grand Teton NP specifically, which is to conserve unimpaired the natural and cultural resources of the Park for the enjoyment and inspiration of present and future generations. Allowing helicopter tours weakens & damages this mission. One commercial tour operator with several paying clients cannot be allowed to interfere with the daily enjoyment of thousands of people on the ground.

Thank you for this opportunity.
Jeffrey Little
130 E Woodreed Road
Jackson, WY 83001

From: [Bob Halper](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Postpone the meeting regarding Wind River Air
Date: Wednesday, April 22, 2020 1:29:41 PM

I, respectfully, request that the Jackson Hole Airport Board postpone the rescheduled meeting for April 24, 2020 regarding Tony Chambers and Wind River Air and the application for scenic helicopter flights originating at Jackson Hole Airport. The country and world are dealing with the Covid 19 pandemic which demands our attention and concern. Processing an application for Wind River Air is a completely nonessential action and should be delayed until the public, overwhelmingly against this proposal, can give the meeting its due attention. Thank you for considering this request to postpone the upcoming meeting.

Sincerely,

Robert M. Halper

rmhalper@gmail.com

4/22/20

From: [Robert Caspar](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Cc: [Robert Caspar](#); [Susie Caspar](#)
Subject: Postpone the wind river application review
Date: Thursday, April 23, 2020 5:33:03 PM

Dear Airport Board,

I request that you postpone the meeting to consider the application of Wind River Air until such time that the meeting can be held in person. This is a historic application with obvious drastic effects on the town of Jackson, Teton County and beyond.

During this unprecedented period of time when gatherings are not permitted, the Airport Board should postpone such a monumental review. We should realistically hope that the Covid 19 restrictions will be lifted in 4-8 weeks, a rather reasonable amount of time.

Respectfully,

Robert and Susan Caspar
620 Snow King Drive
Jackson

508-785-3559
617-830-0932 fax

From: [Nanci Halper](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Postpone Wind River Air hearing
Date: Wednesday, April 22, 2020 2:04:38 PM

Dear airport board,

I am writing to request you postpone the meeting on April 24 until the public can attend the meeting in person. I feel this important, non essential, and controversial matter needs to be addressed AFTER our community has recovered from the current Covid-19 emergency. The public has a right to attend such an important meeting. The board has the power to schedule hearings and should be sensitive to the public's right to be heard in person at a time that it is safe.

Thank you,

Nanci Halper
375 E. Cottonwood Dr
Jackson, WY 83001
nhalper@gmail.com

From: [Renee Seidler](#)
To: windriverair@gmail.com
Cc: [Jon Mobeck](#); [Kate Gersh](#); [Kyle Kissock](#); [\(Brunan84@gmail.com\)](#); [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Proposed Helicopter Tours letter from Jackson Hole Wildlife Foundation
Date: Friday, April 24, 2020 7:56:14 AM
Attachments: [Wind River Air Heli-Tour Proposal Comments JHWF for Mr. Tony Chambers 4.24.2020.pdf](#)

Hello Tony,

Please find attached our outreach letter regarding your proposed business operation. Please don't hesitate to reach out to me with any questions or concerns.

Kindly,
Renee Seidler

From: [Bill Hurt](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Proposed Helicopter Tours
Date: Sunday, April 12, 2020 12:34:11 PM
Attachments: [Hurt Comments on Helicopter Flyovers.docx](#)

See attachment.

From: [cade budak](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Public Comment about Wind River Air and the meeting April 17
Date: Thursday, April 16, 2020 6:09:47 PM

I do not think that this is good for our community or the wildlife in the area/surrounding area of GTNP. Part of what Makes this Valley Jackson Hole and its immediate surrounding area is the beauty of it all and the wildlife. To add into it Heli Tours for the benefit of few who can afford it and the company operating it would be a huge loss to the rest of the community. Simply the scenery interruption and the noise pollution ruin this place. It was the Rockefeller's who bought out land from farmers and industry to clean up the air surrounding area. As a community we must uphold this tradition. Not to mention the impact on wildlife, the noise pollution to the wildlife effect all wildlife in the park and surrounding areas, which in turn means less sightings of wildlife, another magical part of this area.

From: cmoody6@gmail.com
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Public Comment on Helicopter Tours
Date: Tuesday, April 21, 2020 3:00:05 PM

Hello,

My name is Christopher Moody and I am a resident of Wilson, WY.

I do not support helicopter tours in Teton County and the surrounding areas. I think it is incompatible with the beauty and values that many of us live in the area for. As someone who gets into the mountains frequently skiing, climbing, and paragliding, I would not like to hear and see helicopters around me when I am participating in those activities.

Thanks!

Chris Moody

From: [Perk Perkins](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Public Comment on Wind River Air's Heli Tour Proposal
Date: Tuesday, April 21, 2020 9:04:47 PM

Our airport board has been very thoughtful and effective at balancing the benefits of air travel with enjoyment of what brought us here and keeps us here, that being the splendor of the outdoor setting we have inherited. However, with Wind River Air's proposal we have a clear case of personal enrichment of a very few at the expense of very many for an elite clientele. I hope the airport board can find the means to prevent this erosion of our community's greatest asset.

Respectfully submitted by Perk Perkins, Jackson resident

From: [Tracey Heilbrun](#)
To: [Board](#)
Subject: Public Comment- Scenic Air Tours
Date: Friday, April 17, 2020 10:16:01 AM

Our county's economic engine is strong in a large part because of the values we protect on our surrounding public lands. The public seeks solitude and quiet, these are some of the hallmark traits we and land managers protect.

JH airport, in a national park, is unique and it's necessary for commerce, while Scenic Flights are not. The sound of helicopter rotors or fixed wing aircraft noise on a constant bases, over these public lands, is not in keeping with the values within some enabling legislation. I vote no for allowing scenic flights; no on private, incompatible use, on public lands must be upheld.

Because the flights would have to be based out of the JH airport it can be prohibited now and the argument that the operation would fly above 500 AGL would not even come into play. Is Pinedale airport bracing for this? Please do the right thing - decline the proposal for a base at JH airport - surely there are Lawyers and Solicitors who can make this case on a legal basis.

If you have ever attempted solitude on a backcountry trip in Glacier N.P. or the Grand Canyon SE rim area where scenic flights are allowed (off Native American lands) you would have first hand experience of the intrusion on ones scenes this activity causes.

Tracey Schulze Heilbrun
Tracey from Jackson Hole, WY

From: [Henry Sollitt](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Public Comment Wind River Air 04/17/20 Airport Board Meeting
Date: Thursday, April 16, 2020 10:22:10 PM

Dear Jackson Hole Airport Board Members,

Allowing for helicopter tours in Grand Teton National Park would go against every priority of the Teton County/Jackson Comprehensive Plan. That is the vision that our community and its representatives overwhelmingly support. The JH Airport Board is a very important member of this community, therefore your consideration of the intent and instruction of the Comprehensive Plan is paramount. You can act in a way to ensure the plan becomes our community's future. Helicopter tours in no way, "Preserve and protect the area's ecosystem in order to ensure a healthy environment, community and economy for current and future generations". Please do not allow Helicopter tours in Grand Teton National Park. Please be a part of this community and consider our vision outlined in the Comp Plan.

Sincerely,

Henry Sollitt

From: [Joan Anzelmo](#)
To: [Board; jelwood@jacksonholeairport.com](#)
Cc: [Council@jacksonwy.gov](#); [commissioners@tetoncountywy.gov](#)
Subject: Public Process Insulted the Community
Date: Friday, April 24, 2020 2:32:36 PM
Attachments: [Public Comment JHAirport Board Mtg..pdf](#)

Dear Airport Board and Mr. Elwood,
cc: Town Council, Board of County Commissioners

This morning following the airport website instructions I signed onto webex at 7:30am.

I have dutifully listened to the entire meeting, now 6 hours and 30 minutes and continuing now at 2:30pm.

Also when President Blann asked no one comment live if they had submitted the comments, I wrote the airport staff and informed them I would comment live and therefore to please withdraw my written comments. So after waiting 6 hours to comment I was not allowed to speak for just 3 minutes.

Since I was not allowed to give my 3 minutes worth of my comments live, I have attached them for you.

I have been responsible for organizing, facilitating and conducting multiple public processes for nationally significant issues/decisions including during national emergencies. Among them during wildfires threatening this community and to serve in response to the Deepwater Horizon Disaster in the Gulf of Mexico in 2010.

Your intentions may have been good but your public process failed our community.

Sincerely,
Joan Anzelmo
Jackson, WY

From: [s.king](#)
To: [Anna Valsing](#)
Subject: Re: 04-17generalcomment
Date: Thursday, April 23, 2020 5:38:53 PM

Anna & Clare, I have emailed to publiccomment@jhairport.org an updated version of my comment above from last week that is now 200 words long. Please use that comment & I've also copied it to this page.

I'll send another email addressing postponement. Thank you for the update.

Grand Teton is a place of immense silence. It's no place for the sound of helicopters. You can hear them long before you can see them. I've flown in them in Antarctica, Greenland, Alaska & the lower 48, rarely over people. They are amazing. They have no place ruining the experience of many visitors for a very few in the Park. The Jackson Hole Airport is an island in the Park. No way to get there except flying over the Park, no way to do it quietly.

I have lived beside Tetons since 1974. I have camped, climbed, skied, hiked, boated & biked in the Park every year since. Yearly, at Leigh Lake, the helicopter noise has increased. It is incredible how loud & long a helicopter passing takes. The mountains & canyons are echo chambers. There is a term for it, "NOISE POLLUTION". This is exactly what multiple daily flights over the Park is! Please, please DO NOT allow this pollution in GTNP.

Now is the time to say NO, if allowed, it may never be able to be taken away. It's a National Park!

Steven King - Victor, Idaho

On Tue, Apr 21, 2020 at 9:20 AM Anna Valsing <Anna.Valsing@jhairport.org> wrote:

Good Morning,

The Jackson Hole Airport Board will hold two public meetings this week. On Thursday, April 23rd at 9:00 am, the regular monthly Board meeting will be reconvened to consider regular business items. Then on Friday, April 24th at 8:00 am, the Board will hold a special meeting to consider a proposed agreement with Wind River Air, LLC. Further information may be found in the attached press release.

All comments received related to the Wind River Air application at the publiccomment@jhairport.org e-mail address to date will be read into the record at the meeting on Friday. There is no need to resend your comment prior to this meeting.

Anna Valsing, C.M.

Assistant Administrative Manager

Jackson Hole Airport

307-733-7695

1250 East Airport Road

PO Box 159

Jackson, WY 83001

www.jacksonholeairport.com

From: s king <kioteking@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday, April 17, 2020 8:06 AM

To: publiccomment <publiccomment@jhairport.org>

Subject: 04-17generalcomment

Grand Teton National Park is a place of immense silence. It's no place for the sound of helicopters. You can hear them long before you can see them. I've flown in them in Antarctica, Greenland, Alaska & the lower 48. They are amazing. They have no place ruining the experience of many for a very few in Grand Teton Park. The Jackson Airport is an island in the Park. No way to get there except flying over the Park, no way to do it quietly. I have lived in the shadow of the Tetons since 1974. I have climbed, skied, hiked, boated & biked in the park every year since arriving. Every year I camp at Leigh Lake. Lately, every year the helicopter noise has increased. It is incredible how loud & long a helicopter passing takes. The mountains & canyons are echo chambers. There is a term that has come into our lexicon, noise pollution. This is exactly what this would be called if helicopters are allowed in the Park. Please, please, please do not allow our Grand Teton National Park to be polluted with the intrusive sound machine. Now is the time to say no, if allowed, it may never be able to be taken away.

Steven King Victor, Idaho

From: [Henry Burroughs](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Re: Board meeting of April 24, 2020 - Wind River Air/ T.Chambers
Date: Friday, April 24, 2020 6:46:20 AM
Attachments: [Re Wind River Helicopter.docx](#)

I wish to submit the attached communication on this matter.

Thank You

From: [Bob Anderson](#)
To: [Anna Valsing](#)
Subject: Re: Heli
Date: Wednesday, April 15, 2020 3:18:42 PM

Name is : Robert K Anderson thanks

On 4/15/2020 11:34 AM, Anna Valsing wrote:

Good morning,

In order to share your public comment at the meeting on Friday, we need to have your full name for the record. Would you please send me your full name to add to this e-mail comment?

Thank you,

Anna Valsing, C.M.
Assistant Administrative Manager
Jackson Hole Airport
307-733-7695
1250 East Airport Road
PO Box 159
Jackson, WY 83001
www.jacksonholeairport.com

-----Original Message-----

From: Bob [<anderson@ida.net>](mailto:anderson@ida.net)
Sent: Wednesday, April 15, 2020 10:21 AM
To: publiccomment [<publiccomment@jhairport.org>](mailto:publiccomment@jhairport.org)
Subject: Heli

I am totally opposed on many levels to the Heli tour proposal it is totally incompatible with the use of our national forests and national park on a practical level the protests and lawsuits have just begun

Sent from my iPhone



Virus-free. www.avg.com

From: [Sharon Mader](#)
To: [Brooke Sausser](#); [Board](#); [publiccomment](#)
Cc: [Jim Elwood](#); [Wind River Air](#); [council@townofjackson.com](#); [commissioners@tetoncountywy.gov](#); [Lisa McGee](#); [Ben Williamson](#); [Penny Maldonado](#); [Chris Colligan](#); [Kristin Combs](#); [Peggie dePasquale](#)
Subject: RE: Please defer controversial business
Date: Wednesday, April 22, 2020 5:18:35 PM

Thanks Brooke!

Sharon

From: Brooke Sausser <brooke@jhalliance.org>
Sent: Wednesday, April 22, 2020 2:07 PM
To: board@jhairport.org; publiccomment@jhairport.org
Cc: Jim Elwood <Jim.Elwood@jhairport.org>; Wind River Air <windriverair@gmail.com>; council@townofjackson.com; commissioners@tetoncountywy.gov; Lisa McGee <lisa@wyomingoutdoorcouncil.org>; Ben Williamson <ben@nrccoperative.org>; Sharon Mader <smader@npca.org>; Penny Maldonado <penny@cougarfund.org>; Chris Colligan <ccolligan@greateryellowstone.org>; Kristin Combs <kristin@wyomingwildlifeadvocates.org>; Peggie dePasquale <peggie@wildwyo.org>
Subject: Re: Please defer controversial business

All,

You may have noticed that the promised letter was indeed not attached - got it right this time!

Thanks,
Brooke

On Wed, Apr 22, 2020 at 1:04 PM Brooke Sausser <brooke@jhalliance.org> wrote:

Dear members of the Airport Board,

Please see the attached letter from the Alliance and seven other organizations requesting that public meetings involving controversial business be deferred until the public is prepared to give attention to such issues and fully participate.

Sincerely,
Brooke

--

Brooke Sausser
Community Planning Manager
Jackson Hole Conservation Alliance
She/her/hers
(208) 771-2218



--

Brooke Sausser
Community Planning Manager
Jackson Hole Conservation Alliance
She/her/hers
(208) 771-2218



From: [Brooke Sausser](#)
To: [Board](#); [publiccomment](#)
Cc: [Jim Elwood](#); [Wind River Air](#); [council@townofjackson.com](#); [commissioners@tetoncountywy.gov](#); [Lisa McGee](#); [Ben Williamson](#); [Sharon Mader](#); [Penny Maldonado](#); [Chris Colligan](#); [Kristin Combs](#); [Peggie dePasquale](#)
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Attachments: [Please defer controversial business.pdf](#)

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(208) 771-2218



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To: board@jhairport.org; publiccomment@jhairport.org
Cc: Jim Elwood <Jim.Elwood@jhairport.org>; Wind River Air <windriverair@gmail.com>; council@townofjackson.com; commissioners@tetoncountywy.gov; Lisa McGee <lisa@wyomingoutdoorcouncil.org>; Ben Williamson <ben@nrcccooperative.org>; Sharon Mader <smader@npca.org>; Penny Maldonado <penny@cougarfund.org>; Chris Colligan <ccolligan@greateryellowstone.org>; Kristin Combs <kristin@wyomingwildlifeadvocates.org>; Peggie dePasquale <peggie@wildwyo.org>
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Community Planning Manager
Jackson Hole Conservation Alliance
She/her/hers
(208) 771-2218



--

Brooke Sausser
Community Planning Manager
Jackson Hole Conservation Alliance
She/her/hers
(208) 771-2218



From: [Gary Kofinas](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Cc: [Heli-No](#); [Sharon Mader](#); [Peggie DePasquale](#); [Josh Metten](#)
Subject: RE: Please delay your meetings
Date: Tuesday, April 21, 2020 11:10:34 AM

Regarding JH Airport Public meeting on Friday:

We too request more notice. A full week would be good. Three days is simply too short. Thank you,

Gary Kofinas

Chair, Teton Backcountry Alliance Steering Committee

-----Original Message-----

From: heli-no@googlegroups.com <heli-no@googlegroups.com> On Behalf Of Valerie Hawksley Beck

Sent: Tuesday, April 21, 2020 10:24 AM

To: publiccomment@jhairport.org

Cc: [Heli-No](mailto:heli-no@googlegroups.com) <heli-no@googlegroups.com>; [Sharon Mader](mailto:smader@npca.org) <smader@npca.org>

Subject: Please delay your meetings

. . . until all the public that wants to can join the meetings and have the opportunity to ask questions and make comments. And PLEASE give us more notice than only three days.

Thank you.

Valerie Beck

Jackson

metafore@frii.com

--

You received this message because you are subscribed to the Google Groups "Heli-No" group.

To unsubscribe from this group and stop receiving emails from it, send an email to heli-no+unsubscribe@googlegroups.com.

To post to this group, send email to heli-no@googlegroups.com.

To view this discussion on the web visit

<https://groups.google.com/d/msgid/heli-no/1C53788C-E7B3-4496-9D59-90515F39EC43%40frii.com>.

For more options, visit <https://groups.google.com/d/optout>.

From: [Gary Kofinas](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
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Sent: Tuesday, April 21, 2020 10:24 AM

To: publiccomment@jhairport.org

Cc: [Heli-No](mailto:heli-no@googlegroups.com) <heli-no@googlegroups.com>; [Sharon Mader](mailto:smader@npca.org) <smader@npca.org>

Subject: Please delay your meetings

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Valerie Beck

Jackson

metafore@frii.com

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You received this message because you are subscribed to the Google Groups "Heli-No" group.

To unsubscribe from this group and stop receiving emails from it, send an email to heli-no+unsubscribe@googlegroups.com.

To post to this group, send email to heli-no@googlegroups.com.

To view this discussion on the web visit

<https://groups.google.com/d/msgid/heli-no/1C53788C-E7B3-4496-9D59-90515F39EC43%40frii.com>.

For more options, visit <https://groups.google.com/d/optout>.

From: [Jim Carpenter](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: RE: Wind River Air Discussion April 24th 2020
Date: Thursday, April 23, 2020 10:06:34 PM

I will also add that this by no means seems like “non-essential business” As such I would suggest you delay this discussion until after the virus situation has passed.

Jim Carpenter
Managing Partner
J. Carpenter and Co.
1001 Boston Post Road
Darien, CT 06820
(O) 203 669 9881
(CE) 917 678 0165

From: Jim Carpenter
Sent: Thursday, April 23, 2020 10:04 PM
To: publiccomment@jhairport.org
Subject: Wind River Air Discussion April 24th 2020

I have been a resident at 3540 W. McCollister drive since 2004 and was a visitor to region prior since 1984. I vehemently oppose Scenic Heli Tours in Jackson Hole. In my view anyone who would approve this initiative had either a) never appreciated the calm, quiet, and beauty of the wilderness, or b) has never heard the loud, pulsing air displacement of a nearby helicopter. On a walk today approaching the Park on Moose Wilson Road I experienced it with an unknown helicopter. This will destroy one of the core attractions of the area. It also is a give to the wealthy tourist who can afford such a trip, at the expense of the everyday person who benefits from the area serenity.

Jim Carpenter
Managing Partner
J. Carpenter and Co.
1001 Boston Post Road
Darien, CT 06820
(O) 203 669 9881
(CE) 917 678 0165

From: [Mike May](#)
To: [Anna Valsing](#)
Subject: Re: Wind River Air Heli Operation - Public comment for Friday, April 17th meeting
Date: Thursday, April 23, 2020 4:41:35 PM

Hi again Anna,

Interesting Op-Ed yesterday, and I'll take it at face value. And simply add this. Please share it with the board.

If all that's in front of them is the terms of the agreement, I think it's imperative that Wind River Air needs to put up a significant bond against the very real possibility of future firefighting and/or Search and Rescue efforts related to any heli-operations up there.

To echo Jerry's op-ed, I'm hoping this business dies a natural death and the economic engine simply doesn't pencil.....but if Mr. Chambers wants to operate out of the airport in the meantime, he needs to buck up and make sure that there is a funding mechanism in place should this community be tasked with cleaning up his mess.

Sincerely, Mike May / Jackson, Wyo.

On Tue, Apr 21, 2020 at 9:35 AM Anna Valsing <Anna.Valsing@jhairport.org> wrote:

Good Morning,

The Jackson Hole Airport Board will hold two public meetings this week. On Thursday, April 23rd at 9:00 am, the regular monthly Board meeting will be reconvened to consider regular business items. Then on Friday, April 24th at 8:00 am, the Board will hold a special meeting to consider a proposed agreement with Wind River Air, LLC. Further information may be found in the attached press release.

All comments received related to the Wind River Air application at the publiccomment@jhairport.org e-mail address to date will be read into the record at the meeting on Friday. There is no need to resend your comment prior to this meeting.

Anna Valsing, C.M.

Assistant Administrative Manager

Jackson Hole Airport

307-733-7695

1250 East Airport Road

PO Box 159

Jackson, WY 83001

www.jacksonholeairport.com

From: Mike May <mikesmay14@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, April 16, 2020 5:58 PM

To: publiccomment <publiccomment@jhairport.org>

Subject: Wind River Air Heli Operation - Public comment for Friday, April 17th meeting

To all parties concerned,

I'm am writing today to express my clear and total opposition to scenic helicopter tours out of Jackson Hole Airport. This is a road we've traveled before and as a community, we have said time and time again, Heli-No.

Please do not put the wishes of Wind River Air above the needs of our community, including public safety, wildlife stewardship and the freedom to live here and recreate on our public lands without the unnecessary and oppressive intrusion of noise from incessant helicopter flights.

I've read where the airport board has claimed (to the effect) that "this is on the FAA, we have to consider it." To which I say, OK - you may have to consider it, but you do not have to approve it. So please, do NOT approve this application.

You don't need to look much further than places like Kauai, HI, Sedona, AZ and the Grand Canyon for examples on how a tour company like this will negatively affect Jackson. It may line the pockets of a few, but will seriously and negatively affect many, many more - residents and visitors alike.

Sincerely, Mike S. May

Jackson, Wyoming

From: [Walker](#)
To: [Anna Valsing](#)
Subject: Re: Wind River Air
Date: Wednesday, April 15, 2020 11:53:32 AM

My full name is Fredrick Walker Schwab. Thanks have a good day!

Sent from my iPhone

> On Apr 15, 2020, at 7:55 AM, Anna Valsing <Anna.Valsing@jhairport.org> wrote:

>

> Good morning,

>

> In order to share your public comment at the meeting on Friday, we need to have your full name for the record. Would you please send me your full name to add to this e-mail comment?

>

> Thank you,

>

> Anna Valsing, C.M.

> Assistant Administrative Manager

> Jackson Hole Airport

> 307-733-7695

> 1250 East Airport Road

> PO Box 159

> Jackson, WY 83001

> www.jacksonholeairport.com

>

> -----Original Message-----

> From: Walker <vader483@yahoo.com>

> Sent: Tuesday, April 14, 2020 7:06 PM

> To: publiccomment <publiccomment@jhairport.org>

> Subject: Wind River Air

>

>

> Dear Jackson Hole Airport Board, I would like to convey my support for Wind River Air. I find his request for approval by the Jackson Hole airport board to conduct his aerial tourism flights as a testament to mr. Chambers upstanding character and professionalism in this matter. I believe Wind River Air already is legal to conduct said operations out of the Jackson Hole Airport per FFA rules and regulations. I have lived in the Jackson area my whole life and I believe aerial tour flights fit nicely with the tourism industry that is a huge part of Jackson Hole.

> Thank you Jackson Hole airport board for your time to read this and I hope you take this in consideration when you all make your decisions on March 28th.

>

>

From: [Brenda Cubbage](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Request for postponement of hearing or approval of Wind River Air's requested heli-tours of Tetons
Date: Wednesday, April 22, 2020 11:58:45 AM

To the Jackson Hole Airport Advisory Board:

In addition to my prior comments in opposition to the heli-tours of the Tetons proposed by Wind River Air, I also am **in favor of a postponement** of any decision in this regard so that the public can fully comment and be present in person at a hearing. This is a very important matter and the consequences are far-reaching. The public should be allowed to attend and comment in person prior to a decision by the Board.

Thank you,
Brenda T. Cubbage
330 E. Sagebrush Dr.
Granite B
Jackson, WY 83001

From: [Fred A Reimers](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Cc: [Bill McClure](#); [Steve Robertson](#); [Lisa Robertson](#); claire@jhalliance.org
Subject: Robinson 44 Helicopter, Operated BY Wind River Air
Date: Thursday, April 16, 2020 9:40:33 AM

Dear JH airport board:

As a retired USAF fighter/airline/private pilot, I am expressing my opinion about the suitability of the Robinson 44 helicopter for operation in the JH valley.

As we all know, the Robinson 44 is a single reciprocating engine craft, not designed for high-altitude operation, such as required for flights in the Teton/GrosVentre mountain areas. It has very little excess power available to rapidly climb to safe mountain clearance altitudes, especially when heavily loaded during tourist flights. In addition, with engine issues/failure, there is NO available safety margin for forced landings. Historically, the Robinson 44 helicopter has accumulated a grim safety record, with numerous deadly accidents during it's operational lifetime.

In my opinion, the only suitable helicopter type for JH tourist operation should be TWIN TURBINE powered, capable of safe forced landings on only one of it's two turbine engines.

From: [Lyn Dalebout](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Say No
Date: Wednesday, April 15, 2020 1:37:23 PM

Dear Board Members,

Having been a 50 year resident of Teton County, I strongly encourage you to once again rise up against this greed and special interests of noisy, polluting Heli Tours that will further deteriorate our National Park experience: WHICH IS WHY PEOPLE COME HERE. Use your power and protect our populace, our land, and our the ECONOMY for all of us.

Do your job, protect our valley, and PLEASE Stop this insanity one more time!

Thank you,
Lyn Dalebout

Lyn Dalebout
DeerLyn@gmail.com
EarthWordSkyWord.com
307-690-5330

From: [keegan](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Scenic Heli tours
Date: Thursday, April 16, 2020 6:18:49 PM

As a long time resident (18 years) to Jackson I find the proposal by Wind River Air LLC disheartening. I believe most of us live in Jackson and the surrounding areas to enjoy the peace and quite it has to offer along with the beautiful scenery, wildlife and quite wilderness. This proposal will take away all of this. Imagine hiking into the remote Wilderness and or National Forest that is included in this proposal and sitting next to your tent enjoying a quite sunset. Not a sound in the air besides a few birds chirping and a bull elk buggling in the basin below you. Suddenly, over the ridge behind you comes the noise of a helicopter (not quite at all). It swoops over your head a few hundred feet above scattering the elk in the basin below you. This is not my vision of Jackson, or the surrounding area. In modern times we are surrounded by noise and technology. Sometimes its nice to get away from all of this and escape.

Please vote NO and protect the wildlife and the wild places Jackson has to offer.

Keegan Pfeil

From: [Maureen O'Leary](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Scenic Helicopter operation
Date: Wednesday, April 15, 2020 9:23:53 PM

Please vote NO

1. Not compatible to our wildlife and wilderness.
2. Not in line with the county's commitment to decrease our carbon footprint
3. Safety issues flying in the mountains is much more dangerous. In addition, the helicopter that is proposed for use does not have a good safety record at our altitude.
4. Noise disturbing both wildlife and people trying to enjoy the outdoors

Sincerely,
Maureen O'Leary
Jackson

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: twsweet@aol.com
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Scenic Helicopter Tour
Date: Tuesday, April 21, 2020 4:56:12 PM

Dear Sirs,

Thanks for allowing me to comment. While I do not know the number of flights and how the scenic tours would be operated, I am opposed to helicopter tours flying over the valley and National park land. It will clearly result in noise pollution and diminish the quality and character of the Jackson Hole area as we know it today. I would also question the effect of the noise on the area's wildlife. Finally, opening the door for one operator potentially allows for multiple operators at some point. While we should not oppose well thought through business opportunities, such opportunities should not result in lessening the experience of JH for others.

Regards,

Tom Sweet
3095 W. Mallard Rd
Jackson, WY

From: [KO Strohbehn](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Scenic Helicopter Tours April 17, 2020
Date: Friday, April 10, 2020 9:43:15 AM

To: Jackson Hole Airport Board
Dear Board Members:

Regardless of the FAA's opinion that scenic helicopter tours meet "all application safety standards," scenic helicopter tours disturb the wildlife and will be a major sound disturbance for Jackson residence and the millions of people annually visiting the national park. Additionally, the helicopters are a clearly potential fire hazard and threaten miles of park land should an accident occur.

The noise of Life Flight helicopters bringing patients to/from the hospital is acceptable and necessary. The noise of scenic helicopters is a public nuisance.

If scenic helicopter tours are allowed to buzz over the Grand Teton National Park and the Elk Refuge, what's to stop hundreds of drones from invading these same areas?

Please reject any/all applications for scenic helicopter tours.

Respectfully,
KO Strohbehn

K.O. Strohbehn

582 E. Kelly Ave PO Box 2623

Jackson, WY 83001

kostrohbehn@gmail.com

913-269-6408

From: galen.richards@reagan.com
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: scenic helicopter
Date: Wednesday, April 15, 2020 3:50:37 PM

On Fri, Mar 13, 2020 at 10:29 AM <galen.richards@reagan.com> wrote:

To whom it may concern:

I write this letter in complete support of Tony Chambers' efforts to provide scenic helicopter rides to the general public. I find it ironic that numerous governmental entities and our own search and rescue are allowed a free rein, but an ambitious young man is met with such venom. Gary Kjerstad operated for years from present day Albertsons and didn't destroy anybody's wilderness experience. Please give Tony a chance.

Galen Richards

From: [Debbie Evans](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Some places are meant to be peaceful
Date: Wednesday, April 29, 2020 11:36:34 PM

Please do not allow helicopter tours over our peaceful Grand Teton National Park!

Sent from my iPad

From: [Wade McKoy](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Sorry to miss meeting comment period, but here is my comment.
Date: Monday, April 27, 2020 10:35:21 AM

Attn: Airport Board members,
Re: Meeting held last Friday, April 24

I'm strongly against Wind River Air's plan to conduct scenic helicopter flights in the airspace above Jackson Hole and it's surrounding mountains. The noise and sight pollution alone are enough for me to stand against it, and there are well-documented safety concerns as well.

I understand that you are powerless to deny the application, but your disapproval would at least send a message to those who do have that power.

I'm sorry I missed the meeting deadline. I hope you will, nonetheless, consider my comment.

Wade McKoy
Jackson, Wyoming

From: [Barbara Herz](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Stop Wind River Air heli plan Stan meeting April. 17
Date: Wednesday, April 15, 2020 8:41:03 AM

Please stop Wind River Air's plan to send tourist helicopters roaring over our park and our neighborhoods, making life noisy and more dangerous for the rest of us trying to enjoy our park or live here. Helicopters are dangerous — you know that. The interests of the many should swamp the interest of one private firm. Thank you.

Barbara Herz
PO Box 211
Moose WY 83012
Cell 307 690-0456

From: [Sophia Schwartz](#)
To: windriverair@gmail.com
Cc: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Strong Concern Against Heli Tours
Date: Thursday, April 16, 2020 6:01:10 PM

Dear Tony Chambers,

Thank you for your time. While in theory, I would love to support your proposition of heli tours in Jackson Hole; however, I believe the negative impacts are too great. Noise pollution would disrupt the wilderness and harm not only wildlife, but also the pristine nature of our community. While, you can escape crowds and busy roads by taking remote trails, you can't escape the noise from a helicopter. Half a mile is not enough distance from our national park and areas like the elk refuge, cache creek, gros venture should be protected as well. I'm a voice a strong concern against heli tour in this public comment.

Thank you ,
Sophia Schwartz

465 E Broadway Ave
Jackson WY 83001

Sophia Schwartz
208-720-7845
[@sophiaschwartz](#)

From: [Colby Carpenter](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Cc: [Wind River Air](#)
Subject: Support of Wind River Air
Date: Tuesday, April 14, 2020 4:38:43 PM

Good Morning,

I am writing each and every board member today to express my support of Tony Chambers and Wind River Air, LLC. As one of Mr. Chambers' student pilots, I have the utmost confidence in every aviation decision he makes, all of which place safety at the forefront. Mr. Chambers will do great things for the Jackson Community with the many opportunities accompanied by a permit from Jackson Hole Airport.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Colby C. Carpenter
Owner/C.O.O.
Carpenter Cattle Co.
Jackson, Wyoming
carpentercattle.com
972-971-3476

From: [Mary Ignatiadis](#)
To: windriverair@gmail.com
Cc: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Take Cost-Benefit of Helicopter Tours into Consideration
Date: Thursday, April 16, 2020 7:26:36 AM

Dear Mr. Chambers,

Our public lands were never meant to be the playgrounds of the wealthy at the expense of everyone else, and to the detriment our wildlife. Noise from the proposed helicopter tours would ruin the experiences of both residents in town and the internationally diverse visitors in the park, whether they are boating on Jenny Lake or climbing the Grand. Furthermore, the increased helicopter traffic could delay SAR missions and will almost definitely impact endangered bighorn sheep populations. The helicopter tours would likely have an extremely negative impact, while the benefits would accrue only to the tour operator and the handful of people able to afford the tours - there would be no community-wide economic benefit. Please make a decision that is in the best interest of everyone who loves Jackson Hole, not just the most privileged.

Sincerely,
Mary Ignatiadis
M.S. Candidate, Forest Policy and Economics, University of Maine

From: [Tom Underwood](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Teton helicopter tours
Date: Tuesday, April 21, 2020 3:43:50 PM

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to publicly state that I am against regular public helicopter tours in the Jackson Hole and the Tetons and all surrounding areas. Noise pollution and potential conflict with air traffic for free flyers are just 2 of many reasons I would not want helicopter tours.

Thanks,

Tom Underwood

From: [Nick K](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Thank You
Date: Saturday, April 11, 2020 2:13:44 PM

Thank you for your thoughtful response to my last message. I am glad to hear that a new meeting time has been set for April 17th.

I wanted to write one more time to reiterate my concerns about the proposed scenic helicopter tours. I see the addition of frequent scenic helicopter tours over the proposed flight paths as an affront to the peace and quiet that our communities members, visitors, and wildlife so dearly need. In a world with increasing noise in all parts of the world, I believe our community can continue to set ourselves apart by opposing additions that will deteriorate the lived experience of those who call this place home.

Thank you,
Nick Koinis

--

Nick Koinis

(941)916-1549

nick.koinis@gmail.com

From: [Zero G](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: There was a time when Jackson was unique,...
Date: Thursday, April 16, 2020 11:28:48 PM

I live in Jackson Hole because I want to get away from the crowds. I live in Jackson Hole because we wish to be closer to nature. I live in here because it goes on & on & on. We all have those feelings.

Yes the helicopters are not physically on the Grand Teton National Park lands, but the soundS of the helicopter are. I understand this is a tourist destination, but this is one step too far. When I go in the mountains & I hear a helicopter it's a Search & Rescue bird, we don't need to make the skies more busy. No need for more noise pollution, the valley doesn't want it. For once, listen to locals over your wallet.

Tourists come here because they want to get away from other stuff like this. Keep Jackson Hole unique & one of a kind. If you make Jackson Hole just like everywhere else (i. e. Colorado) you lose the glowing luster of this place that has already been polished a little too hard. That's another discussion.

I'm not even getting into ruining the traffic of the wildlife, helicopter tours will ruin the wildlife corridors of Grand Teton National Park, it just adds another strain to an already strained dynamic here. Montana will look way cooler to people in New York City wanting time get away from sounds of the city. People like to get away into another reality when they go on their personal holiday.

Don't turn Jackson Hole into box wine, keep it the find burgundy wine that it is.

Heli-no!!! Heli-no!!!

Todd Kehoe
Jackson, Wyoming

Resident since 2005

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Destin Peters](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: This was rejected by your server last week - Resending Do not approve Wind River Air's request at 4/17 Board Meeting
Date: Friday, April 17, 2020 9:55:13 AM

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

From: **Destin Peters** <destin_peters@hotmail.com>
Date: Thu, Apr 16, 2020, 9:56 AM
Subject: This was rejected by your server last week - Resending Do not approve Wind River Air's request at 4/17 Board Meeting
To: <publiccomment@jhairport.org>

Jackson Hole Airport Board,

Helicopter traffic has devastated the experience for millions of users seeking the solitude of our increasingly rare wild places. For me personally, it was on the stunningly beautiful and peaceful Na Pali coast on Kauai. A great hike was turned into a war zone at about 10am every day. Helicopters have no place over our wilderness.

Furthermore, the helicopters Wind River is planning on using are not safe in our high alpine environment. I fly (silent, unpowered) paragliders over the Teton and Gros Ventre Ranges and the air has a well deserved reputation for being some of the roughest and most violent air on our continent. Our aircraft handle this air well, but the helicopter Wind River Air is planning on using has a reputation for poor performance and fatal crashes in turbulent high alpine air. Combine this with the pressure to fill these helicopters with max allowable passengers to increase profitability, and you have a recipe for disaster.

I understand your hands are tied by the FAA, but I encourage you to get creative and find ways to stop Wind River Air from operating out of Grand Teton National Park. If you do not make your best efforts, you will share the responsibility of a ruined experience for those hiking in the Jedediah Smith and Gros Ventre Wildernesses. More importantly, you must consider you will share responsibility when there is an incident where innocent folks, naive about the dangers of aviation in our environment, are killed - solely for one man's profit.

Sincerely,

Destin Peters
808 Upper Cache Creek Dr.
Jackson, Wy 83002

From: [Robert Caspar](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: To Tony Chambers
Date: Thursday, April 23, 2020 6:05:01 PM

Hello Tony,

I wrote you previously but did not receive a response. It makes me wonder how much you are listening to the community as you claim. Nice words but seems like no follow up.

Jackson Hole is a revered place for both locals and tourists. Why? The scenic beauty and remoteness provide a setting unique in the US. Another very important aspect : serenity. This place has it in spades. People live here because of it. We live here to spend countless days in the mountains and rivers and enjoy these virtues.

Let's cut to the chase.

If you launch a helicopter tour operation, Jackson Hole will no longer be serene. Helicopters are noisy. We can hear them from miles away when they are performing the rescue or hospital missions. You can cite your decibel facts and figures, but we don't need them - we already hear them and know the nuisance noise level when they are in the air. Your proposed operation will ruin the serenity for the 15,000 or so locals in Jackson and the county where you plan to fly. All for the sake of a few tourists. After all the forums and feedback to date, the vast majority of locals do not want you to do this. We can imagine that a few years down the road, Tony Chambers will be the guy who ruined Jackson Hole, when there could be numerous choppers in the sky.

You are violating your own pledge to listen. You are violating an unwritten rule around here that we all abide by - to show goodwill to the majority who do not want this for a very good reason - it disregards all that we have all worked so hard for to keep this place serene , tranquil, and wild.

Why are you not listening to the wishes of the very substantial majority of your neighbors in this valley?

Please withdraw your application.

Thank you.

Bob and Susie Caspar

617-894-1287
617-830-0932 fax

From: [Robert Caspar](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: To Tony Chambers
Date: Thursday, April 23, 2020 6:05:01 PM

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Why are you not listening to the wishes of the very substantial majority of your neighbors in this valley?

Please withdraw your application.

Thank you.

Bob and Susie Caspar

617-894-1287
617-830-0932 fax

From: [Alexander Muromcew](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Upcoming JH Airport Board Meeting
Date: Tuesday, April 21, 2020 1:43:42 PM

Dear Board:

I do not think it is fair or appropriate to schedule a public meeting with only 3 days notice. It would be more respectful to the community, especially given some of the more controversial items on the agenda, to give us at least 7 days advance notice.

Sincerely,
Alexander Muromcew

From: [Joe Albright](#)
To: [Anna Valsing](#)
Subject: UPDATED STATEMENT for 4-24 Airport Board meeting
Date: Thursday, April 23, 2020 8:33:37 AM
Attachments: [2020-04-23 UPDDATED statement for airport board meeting 4-24.docx](#)

Anna -

here is a revised written statement that I would like to have read at tomorrow (4/24)'s Airport Board meeting on the Wind River Air application

Please send me a brief email saying you've received this.

FYI, I sent an advance copy to Jim Elwood this morning for his information.

Let me know if you have any questions. My cell phone is 307-730-0403.

All best, Joe

1-307-734-7788

Fax: 1-307-734-7887

E-mail: joe@flatcreekbranch.com

Web site: www.flatcreekbranch.com

Mailing address:

P.O. Box 9760

Jackson, WY 83002

From: [Tasso H. Coin, Jr.](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Cc: [Julie Birrer](#); [Dan Heist](#); [len purkis](#); [steve louis](#); [Joe Linklater \(wjl@bakermckenzie.com\)](#)
Subject: We vote no on proposed Helicopter Tours
Date: Monday, April 13, 2020 12:46:01 PM
Attachments: [PeregrineLogo_d5f814c7-6815-4266-b009-36a2ae17f91e.png](#)

We write to express our strong opposition to Wind River Aviation's proposal to operate helicopter tours from Jackson Hole Airport.

We understand that the proposed routes would fly east and south from the airport. The routes that you have proposed so far directly impact our neighborhood.

The Solitude Homeowners Association represents 89 homeowners.

We are located directly west of the airport and will be directly impacted by your operations. We already encounter the noise of the commercial and private aircraft operations as well as the visual disruptions those operations create. We strongly object to the addition of a tourist-oriented helicopter service that would add completely unnecessary noise and visual intrusion to our environment.

We understand that you claim there is a community benefit to the service. We see nothing but an additional burden on our already overtaxed wilderness area. At most you will fly only a handful of tourists a day while inconveniencing tens of thousands of residents and visitors who come here to experience what little we have left of wilderness. If there is a cost benefit analysis in this endeavor, it clearly favors abandoning any approval. We strongly urge you to do so.

The Solitude Board

Tasso H. Coin, Jr., CFA

Principal, Portfolio Manager

T: +1 612-343-7625 — **F:** +1 612-343-7631

tasso.coin@peregrine.com



Peregrine Capital Management

800 LaSalle Avenue, Suite 1850

Minneapolis, MN 55402

www.peregrine.com

From: [Neil Grimaldi](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Wind River Air - 4/17/20
Date: Thursday, April 16, 2020 11:21:00 PM

Dear Jackson Hole Airport Board,

I am writing to express my disapproval of any permittance of helicopter tours by Wind River Air based out of our airport and over and around our public lands.

I believe that such a permittance would be damaging to the character, environment and ambiance of our town, county and surrounding national park, forest and wilderness.

Most people who have moved to, or been born and raised in Teton County, Wyoming have done so at a serious cost and sacrifice. They have foregone more lucrative jobs in cities, more affordable housing and more stable lifestyles and living situations. They have made these sacrifices because of the natural landscape that has been preserved here in Northwestern Wyoming. Each year the threats to this landscape increase.

Homes and apartments are knocked down to build hotels, once-loved local businesses have their rents raised to be replaced by corporate conglomerates.

I admire the entrepreneurial spirit of Mr Chambers but my admiration is far outweighed by my fear of what could become if this permit is allowed.

I do not know how one helicopter tour operator will affect this valley. Will it be a constant buzzing as twice a day tours circle the elk refuge, the Gros Ventre and the Southern Tetons? How will it effect the local wildlife? Who will enforce the altitude regulations and park boundaries and how will they be able to do so diligently? Who and how many will benefit from this and how many will have to simply tolerate it, to their detriment?

But more than any of these questions I fear what kind of precedent will it set? In ten years will we see one heli-tour operator? Five? Ten? More? In twenty years? In fifty years?

Life is harder in Teton County than it was in years past. It is these types of decisions that will make a valley in which, years from now, no one may want to live, just visit.

I urge you to deny this permit and preserve the small-town character and rural wilderness of Jackson Hole, the Tetons and surrounding public lands.

Thank You,

Neil Grimaldi

From: [Liza Millet](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Wind River Air - 4/17/20
Date: Wednesday, April 15, 2020 12:15:01 PM

I cant think of many things less in line with our community values than loud helicopters disturbing the peace of the area and particularly Grand Teton National Park. Not to mention the effect on the animals and visitors who contributes so much to our local economy. I can see the reviews now - Loved the beautiful Teton until the noise of helicopters disturbed our attempt to enjoy nature.

Please keep our skies safe and quiet.

Liza Millet
Concerned citizen

From: helm.bill@gmail.com
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Wind River Air 17 April meeting
Date: Wednesday, April 15, 2020 1:50:40 PM

To the Jackson Hole Airport Board:

Please deny the application of Wind River Air to operate helicopter tours in Jackson Hole.

Pollution, both noise and turbine exhaust, is detrimental to our valley residents and our tourism based economy. Addressing climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions when and where ever possible is essential for the survival of our fragile ecosystem. We have enough turbine exhaust and noise with the commercial and private aircraft traffic that exist in our normal flight schedule. Please don't add to it by approving wasteful joyrides in rotary wing aircraft.
Thank-you for your consideration.

Bill Helm

From: [Fausone, William](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Wind River Air - Airport Board Meeting April 17, 2020
Date: Thursday, April 16, 2020 9:06:57 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[Letter to Airport Board re Wind River Aviation.docx](#)

Please see attached.

William M. Fausone

Senior Advisor | Chicago

Dir +1 847 698 8202 | Mob +1 847 309 6007

Main +1 847 698 8444 | Fax +1 847 698 8402

Bill.Fausone@Colliers.com

Colliers International

6250 N. River Road

Suite 11-100

Rosemont, IL 60018

www.colliers.com



From: [Heather M Walker](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: WIND RIVER AIR - April 17 8am
Date: Wednesday, April 15, 2020 3:08:01 PM

To the good people at the Airport Board in Jackson Hole:

You all have a tough job - to determine the appropriateness of the helicopter tours of a national park.

I beg you - please do not allow this! This is not something that benefits the poor or needy; this is not something that really benefits any Jackson Hole-minded tourist either - but it will definitely impact the wildlife! And when the wildlife is impacted, then the kind of tourist you want to attract to JH will not come. And to Mr. Tony Chambers, you are an entrepreneur - I trust you can find a way to make a living other than impacting the peace in the park.

Please - keep the park as pure and natural as possible. No helicopters!
Heather Walker

h e a t h e r w a l k e r
heather.m.walker@gmail.com
650-454-0104

From: [Janet Helm](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Wind River Air - April 17, 2020 meeting
Date: Thursday, April 16, 2020 9:59:42 AM

Please deny Wind River Air's application to operate helicopter tours.

Why?

Noise pollution: Over the 27 years I have lived in Jackson Hole, when I hear a helicopter overhead, I know a life is being saved. I am thankful for our search and rescue and medical personnel, sometimes endangering their lives to save another. That noise interruption brings gratefulness. A helicopter for joyrides? A curse needlessly destroying peace for thousands who live and visit here for a few passengers onboard, whose own lives could be endangered by a potentially unsafe helicopter.

Air pollution: Flight enplanements increased 42% between 2016 and 2020 (per Councilor Jonathan's Schechter's report 4/12/20). This engine exhaust already threatens our flora, fauna, and our lungs. Don't add to it. I have had asthma all my life and moved here like many others, to escape pollution. Our visitors expect clean air in a quiet environment.

Our lives are fragile. Our ecosystem is fragile. Never has this been more apparent than now, during the Coronavirus pandemic. The world is now experiencing the revival of clean air, quiet skies, and clean water. Let's maintain it.

Jackson Hole is fragile. If our community won't protect it, who will?

Janet Helm

From: [Andrew H Chekian](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Cc: [Erin chekian](#)
Subject: Wind River Air - April 17, 2020
Date: Wednesday, April 15, 2020 2:09:39 PM
Attachments: [2019-july.png](#)

Dear Airport Board:

My family and I reside at 3250 W Bridger Road in Wilson. Since we built our home in 1994, we have seen a steady erosion to the piece and tranquility of the Valley.

Each decade has seen another major blow to the charm and quiet of the area, endless commercial permits have been approved; gravel and construction trucks/equipment, loud and electrified parties on the SRR and other "ranch" areas, as well as balloon tours.

The ugly and true facts are that once you allow a "temporary" permit for a commercial entity in the Valley, rules and processes go out the window. Worse, the County DOES NOT have the resources to properly manage/police what is now permitted. Please see the attached photos of balloons not 20 feet above ground in a wild life easement in front of my home. These and other infractions are constant and getting the County Compliance Officer to do anything about them is impossible.

We oppose the Wind River Air application to run helicopter tours around our public land. It would another development contributing the destruction of a once magical place.

Sincerely,

Andrew and Erin Chekian
3250 W Bridger Road

From: [Kristin Hegedusch](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Wind River Air - April 17, 2020
Date: Thursday, April 16, 2020 4:23:39 PM

Dear Members of the Jackson Airport Board,

Not only are helicopter tours dangerous and fatal, but they're also loud and will disturb the serenity in Grand Teton National Park. Please think of the families who've lost their loved ones in a helicopter in recent months. We haven't forgotten Kobe Bryant and the eight other passengers who died in January. In December 2019, the island of Kauai had a helicopter crash that killed four people. Do not permit (what could be) preventable deaths on innocent people. Do not allow this land to be exploited. Please consider public safety and continue to preserve the tranquility in our park.

Thank you,
Kristin Hegedusch

From: [Diane Galbraith](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: WIND RIVER AIR APRIL 17, 2020
Date: Friday, April 17, 2020 10:19:22 AM

ALAN AND DIANE GALBRAITH

We are strongly opposed to Wind River Air operating a helicopter scenic tour business over Jackson Hole based on safety concerns, wildlife and environmental concerns. Safety concerns are the R44 helicopter operating at high elevations and the potential interference with medivac and mountain rescue helicopters. We are very concerned with the impact on our Jackson Hole wildlife particularly in the Kelly and Gros Ventre Mtn areas. Furthermore it will impact the quickly diminishing peace and quiet of our beloved valley. To date no Environmental Impact Statement has been conducted which should be the first priority before any decision can be made on Wind River Air application. For these reasons we strongly oppose a scenic helicopter business in JH.

These comments are submitted late because we thought we would be making these remarks live during the public meeting which we understand was ended prematurely due to technical difficulties. We hope you will include this in your official transcript as if it were read during the live meeting which died! Thank you.

Alan and Diane Galbraith

From: [Steve Feldman](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Wind River Air - April 17, 2020
Date: Wednesday, April 15, 2020 1:01:47 PM

Dear Airport Board:

My family and I reside at 3150 Bridger Road in Wilson. I oppose the Wind River Air application to run helicopter tours around our public land. I have witnessed first hand hot air balloons in our Valley hovering over and harrassing a herd of elk. The noise that will travel through our neighborhoods will also be a nuisance. What if the helicopter crashes, putting our first responders at risk as well as possibly starting a wildfire? Kobe Bryant is still fresh.

Regards,

Steve Feldman
3150 Bridger Road

From: [Nikki Kaufman](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Wind River Air - April 17th Meeting
Date: Thursday, April 16, 2020 10:07:23 PM

Dear Jackson Hole Airport Board,

I am writing as a concerned citizen of Teton County asking you to deny a permit application to Wind River Aid LLC. Our community fought hard to prevent this 20 years ago, and the sentiment has not changed. I urge you to please listen to the opinions of community members, rather than someone trying to turn a profit with no concern of climate pollution, the detrimental impacts on our wildlife, and with a blatant disregard for our public lands as a rare and fleeting (especially in this distressing time) place of solace. Escaping into our quiet wilderness areas is what gives us the mental strength and energy to go above and beyond while working our butts off in this chaotic service economy. Please do not take that away.

Thank you kindly,
Nikki Kaufman

From: [Linore Wallace](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Wind River Air - April 24, 2020
Date: Wednesday, April 22, 2020 10:15:40 AM

In regards to the meeting scheduled for April 24, 2020 involving Wind River Air's application for helicopter tours, I request that this non-essential and controversial matter be postponed until the public can meaningfully engage in person.

If this matter can not be postponed, I would like to be on record as opposing this intrusive and non-essential operation of helicopter tours out of the Jackson Hole Airport. Due to COVID19, we have seen less air traffic in and out of Jackson and the reduction of noise and air pollution in the valley has been significant. The Jackson Hole Airport is essential to the economy of our community but helicopter tours are not. If they must operate helicopter tours they should consider flying out of a different airport and over a different valley.

**Thank you, Linore Wallace
PO Box 3366, Jackson, WY 83001**

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From: [GERI MARIA JOHNSON](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Wind River Air - April 24
Date: Friday, April 24, 2020 1:39:40 AM

To the Airport Board

It behooves every Wyomingite to insist that pollution of any kind be discouraged on our public lands. This applies to unwelcomed noise pollution as well. An increasingly important asset of our state, our wilderness regions must remain a respite from the stresses of modern living.

Please deny Mr. Chambers and Wind River Air permission to disturb the serenity of the extremely enticing and exceptionally scenic Jackson area.

Thank you so much.

Geri Maria Johnson 757-232-7083

811 East 17th Street Cheyenne 82001

mariafreedomjonson@gmail.com

peace

We're all just walking each other home! Ram Dass

From: [Arne Johanson](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Wind River Air - Item V
Date: Monday, April 13, 2020 6:33:06 PM

No to flights over wilderness.
No to motor noise were tranquility is in order.
No to unwanted intrusion.
No to added risk of wildfire.
No to what the community rejects.
No to a very, very bad idea.
No to selfish greed.No to air tours anywhere near wilderness.
No to Wind Air!

Arne Johanson
600 Meadowlark Road
Jackson

From: [Laura Bonich](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Wind River Air - Meeting April 17 2020
Date: Wednesday, April 15, 2020 10:48:09 AM

I am opposed to any scenic flights over the public lands in the greater Jackson Hole area. Hiking and enjoying nature is completely different if you can hear a helicopter - they are very loud and sound carries. It is also very disruptive to wildlife because the sound from the helicopter masks other sounds the animals would normally hear - like the approach of humans making those interactions more likely with potentially negative consequences.

--

Laura Bonich, PE, LEED AP
645 Pine Drive
Jackson, Wyoming 83002
775-340-5346
lauraabonich@gmail.com

From: [Sara Dery](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Wind River Air - Meeting April 17, 2020
Date: Wednesday, April 15, 2020 11:33:07 AM

To Whom It May Concern,

As a local of the Jackson Hole area, and someone who has spent all 24 years of my life enjoying the Tetons, I wanted to express my utmost concern about the Scenic Helicopter Tours that have been proposed. I do NOT support having scenic helicopter tours in this community for a few reasons; First, I believe it will drastically affect the wildlife that have resided in this area long before we did. Second, I love spending my time outdoors for the peace and serenity that nature and being in the mountains brings, and the sound of a helicopter will change that, not just for me but everyone who calls this community "home", as well as the wildlife. Third, we do not need a reason for more tourists to come to this area. Yes, we are a community that thrives on tourism for portions of the year, but its the locals and the generational families who have preserved this Town that make it special. Our community does not have the capacity, nor the need for another "tourism only" based activity. We need to preserve our community, which includes all the wildlife, for the future of Jackson Hole.

I DO NOT support the Scenic Helicopter Tours proposal and hope that as a "born and raised" local of this community, my opinion will be heard.

Thank you for your time and careful consideration of this decision.

Sara Dery

From: phdivjak@aol.com
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Wind River Air - Mtg. April 17, 2020
Date: Thursday, April 16, 2020 2:20:27 PM

Comment:

Other than to make a few dollars, there is no reason to have Wind River helicopter tours of the Nat. Park. There are, and have been for years, many other means to successfully enjoy this precious gift without the disturbance of helicopter noise. My neighbors, our HOA Board and I are opposed to this proposal and have made the Wind River owner aware of our opposition. Our homes are near the airport and we don't need, or want, the tours and added noise pollution they will bring !!

Question:

Would the proposed helicopter tours be accessed via the main terminal through TSA security or the private terminal without security ?? If the later, who is responsible for a deviant helicopter customer ?

Respectfully,

Paul H. Divjak

From: [Nancy Shea](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Wind River Air - public meeting April 17, 2020
Date: Wednesday, April 15, 2020 8:53:11 AM

April 17, 2020 –

I thank the Airport Board for receiving my comments. I ask Mr. Chambers to please withdraw his application for his pleasure-based helicopter scenic tours. Our only hope for ending this nightmare is for Mr. Chambers to step down and do the right thing. I am a Kelly resident. The flight plan is intrusive. It will disturb wildlife along the Gros Ventre corridor. I watch moose, deer, lions, bears, sage grouse, sandhill cranes, ravens, and many other species use this important habitat. It is tough enough for wildlife now given climate changes. I find it so objectionable that Mr. Chambers would think that pleasure for tourists outweighs protecting wildlife. He cannot compensate for the intrusion no matter how much 'education or research' he plans to support. If he does not withdraw his application, he faces boycotts and picket lines.

Nancy Shea, PhD
PO Box 85, Kelly, WY. 83011
307-690-1730
nhshea@gmail.com

From: [Barb Fields](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Wind River Air
Date: Monday, April 20, 2020 2:11:55 PM

Hello -

I want to express my disagreement with the proposal for Wind River Air to fly heli tours around the Jackson Hole/Greater Yellowstone area. It is my opinion that this will be a huge disservice to the wildlife and people both residing in and visiting Jackson Hole. In addition, although it may be legal, it doesn't seem safe given the quickly changing weather patterns, mountains and difficulties with flying in this area. Please vote NO on this proposal.

Thank you -

Barb Fields
307-733-6927
307-699-1858

From: [Tony Scaffide](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Wind River Air
Date: Thursday, April 16, 2020 6:13:56 AM

I am in support of Wind River Air, LLC doing tours around our public lands. I believe the public lands should be enjoyed by everyone and being able to see them in different ways is a huge advantage to enjoy our outdoors. I am hopeful that you will approve Wind River Air, LLC in running their business here.

Thank you,
Tony Scaffide (full time resident)
Jackson, Wyoming
307-690-5170

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Johanna Wildnauer](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Wind River air
Date: Thursday, April 16, 2020 10:14:54 PM

To whom it may concern,

I'm troubled to hear the possibility of heli tours in this area. Any time there is a helicopter in this area is VERY noticeable due to noise. I am concerned how this would affect wildlife and the overall valley population, human and animal. Please say no to this application!

From: [Michael Doak](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Wind River AIR / April 17 meeting
Date: Wednesday, April 15, 2020 9:01:23 AM

Dear Airport Board and Wind River Air,

As a resident near the airport, we have serious concerns about the potential for helicopter tours departing from Jackson Hole airport. We have a number of concerns:

- * Why is this process taking place in the middle of the COVID-19 crisis?
- * What are the sound and safety implications for residents near the airport (helicopters are clearly less safe than fixed wing aircraft)?
- * And finally, why would our community permit and encourage further human encroachment, noise and pollution in Teton National Park?

Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions, but our family opposes this effort.

Regards,

Michael Doak
mjdoak@me.com

From: [zahan billimoria](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Wind River Air 04/17
Date: Wednesday, April 15, 2020 9:06:32 AM

Dear Airport Board,

I hope this finds you well. Able to stay healthy and safe. I'm writing to express my strongest dismay at the prospect of the helicopter operator being allowed to offer tours in our national park.

As a long time exum guide, climber and backcountry skier - I have spent much of my life enjoying and promoting the wilderness experience. Helicopters soaring around destroy that experience. Silence and the sense of being in a remote place are inherent to the wilderness experience, if you introduce commercial helicopter tours - you undermine that rare experience.

We have to recognize the uniqueness of having an airport in a national park, that involves compromises for the airport, and the wilderness visitors in the park - that's balance that we have struck. Adding helicopters is a bridge too far.

Thank you for reading my comment.

Z

Zahan Billimoria
Samsara Mountain Experience
Exum Mountain Guide
208 709 0858

From: [Henry Sollitt](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Wind River Air 04/17/20 Airport Board Meeting
Date: Thursday, April 16, 2020 10:04:16 PM

Dear Jackson Hole Airport Board,

It is with great concern that I write to you this evening, in a time of national and global strife. My concern emanates from a decision that you are faced with that will determine the fate of one of the greatest of America's resources. Given the current issues faced by our nation today, I fundamentally believe that the appropriate amount of thought and consideration to such a monumental decision cannot take place. I therefore implore that Mr. Chambers postpone his application until a time when public comment can be made in person.

Helicopters in Grand Teton National Park damage the integrity of the park as a resource in every way. In a world, and in a nation, where mechanization, automatization, and pollution expand at exponential rates, in every facet of our lives, the American national park system represents the last true bastion for humans to truly be in nature. The introduction of helicopter tours to the park alter that experience to the point of destroying it. My experience in Grand Canyon National Park showed me that the difference between the experience for users within the park, and users within the Bureau of Land Management segment of the canyon where helicopter tours are allowed are fundamentally different. The park serves a far greater good to many more people, by allowing them to have one of a kind experiences of countless varieties interacting with a natural wonder that is the Canyon itself. Those experiences are echoed in the unique wonders and serenity of GTNP. Those experiences are not and will not ever be the same with the beating of Helicopter propellers, on the hour, in every corner of one of the last, greatest preserved landscapes in the world.

Grand Teton National Park is already a park full of compromise. Sold water rights, a dam, inholdings, and an airport all mark compromises that we as a nation have made to the vision of the national park system. Any more compromises and that vision, one of the unique and defining characteristics of our country, means little more than filler for text on a park brochure. Please do not allow for helicopter tours in Grand Teton National Park. It stands in stark contrast with everything that national parks represent and would be fatal to the one we call home.

Sincerely,

Henry Sollitt

From: jvangelder@tcsd.org
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Wind River Air 4/17
Date: Friday, April 17, 2020 7:33:03 AM

Please No Heli Tours! For the wildlife, for the people, for the environmental damage of crash debris, Please No Heli Tours!

Julie Van Gelder, Jackson, WY

Sent from my iPhone

From: [dds700bookwizard](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Wind River Air 4/23/20
Date: Tuesday, April 21, 2020 7:35:30 PM

To: Airport Board and Wind River Air

The introduction of scenic helicopter tours is detrimental to the soundscape ecology of Jackson Hole. Electro-mechanical noises, in this case from helicopters, produce a negative effect on many organisms who have evolved to respond to acoustic cues that emanate primarily from undisturbed habitats. Organisms that use acoustic cues generated by their prey are particularly impacted by human-altered soundscapes.

Please consider denying this proposal to retain the soundscape ecology and health of various organisms in the area. These soundscapes also have benefits for human wellbeing and help generate a distinct sense of place, connect people to the environment, and provide aesthetic experiences.

Thank you,

Angela Jordan

Sent with [ProtonMail](#) Secure Email.

From: [Mike Cavaroc](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Wind River Air 4/24/20 Comment
Date: Friday, April 24, 2020 7:28:18 AM

Hello - I submitted a comment last week while the meeting was having technical difficulties last week. Once instructions to connect to the meeting for today are posted, I would like to retract that comment so that I can read aloud a revised version.

Thank you!

- Mike

Free Roaming Photography
www.FreeRoamingPhotography.com
www.FreeRoamingDesigns.com
307-699-2835

"Don't pursue happiness. Create it."
-Fortune Cookie

From: [Jamie Monroe](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Wind River Air 4/24/2020
Date: Wednesday, April 22, 2020 10:32:43 AM

Dear Airport Board,

Please consider postponing all non-essential and controversial matters (including Wind River Air) until the public can engage in person.

Jamie Monroe
wyoingdocjm@gmail.com

From: [Jan Momchilovich](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Wind River Air 4-17-20
Date: Friday, April 17, 2020 8:53:33 AM

Please ban scenic helicopter tours in Jackson Hole.

Helicopters are loud and can be heard for long periods of time by both animals and humans.

Animals need quiet from machines.

Humans need to be able to visit a place where there is some peace and quiet.

Being in the middle of our public lands and having machines fly overhead destroys that peace and quiet that both humans and animals need.

Thanks,

Jan Momchilovich
40 year resident of Teton County

From: [shadymueller.](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Wind River Air 4-17-2020 Airport Board Meeting
Date: Friday, April 17, 2020 7:51:52 AM

Dear Airport Board and Wind River Air,

I am very much against scenic helicopter tours in Jackson Hole. While this is an incredible way to see the area, and probably a very good source of income for Wind River Air, this will have impacts on the greater ecosystem including people, animals, and land. This will use fossil fuels at an alarming rate, as well as create air, noise, and visual pollution. Our plants and animals will suffer from this. I think the overall health and beauty of our area far outweighs the economic benefit to one entity.

Thank you,
Julie Mueller

From: [Alexander Muromcew](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Wind River Air and April 17 Airport Board Meeting
Date: Wednesday, April 15, 2020 4:22:06 PM

Dear JH Airport Board,

I am writing to deliver public comment on the proposal by Tony Chambers and Wind River Air to operate a "heli-tour" operation out of the airport. The airport has received a petition signed by over 1700 community members opposing the tours in addition to letters from the Town Council, the County Commissioners, and Grand Teton National Park Acting Superintendent in opposition. The message is clear.

These tours will benefit a select clientele while they will negatively impact area residents and all visitors to the Grand Teton National Park and surrounding areas. The Board has also received comments citing the unreliable safety record of this model of helicopter.

With the community under a "shelter in place" order due to the covid outbreak, is this really the time to be considering this proposal?

Please vote NO.

Alex Muromcew

Alexander Muromcew
P.O. Box 11897
Jackson, WY 83002
307-690-0968

From: [Jennifer Reichert](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Wind River AIR and April 17, 2020
Date: Friday, April 17, 2020 10:04:47 AM

Dear JH Airport Board,

Imagine hiking miles into a pristine alpine lake, launching your fly out onto the water, watching for a hit, and suddenly a helicopter is zooming in circling the lake for a view for spectators.

WILD LANDS, WILDERNESS, OUTDOOR RECREATION and WILD LIFE are what our guests and visitors come to JH for. Please don't destroy our and their experiences in JH. There are so few truly WILD places left on this planet, please do NOT ALLOW ANYONE TO OPERATE SCENIC SIGHTSEEING TOURS in our county's airspace.

thank you, Jennifer

Jennifer Reichert

307-699-0016

NEW EMAIL: jenreichertjh@gmail.com

From: [Robert Caspar](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Cc: [Susie Caspar](#); [Robert Caspar](#)
Subject: Wind River Air application, April 24 2020 board meeting
Date: Thursday, April 23, 2020 10:26:41 PM

To members of the board:

Lets cut to the chase.

Daily helicopter tours flying around Teton Counties (Wyoming and Idaho) will ruin the experience of Jackson Hole, particularly the peace and serenity that is a crucial element of this revered place. The proposed operation will ruin it for the 15,000 plus of us who make this our home. Our valley will no longer be serene, or revered. It could also be said that in the long run, it will cheapen the Jackson Hole experience. Visitors don't come here to have daily helicopter flights buzzing by as they float the Snake, fish Pacific Creek, hike Table mountain, or travel by horse through the wilderness - to name a few.

Please apply to your review the most stringent standards regarding environmental, safety, and commercial aspects of such an operation, and to the extent possible, take into account the damage that will result to the vast majority of residents. As we have heard at other meetings on this topic, there have been concerns raised about many safety and environmental issues, with mostly generalizations offered by Wind River Air in response. Similar tour operations have incurred numerous crashes in the past, therefore, the proposed operation must be required to (1) meet the most stringent safety, environmental, and operational standards, and (2) finance rescue and environmental reparations.

Please do not approve the permit...but if you must, not with out these stringent requirements being thoughtfully developed and carefully implemented.

Respectfully,

Susie and Bob Caspar
620 Snow King Drive

From: [Todd Warden](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Wind River Air Application
Date: Thursday, April 16, 2020 9:43:40 AM

Please, please, please DO NOT allow this application and service to move forward.

I live in Teton Canyon and the thought of helicopters flying overhead as well as disturbing the peace and tranquility of the forest and wilderness there are almost too much to comprehend. This will have a major and deleterious affect on residence and all the use and recreate on our public lands. Allowing an air assault on all for an individual to profit is unjust and just plain wrong. Please do the right thing and preserve the peace and natural beauty that we have here and why we live here. Never has it been more apparent how important nature and tranquility are, and there is no justification for allowing this kind of profiteering.

Thanks,

Todd E Warden

From: [john labrec](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Wind river Air application
Date: Friday, April 17, 2020 7:24:41 AM

I am strongly opposed to this business in Jackson Hole. I have three reasons for this.

1. The residents and tourists. Both live and visit here for the beauty and tranquility the backcountry offers. Neither wants to hear the loud helicopter noise while recreating in the areas where these flights will occur.
2. The wildlife. These flights will greatly affect the numerous wildlife that co-exist in these areas. Some of which only reside in the Teton mountain range like the mountain goats, bighorn sheep and the wolverine. Further, many of the wildlife is very stressed during our harsh winters and the flights and noise created will further inhibit their ability to survive.
3. I don't trust the safety of these helicopters. A crash would be catastrophic to the safety of the passengers, the pilot, and all the people below recreating under these flights. Not to mention the harm to the environment.

Tony Chambers, please consider all these factors, the community members you live with, and withdraw your application.

Thank you,
John LaBrec

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

From: [FDR](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Wind River Air application
Date: Friday, April 17, 2020 6:15:57 AM

Dear Board Members,

I strongly oppose using the Jackson Hole Airport as a launchpad for scenic helicopter tours, by Wind River Air or any other applicant. Sitting inside the Grand Teton National Park as it does, the Airport has an extra responsibility to curb its enthusiasm for expanding usage that causes disturbance to the Park's intended use, which is to preserve for current and future citizens and visitors the natural beauty in its pre-industrial conditions. Helicopters create noxious noise pollution and objectionable disturbance to the stunning visual scenery, and should therefore be used only for emergency purposes, such as rescue and firefighting, in the Park. Tourism for a few is a terrible trade-off for the loss of serenity for the many.

Sincerely,
Ferrill Roll
20 S. Pines Edge Lane
Wilson, WY 83014

Sent from my iPad

From: [Susan Marsh](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Wind River Air April 17 2020 Airport Board Meeting
Date: Thursday, April 16, 2020 3:31:42 PM

I have lived in Jackson since 1988. I served as the Bridger-Teton National Forest's recreation and wilderness staff until my retirement in 2010. Proposals for scenic flights over national forest backcountry and wilderness areas have long been of concern to the Forest Service for the following reasons.

People go to the forest to encounter nature and get away from the noise and disturbance of machinery. If the flight routes remain as proposed, disruption of public fishing, hunting, camping, hiking, and enjoying the natural sounds and beauty of the forests is inevitable. The Jedediah Smith Wilderness would be particularly affected.

The national forests are meant to provide for the greatest good, serving the many and not just a few. Scenic helicopter flights, which serve those who can afford them, can spoil the experience of many others, not to mention valley residents.

Flights crossing the National Elk Refuge would disturb wildlife including pronghorns and bighorn sheep, which are easily disturbed by aircraft.

I'm also concerned about the number of daily flights proposed and the possible hazards of additional air traffic particularly during fire season and other emergencies. Thank you.

Susan Marsh

From: [Kristin Combs](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Wind River Air April 17 2020 Meeting
Date: Thursday, April 16, 2020 6:02:33 PM

We have previously submitted comments on the proposal from Wind River Air to operate helicopter tours in Jackson Hole, but are offering this comment to be read out loud at the meeting on Friday, April 17. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

On behalf of our thousands of supporters both within Wyoming and throughout the nation, we submit a strong plea to both the Jackson Hole Airport Board and Tony Chambers of Wind River Air to discontinue pursuing helicopter tours in and around Jackson Hole and Teton Valley, Idaho.

Helicopter tours will have potentially severe negative effects on wildlife, especially the Teton Range Bighorn Sheep Herd which are on the verge of extinction. Studies have shown that high-alpine wildlife including bighorn sheep, bears, and nesting raptors are affected by helicopter noise that last well beyond the time that the helicopter is overhead. For example, sheep in escape terrain cannot show obvious stress by running to escape terrain as they are already there and aircraft can significantly impact behavior by bears during times of increased calorie intake before hibernation giving them less energy to last through the winter. The Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem is facing dire threats from human encroachment, it's quite short-sighted to have disturbing helicopter tours for recreational uses that have the potential to negatively impact the survival of wildlife. We are the stewards of the GYE and wildlife are counting on us to protect them, let's not let them down.

*Thank you,
Kristin Combs
Executive Director
Wyoming Wildlife Advocates*

Resources:

Brambillaa, A. & Brivio, F. (2018). Assessing the effects of helicopter disturbance in a mountain ungulate on different time scales. *Mammalian Biology* 90, 30-37.
doi.org/10.1016/j.mambio.2018.02.0011616-5047

Churchill, B. & Holland, B. (2003). Wildlife and aircraft operation: Assessment of impacts, mitigation and recommendations for best management practices in the Peace Region. A report for the Ministry of Water, Land, and Air Protection, Chillborne Environmental, Ltd, Fort St. John, British Columbia.

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Executive Director
[Wyoming Wildlife Advocates](#)

PO Box 1772
Wilson, WY 83014
(307) 413-4116

From: [BILL REINECKE](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Wind River Air April 17 meeting
Date: Wednesday, April 15, 2020 1:04:30 PM

Dear Airport Board,

Having been a commercial pilot as well as having ridden once in a helicopter I can attest that it would be great thrill for anyone seeing our beautiful land from this vantage; can we please weigh the great thrill had by a few riders against the great damage and harm done to the peace, the beauty, the stillness and the well being of so many, both human and animal, that live here?

Jackson Hole is to be enjoyed. It is not to be harmed nor consumed.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

William Reinecke

From: don101246@aol.com
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Wind River Air April 17,2020
Date: Wednesday, April 15, 2020 6:05:38 PM

Good morning,

April 15,2020

Although we don't live in Jackson, we are frequent visitors there. We enjoy the wildlife and old west atmosphere of the community and feel helicopter tours would be detrimental to the area. I don't like the idea of spotting wildlife in a very quiet spot only to have a helicopter fly over disturbing the scene with noise and scaring the animal off. As regular tourists to the area we would be against this tour addition to Jackson. In our home town of East Windsor CT we live a mile from a small private airport and only 10 miles from Bradley International Airport. We know how disturbing the noise is from both large and small aircraft as well as many size helicopters which frequently fly overhead. We urge you to vote against allowing this in Jackson.

Joan Nordell

Sincerely, Don &

From: [Mark Schweizer](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Wind River Air April 17
Date: Wednesday, April 15, 2020 2:21:14 PM

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: Mark Schweizer <markus7280@yahoo.com>
To: "publiccomment@jhairportboard.org" <publiccomment@jhairportboard.org>
Sent: Wednesday, April 15, 2020, 02:17:33 PM MDT
Subject: Wind River Air April 17

As a resident of Teton County I oppose the permit for helicopter tours from the airport. This activity does not belong in Jackson Hole, it will ruin the wilderness character of the area. Once one permit is granted, more will be sought, and then what reality will we be facing? If you have been to the beautiful island of Kauai then you know. The airport board as well as a majority of the community and visitors must be aware what helicopter tours will do to our peaceful and wild surroundings. Once rights are granted it is nearly impossible to take them away, so why would we not reject the application outright or at least take time to study the ramifications? Please do not ruin the wilderness character of Teton County.

Thank you,
Mark

From: [Shivani Pecht](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Wind River Air-- April 17th
Date: Wednesday, April 15, 2020 2:16:55 PM

Thank you to the Airport Board for opening this up to the voices within the community.

I have a deep connection to nature and spend most of my free time running trails, paddle boarding, canoeing, fishing, cycling, etc.. What I cherish the most is what can be heard in the stillness—the tune of a bird, the sound the wind makes as it moves through the trees, the babbling creek or soaring river, the hooves hitting the earth as a group of deer or elk take off, hearing the faint sounds of butterflies, crickets, grasshoppers.... to imagine hearing a helicopter instead crushes me.

My eyes delight on seeing the sun rise and set against the stark rocks in the mountains and the rich, blue sky with puffy clouds. What an eye sore to look up and see helicopters. I do not feel I am alone in this way of connecting with nature and if I had a choice to go to a park and really experience the majestic nature it has to offer or listen/see helicopters above me it choice would be obvious.

Please do not destroy the beauty of nature with helicopters.

Thank you.

with love and grace~

Shivani

From: [Ron Razzolini](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Wind River Air April 24, 2020 Meeting
Date: Wednesday, April 22, 2020 9:23:47 AM

We have all seen and read of the potential safety issues related to the operation of the helicopter proposed by the applicant, especially one operated at altitudes present in our area. The impact to our ecosystem, as well as the strain placed on our first responders, should an unfortunate event occur, far outweighs any perceived benefit gained by a select few individuals associated with or patronizing this proposed endeavor.

Motorized conveyance is not allowed in designated wilderness areas for a number of very legitimate reasons, including the effort to maintain the pristine wilderness experience, why should anyone have to endure this same intrusion from overhead?

If you elect to approve Wind River Air's application, I implore you to place specific restrictions on the permit that would allow for it to be suspended immediately if any safety or operational violations are noted; and upon investigation, to be revoked if those violations are found to be true. In addition, that a financial bond be obtained and maintained that would cover any and all costs associated with firefighting and / or rescue efforts related to Wind River Air's operations on any public lands.

Thank you,

Ron Razzolini

Teton Valley Idaho

From: [Cynthia Blankenship](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Wind River Air April 24, 2020
Date: Thursday, April 23, 2020 5:06:53 PM

Dear JH Airport Board,

I am writing, once again, to state that I am emphatically OPPOSED to helicopter tours of western Wyoming and eastern Idaho as proposed by Wind River Air. There are a myriad reasons for this: noise pollution, wildlife distress/stress, safety concerns, severe degradation to outdoor experiences such as hiking, camping, fishing, etc.

I also request that you postpone all non-essential and controversial matters--like intrusive helicopter tours--until the public can meaningfully engage in person.

And if you absolutely must issue a permit to WRA, please put significant conditions on any permit, such as requiring a bond to pay for rescue efforts and wildfire extinguishment caused by helicopter tour crashes on public lands.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Cynthia Blankenship

From: [Joanna Sjoberg](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Wind River Air April 24th Meeting
Date: Wednesday, April 22, 2020 9:32:58 AM

Hello,

I am writing to express my concern about the potential helicopter tour approval by the airport board. Scenic helicopter tours are detrimental to our community and public lands – whether it's due to wildlife impacts, wilderness character, wildfire risks, safety hazards, or climate pollution. The negatives that come from allowing Helicopter tours far outweigh the positives. The damage it could cause to our public lands will be irreversible. Protecting our community and public lands should be more important than any positive that would come from approving these tours. The airport board should postpone discussing non-essential matters such as helicopter tours until the public can engage meaningfully in person. Our community is focused on their health and the well-being of others while we are in the midst of experiencing COVID-19. It's my sincere hope that the airport board will choose to postpone this meeting and wait for the appropriate time to address this issue, having the community as your number one priority.

Thank you,
Joanna Sjoberg

From: [Frances H. Clark](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Wind River Air comment for April 17, 2020
Date: Wednesday, April 15, 2020 12:27:12 PM

Dear Airport Board Members and Tony,

Unfortunately, I oppose the Wind River Air permit because it is detrimental to the community, damages surrounding natural lands and experiences, and benefits a very few people to the detriment of most. This business is intrinsically disruptive in context of the nature of Jackson Hole. And despite Tony's credentials, accidents happen and have happened with this helicopter model. A wild fire set by a crash would be devastating.

As a resident of Wilson, the helicopter trips would be right over my head. Helicopters in our valley are rare, and a sign of an emergency. Elsewhere, they are also emergency vehicles, used in reporting traffic, and in combating wars. A large thumping machine flying overhead is innately disturbing to humans.

Helicopters are also disruptive to wildlife large to small, such as bighorn sheep, elk, moose, owls, songbirds, amphibians, who run, become silent, or freeze in place, and rev up their hearts to dangerous levels. Their sensitive ears magnify the sounds and their fear instinct is not overcome by logic. This is not the enterprise for national parks or wilderness areas or for our human community.

Please deny this request.

Thank you,

Frances Clark

Wilson, WY

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From: [Tucker Smith](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Cc: [Jean Smith](#)
Subject: Wind River Air comment
Date: Wednesday, April 15, 2020 10:20:53 AM

This comment is for the April 17 meeting concerning Wind River Air. We do not want the irritating noise of the helicopters over our Moulton Loop home, nor do we want the disturbance to the solitude of the Park and backcountry. Thank you for doing everything you can to stop this further degradation of Jackson Hole.

Tucker and Jean Smith

From: [Teri Gilfilen](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Wind River Air Comment
Date: Wednesday, April 15, 2020 12:06:43 PM

Greetings, this comment is in opposition to Wind River Air and for the April 17th 9am public meeting. I am adamantly against Wind River Air bringing helicopter tours into our pristine wildlife Grand Teton Park and surrounding habitats.

It is not an essential activity... for what is the main draw of our wildlife and natural park... which is... the serenity and interconnectedness of humanity with their natural surroundings.

The abusive agitating sound of helicopters will invade and interfere with all wildlife's daily deserved life activities that create what Grand Teton system was created for... natural wildlife habitat for the preservation of these delicate natural systems.

The consistent degrading of this delicate system can and will create more unbalance of natural movements and migrations.

For humanities sake; we NEED these sacred spaces for exactly the same reason as the wild ones... a balanced body, mind and spirit. The system in place is required to preserve and to recreate... Recreation is not only a physical experience but also a mental and spiritual practice.

Lets think about the greater good and long term effects for the future of All involved. Remember this...

Save our Sacred Spaces...Say NO to Wind River Air or any other disruptive non essential invasive business in our undomesticated beautiful valley.

Please think clearly and see the greater picture here...

Thank you for listening...

Teri Gilfilen & Alan Willes
Teritg@gmail.com
307-690-3153

Sent from my iPhone

From: [J Cory Curtis](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Wind River Air comment: meeting date Friday, April 17. OPPOSED
Date: Wednesday, April 15, 2020 8:12:52 PM

As a fourth generation Jackson resident I am opposed to Wind River Air's application. It is clear the community is not behind this intrusive and egregious sightseeing service. We must protect our wild lands and air spaces. To continue this process during a global pandemic when people can't show up in person to voice their opposition is a dereliction of duty. Postpone and cancel this application process.

Thank you,
Cory Curtis

From: [James Springer](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Wind River Air comments, April 24 meeting
Date: Thursday, April 23, 2020 10:14:18 PM

Jackson Hole Airport Board

For 35 seasons I spent several weeks a year climbing, hiking and camping along the Teton Crest. This is directly under the proposed commercial flight path. The area is protected from the frequent jet's roar that bathes the east slopes of the Tetons.

On the crest the air is very quiet. The area is travelled by thousands of hikers from late spring well into the fall. There are few places where such a sense of wilderness with natural soundscapes can be found within a day's walk.

Hikers along the Teton Crest trail currently awaken to the call of eagles and hawks, the squeek of the Pika and Marmots' whistles. You might hear the whoosh of the wings of a falcon diving after its prey. The rustle of wind on the ridgetops working through stunted white bark pines and subalpine firs is the theme song of this country.

All of this will be drowned out by helicopters flying overhead. I would hope that if Mr. Chambers insists on pursuing his business that he re-examine potential routes and avoid this, the most precious resource of the region.

Thank You,

James Springer

2680 Pizza Lane, Wilson WY

From: [Jim Carpenter](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Wind River Air Discussion April 24th 2020
Date: Thursday, April 23, 2020 10:04:33 PM

I have been a resident at 3540 W. McCollister drive since 2004 and was a visitor to region prior since 1984. I vehemently oppose Scenic Heli Tours in Jackson Hole. In my view anyone who would approve this initiative had either a) never appreciated the calm, quiet , and beauty of the wilderness, or b)has never heard the loud, pulsing air displacement of a nearby helicopter. On a walk today approaching the Park on Moose Wilson Road I experienced it with an unknown helicopter. This will destroy one of the core attractions of the area. It also is a give to the wealthy tourist who can afford such a trip, at the expense of the everyday person who benefits from the area serenity.

Jim Carpenter
Managing Partner
J. Carpenter and Co.
1001 Boston Post Road
Darien, CT 06820
(O) 203 669 9881
(CE) 917 678 0165

From: [Elizabeth King](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Wind River Air Friday April 17 Airport board meeting
Date: Wednesday, April 15, 2020 10:09:37 AM

Dear Airport Board and Wind River Air,

I am writing to voice my disapproval of Wind River Air LLC's application for helicopter tours over our public lands. There has been much voiced about the safety concerns for these tours. I would like to focus on the environmental impact of the tours which includes fuel use, emissions, and noise pollution. One LLC would have incredible environmental impact on our valley if this permit is approved and the proposed tours are so contrary to the reason to why most of us live here. Even if I didn't live under one of the proposed flight paths I would still be writing this email. I didn't move here to hear helicopters overhead everyday. These tours are such an assault on the power of place in our valley.

I sincerely hope that the airport board does not approve the permit for helicopter tours. If these happen it would be such a blight on our valley.

Elizabeth King
4590 W. Stilson Ranch Road
Wilson, WY 83014

From: [jessica travis](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Wind River Air Friday April 17
Date: Thursday, April 16, 2020 9:23:32 PM

To whom it may concern,

The idea of having helicopters running directly over town and over public lands is terrible. No one wants to hear or see them on a daily basis. This town is not a just for tourists, we live here too! National Park land is for the Wildlife, and for people to quietly enjoy via nature hikes and site seeing. Helicopters are loud and invasive to the Wildlife and Naturists enjoying the land for what it is. Please don't do this here, it is not the space for it. Don't disrupt the small town and what National Park we have left.

Sincerely,
Jessica Travis

From: [Robert Rowen](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Wind River Air Friday April 17
Date: Wednesday, April 15, 2020 10:11:14 AM

Please do not approve the application of Wind River Air to do scenic tours. Our beautiful and wonderful area already suffers from too much transportation noise of all kinds. Scenic helicopter tours create a hugely disproportionate amount of noise as compared to all other forms of transportation and tourism. This would be a terrible precedent and simply is not that important to our economy. It will severely impact the quality of life...severe when considering the very large number of people affected by the noise and the very small number of people creating such noise. Just say no! Please!

Bob Rowen
Victor, Idaho

From: [Richard Carson](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Wind River Air Heli Flights
Date: Thursday, April 23, 2020 8:35:25 AM

To the JH Airport Board,

I am opposed to allowing Wind River Air to operate scenic flights over the Jackson Hole area. This scenic, pristine and wild life rich area of our country is not somewhere noisy and disturbing low level air flights should be allowed. It is out of place and offensive to everything we all have moved here to achieve. In the corridors they fly it will be detrimental to property values, the noise will be upsetting to wild and domestic animals as well as valley residents their guests and visitors. Flights of this nature are out of place in this environment. Please disallow Wind River's application to do so.

Thank you.

Richard Carson

Valley Resident and Homeowner for 25 years.

From: [Joey Sackett](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Wind River Air HELI NO - April 24
Date: Wednesday, April 22, 2020 7:26:13 PM

First and foremost, please postpone all **non-essential and controversial matters--like intrusive helicopter tours--until the public can meaningfully engage in person.**

Secondly, do we want Wind River Air flying around our pristine landscapes? HELI NO.

Our landscape brings in millions of people a year. And then our economy runs off the people that are drawn here by that same beautiful landscape. Why would we Jeopardize, even in the slightest, that natural beauty for one greedy business? It's a simple answer. HELI NO
Loud noises constantly flying overhead? HELI NO. Ruining spectacular views? HELI NO. Photobombing tourists' family photos? HELI NO.

No thank you.

--

Joey Sackett
(630) 624-7042

From: [Mike May](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Wind River Air Heli Operation - Public comment for Friday, April 17th meeting
Date: Thursday, April 16, 2020 5:58:25 PM

To all parties concerned,

I'm am writing today to express my clear and total opposition to scenic helicopter tours out of Jackson Hole Airport. This is a road we've traveled before and as a community, we have said time and time again, Heli-No.

Please do not put the wishes of Wind River Air above the needs of our community, including public safety, wildlife stewardship and the freedom to live here and recreate on our public lands without the unnecessary and oppressive intrusion of noise from incessant helicopter flights.

I've read where the airport board has claimed (to the effect) that "this is on the FAA, we have to consider it." To which I say, OK - you may have to consider it, but you do not have to approve it. So please, do NOT approve this application.

You don't need to look much further than places like Kauai, HI, Sedona, AZ and the Grand Canyon for examples on how a tour company like this will negatively affect Jackson. It may line the pockets of a few, but will seriously and negatively affect many, many more - residents and visitors alike.

Sincerely, Mike S. May

Jackson, Wyoming

From: [Bernie Wirth](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Wind River Air Heli Permit
Date: Friday, April 10, 2020 5:52:21 PM

I live on Meadow Rd approximately 2 miles northwest of the JH airport. I strongly object to the proposal by Wind River Air to commence heli tours with take off and landings at the airport inside GTNP. These tours will serve no useful community purpose and will have substantial negative impacts on noise, wildlife, emissions and human safety. It is hard to even imagine why the only airport located inside a National Park in the US would even contemplate such an action. We are stewards of the natural resources that we have in such abundance in Teton County and must stand together to block senseless commercialization. As many others have said more eloquently than I, HELI No to this application!!

Bernie Wirth
PO Box 206
Moose, WY

From: [bruce walker](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: wind river air heli permit
Date: Thursday, April 23, 2020 11:53:21 AM

Do we want scenic helicopter tours circling our lands, wildlife, and people?

Definitely NOT! It's already busier and noisier all the time!
PLEASE don't allow this permit to happen.

And why is this being pushed through during a pandemic when we can't meet in person to discuss it?
Why isn't this being postponed?!

The Airport Board should at the very least put significant conditions on any permit, such as requiring a bond to pay for rescue efforts and wildfire extinguishment caused by helicopter tour crashes on public lands.
(Which, you know, will eventually happen.)

There's a reason we love living here and it's not because we love having helicopter noise over our heads when we enjoy the Park!
How about a bike rental permit instead?

sincerely,
Bruce W.

From: [Renee Seidler](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Cc: [Jon Mobeck](#); [Kate Gersh](#); [Kyle Kissock](#); [\(Brunan84@gmail.com\)](#)
Subject: Wind River Air Heli Tour comments from JHWF
Date: Friday, April 24, 2020 7:53:04 AM
Attachments: [Wind River Air Heli-Tour Proposal Comments JHWF for JH Airport Board 4.24.2020.pdf](#)

Please find attached our comments regarding the proposed Wind River Air Heli Tours.
Thank you for considering.

Kindly,
Renee Seidler

From: [Dan Creighton](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Wind River Air Heli Tour Proposal
Date: Friday, April 24, 2020 9:38:09 AM

Dear JHA Board,

I am writing to add my voice to those opposed to helicopter tours proposed by Wind River Air. Tony's proposed operation will be a nuisance to homeowners, tourists and local residents living, hiking and camping along his proposed routes. His routes cross areas where I hunt and may drive wildlife away causing additional hunting pressure on areas outside of his planned routes. I have real concern for homeowners on the flight path. Their property values will be significantly impacted by Wind River Air. I can only be thankful that I am not on the flight path.

I am not an air safety expert but there have been significant issues raised by opponents of the proposal. The FAA has dropped the ball on this type of activity. It allows a wealthy few to gain a few hours of privilege at the expense of the masses and risk of accidents.

Dan Creighton
832-331-2308



Virus-free. www.avg.com

From: [Tom Wuthrich](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Wind River air heli tours
Date: Tuesday, April 21, 2020 4:31:48 PM

It seems like heli tours are just the next step before heli skiing in the Tetons. I know I appreciate not hearing the drone of aircraft over the Tetons when I'm recreating there. There are plenty of mountains around the near vicinity that offer scenic vistas. We do not need to open the door to this kind of traffic, or worse, in the Tetons.

From: [Dan Willert](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Wind River Air Helicopter flight application
Date: Thursday, April 16, 2020 1:33:43 PM

Dear Sirs:

Once again Teton County and surrounding areas are faced with more intrusion into the public's enjoyment of the scenic outdoors of Grand Teton National Park as well as National Forest. Wind River Air and Tony Chambers wish to degrade these national treasures by essentially "defecating in their own nest" for the sake of private profits with no discernible good to the public.

Have we learned nothing from the negative experiences of the Grand Canyon flights?

These unnecessary flights are designed primarily for the few wealthy individuals, resulting in a noisy, negative display over our community which is not compatible with our natural surroundings; the reason why most people love Jackson Hole.

Please deny this application.

Thank you.

Dan Willert
dan@thewillerts.com

208.313.3334 c

From: [Blake Funston](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Wind River Air Helicopter Tour Meeting April 17 2020
Date: Thursday, April 16, 2020 10:20:04 PM

As a former resident of Jackson and a frequent visitor to the Jackson Hole area , I oppose everything about the potential for Wind River Air to be able conduct scenic helicopter flights conducted out of the Jackson Hole airport. Jackson Hole is an amazing place, however, it has now become an often overcrowded tourist destination with a fragile mountain ecosystem that is best enjoyed with silence if possible. Helicopters create lots of noise even in places that one would think are far from noise. The noise of helicopters roar and will disturb both wildlife and people.

Blake Funston

--

Blake Funston

Social Media Director
Powderchasers.com
blake.ellis.funston@gmail.com
[415-717-8223](tel:415-717-8223)



From: [Kim Cornelson](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Wind River Air Helicopter Tours Proposal/April 24, 2020
Date: Thursday, April 23, 2020 7:55:46 AM

Airport Board and Tony Chambers,

As residents of Wilson, Wyoming, my family and I are strongly opposed to the proposal to fly helicopter tours in and around the Teton Mountains. The extreme disruption, noise, pollution and safety hazards involved in this proposed venture are obvious and contrary to our collective community values and our position as stewards of this great national treasure. We urge the Board and all of our community leaders to take all lawful steps to stop this harmful and divisive venture.

Additionally, the fact that the hearing is being held via video conference in the midst of a pandemic as we are all on shut down violates the spirit of the public hearing required and has further eroded public trust. I urge the Board and Tony Chambers to withdraw this petition and defer hearings and decisions on this issue and all other non-essential matters until such time as full, in person hearings can be held so that the community can safely provide comment and the proposal is fully vetted. We are confident that a full and meaningful airing of the negative impact this business will have on our county and region will demonstrate how unwelcome and harmful this proposed venture truly is. Moving forward and granting this petition in this environment with limited public comment and while the community is grappling with an unprecedented health and economic crisis will cause irretrievable harm to our community and its trust in its leaders.

Sincerely,

Kim Cornelson

From: [Shepard "Doc" Humphries](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Wind River Air Helicopter Tours
Date: Wednesday, April 15, 2020 1:52:28 PM

I am excited to see this wonderful activity return to Jackson Hole. We are fortunate to live in a such a beautiful area, and I get giddy when I think of all of the people that will be able to enjoy the wonderful views from new perspectives and in a way that has been absent for so long.

Shepard Humphries
Jackson Hole, Wyoming



Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail. If you choose to print this email out on paper, what effect will it have? By using more paper, you are sending an economic market signal to the pulpwood industry that more of their product is needed. They will plant more trees to meet this demand. So, if you like trees and want more of them: use more paper! If you want more government subsidized diesel trucks hauling chemicals to more government subsidized recycling plants; then recycle the paper you print or do not print this email. This will also send market signals to the tree farmers that they can plant fewer trees.

From: bill@goschmids.com
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Wind River Air Helicopter Tours
Date: Monday, April 13, 2020 8:17:43 PM

Dear Chairman Braun and members of the Board,

We've been visiting and living in Jackson Hole for over 40 years. This is an incredibly special place! The combination of national parks, forests and the most majestic mountains in North America is unique in this world. It is, therefore, incomprehensible we are debating the creation of a scenic helicopter service that would mar the views, sound and feel of this beautiful area.

Chairman Braun stated at the December 18th Board meeting that "We strive to operate with best practices for our environment, its wildlife, our community and guests." Of the four constituents in that statement, how many are being served by a scenic helicopter service? We see only one, guests. In business, satisfying one of four goals would be considered a failure.

There aren't many places left where you can immerse yourself in silence 15 minutes from a world-class airport. Noise from our airport has been admirably controlled and limited. But, imagine a quiet hike into Death Canyon shattered by the sound of an EC135 blasting over you at 80+ decibels (that's louder than your lawnmower). Wildlife sightings will also become a thing of the past.

Is the noise pollution, invasion of privacy and sight of these things buzzing in front of our beautiful mountains for the sake of a few dollars really worth it?

Respectfully,
Bill & Cathy Schmid

From: [Loevner, David](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Wind River Air Helitour application
Date: Thursday, April 16, 2020 8:01:12 PM

Dear Sirs,

I offer my strenuous objection to permitting helitours to fly from JH Airport. Leaving aside the local residents, who are unanimously opposed to this abomination, each year some 2 to 3 million tourists on their hard won vacations visit GTNP and our beautiful “hole” to enjoy their scenery, wildlife and stillness—the experience of which will be badly marred by a handful of selfish helitourists and the unprincipled opportunists who would take their money, consequences be damned.

Sincerely,
David Loevner
Wilson, WY

From: [Judy Allen](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Wind River Air heli-tours
Date: Wednesday, April 15, 2020 1:16:45 PM

Please record my comments as being opposed to the approval of helicopter flights over the Jackson Hole area by Wind River Air. As a tourist, I have visited areas of our country where scenic helicopter flights have been operable, and the operation of these flights has had a severe negative impact on the quality of my experience. The noise and visual impact of these flights will also negatively affect wildlife. These environmental effects impact everyone, while the economic benefits will impact only a few. Please reject the application of Wind River Air to conduct these flights.

Thank you.

Judy Allen

P.O. Box 660
2159 E 3000 S
Driggs, ID 83422
208-709-1246

From: [Paul Mangold](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Wind River air heli-tours
Date: Thursday, April 16, 2020 12:36:05 PM

I am opposed to heli tours in and around the Tetons. The visual disruption, noise and wildlife impacts will affect all of us so this company can benefit financially. I did not move to this area because it was like everywhere else. If we do not safe guard against this type of encroachment than the Tetons will loose their soul.

From: [Gina Patterson](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Wind River Air LLC- 4/17/20 - Opposition
Date: Friday, April 17, 2020 7:56:37 AM

I oppose the proposal for the Wind River Air LLC Helicopter Tours. Consideration of this during this moment in history is particularly insensitive.

Please respect the sanctity of the wildlife that call the skies home and this natural land that we are fortunate to not only experience for a few days but to also call home. Please respect the people that choose to live in the quiet - the silence that makes Jackson a place worth fighting to live in.

It's already shocking while walking, listening to a symphony of birds and wildlife to then be jolted out of the communion by the sound of an airplane. How dreadful to think of a new reality of a constant influx of jarring helicopter noise and pollution. Have we not learned anything about the human destruction of our lands and the natural world through this global pandemic? Please allow a broader consciousness to propel the decisions of how we are choosing to contribute to the world at large...hopefully to it's betterment - With actions that support a thriving quiet and pristine natural world, that will support future generations in the ways that truly matter.

Thank you,

Gina Patterson

~~~

[ginapatterson.com](http://ginapatterson.com)

512-731-1518

“Out beyond ideas of wrongdoing and rightdoing there is a field.

I'll meet you there.”

~ Rumi

**From:** [Julien Hass](#)  
**To:** [publiccomment](#)  
**Subject:** Wind River Air LLC Friday April 17th  
**Date:** Friday, April 17, 2020 6:52:36 AM

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This is in response to Wind River Air being considered for a permit to operate near the Grand Teton National Park.

I am against this not solely because of the incessant buzzing, but more so because of the detriment it will be for the community and the area. While I was walking up Cache Creek, I heard a woodpecker, and barely saw it. I then heard a helicopter, for over a minute. Low enough to fully drown out and scare away the bird and any other wildlife in the area. This is a scenario that will repeat itself multiple times during the day in various areas of our valley. Elk and bears will hide from it. Tourists, on foot and by car, will stop to look at yet another curiosity.

This will bring no lodging tax revenue, no hotel or food revenue. Minimal positive community impact, maximum irritation. The clients will be shown a partial view of the mountains, great views of the top of the trees, ant like humans, and unlikely, scared animals. This will be a loss of revenue in the next few years, as comments will read "Tony, thanks for showing us the trees!"

Thank you,

Julien Hass  
307 920 0747  
[julien.hass@gmail.com](mailto:julien.hass@gmail.com)

**From:** [Susan Watts](#)  
**To:** [publiccomment](#)  
**Subject:** Wind River Air LLC permit  
**Date:** Friday, April 17, 2020 7:58:20 AM

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Good Morning,

My name is Susan Watts, I have had a home in Jackson Golf and Tennis for 26 years. I am pleased to report that my interactions with the airport board have always been taken seriously and cooperatively. These concerns have been about flight patterns, excessive noise and fuel dumping.

Today I am adding my voice to those in opposition to the Wind River application. Plane noise is one thing, the thrumming of helicopters is visceral and disruptive. As Alice in Wonderland said; "It takes all the running you can do to keep in the same place" which is the ongoing battle to preserve the Jackson that is so special. Please, no helicopters except for emergencies.

Sincerely, Susan Watts

**From:** [andylang@att.net](mailto:andylang@att.net)  
**To:** [publiccomment](mailto:publiccomment)  
**Subject:** Wind River Air LLC  
**Date:** Thursday, April 23, 2020 2:39:16 PM

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**From:** andylang@att.net <andylang@att.net>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 23, 2020 2:35 PM  
**To:** 'publiccommnet@jhairport.org' <publiccommnet@jhairport.org>  
**Subject:** Wind River Air LLC

*To the Board Members of the Jackson Hole Airport:*

I am communicating to you with respect to the proposed Helicopter Tours by Wind River Air, LLC from Jackson Hole Airport. I reside in Teton County on West Gros Ventre Butte. These helicopter tours will likely use airspace above our community and will significantly detract from the peace and serenity we enjoy living here in Jackson. Significantly, we have a meaningful population of moose, elk, deer, bear and many of the other local wildlife. The endangered sage grouse reside in our community. The noise from these machines (helicopters) will likely create significant disturbance to these wildlife. Needless to say, it will also detract from our peaceful enjoyment of our home. I reside here for more than half of the year and do not want to listen to helicopter traffic throughout the day and peak seasons of enjoyment in Jackson Hole. Therefore, I respectfully request that you do what you in discussions with the FAA and other regulatory bodies to block the licensing of this activity in Jackson Hole.

Respectfully,  
Andy Lang

*William A. Lang*  
750 N. Bar Y Road/P.O. Box 6928  
Jackson, WY 83002  
832-444-9498 (mobile)  
[andylang@att.net](mailto:andylang@att.net)

**From:** [Georgene Tozzi](#)  
**To:** [publiccomment](#)  
**Subject:** Wind River Air LLC  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 21, 2020 10:52:00 PM

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I live in Wilson and am opposed to any helicopter tours over the valley . The noise will be very disturbing to the people in addition upsetting our wonderful wildlife.  
Georgene Tozzi

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Mike Cavaroc](#)  
**To:** [publiccomment](#)  
**Subject:** Wind River Air Meeting - 4/17/2020  
**Date:** Friday, April 17, 2020 9:37:33 AM

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Hello, I know it's a little late, but given the technical issues, I just wanted to submit a public comment in the event I'm not able to during the meeting. Thank you!

Less than a week ago, my wife and I gave birth to a healthy baby girl. One of the aspects about this area that makes us excited to raise a child in is the easy access to silence. It's one of the many things that drew us to this place, and I'm sure it's the same for many people tuning in this morning. Across the lower 48, access to true silence is rapidly disappearing, much like wilderness and the night sky. The landscape we call home, is one of the last remaining places in the lower 48 with easy access to silence. This underrated component of the area isn't just a luxury, but a basic human biological necessity. It's been shown to lower blood pressure, preventing heart attacks, boost the body's immune system, benefit brain chemistry by growing new cells, and decrease stress by lowering blood cortisol levels and adrenaline. And now it's under threat from being permanently eradicated from the wilderness surrounding Jackson Hole and the area we call home. Not just for humans, but also for the wildlife that add such a unique component to this region. Wind River air and helicopter tours in general will forever alter this landscape, consistently stressing out our wildlife, and removing one of the last places on the map in the lower 48 that people can access silence to balance out stresses of their day to day lives. And these are all perfectly legitimate reasons to be concerned about someone coming in and operating helicopter tours in the area, but the one concern that raises the scariest red flag for me, is the blatant disregard for the well-being of this area and its citizens. For someone to come in here, facing virtually unanimous opposition, with absolutely no concern for the assets that make this area so unique and special, with complete apathy for the wildlife, is a serious warning sign for how that person will interact with the community in years to come. On top of that, this opens a Pandora's box of unwanted air traffic and noise that will never be closed once opened. This isn't a few nimbys that don't want noise over their heads, but rather, this is a community that is united in an understanding of what makes Jackson Hole so special, and how significant of a threat this activity is to the long-term well-being of our home. I strongly encourage both the airport board and Tony Chambers to reconsider this application, before he single handedly tarnishes so many of the unparalleled traits that make this area special and one of a kind, and to allow our daughter the chance to appreciate every aspect about Jackson Hole that we currently do. Thank you.

- Mike

Free Roaming Photography  
[www.FreeRoamingPhotography.com](http://www.FreeRoamingPhotography.com)  
[www.FreeRoamingDesigns.com](http://www.FreeRoamingDesigns.com)  
307-699-2835

*"Don't pursue happiness. Create it."*  
-Fortune Cookie





**From:** [Carole Sider](#)  
**To:** [publiccomment](#)  
**Cc:** [clare@jhalliance.org](mailto:clare@jhalliance.org)  
**Subject:** Wind River Air meeting - April 24, 2020  
**Date:** Thursday, April 23, 2020 5:52:00 PM

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My family and I vehemently oppose Chambers' helicopter tours from the JH Airport.

We live in the Bar-B-Bar subdivision, on Spring Gulch Road, and have for 25 years. The neighborhoods near the airport (border Park boundary) will be unacceptably impacted. Wind River Air will hover over/along our homes, both to and from, on every single take-off, flight and landing – several times a day. There will be no home unaffected by the excessive noise, pollution, and invasion of privacy. Additionally, this will negatively affect property values. Would YOU want to live near the pad and flight path? We are already inundated by air traffic. This will tip the scale to unacceptable.

Chambers "right" to excessively impact our peace, health and property values cannot be allowed to supersede our right to prevent this violation. Many will be forced to endure the substantial daily/hourly nuisance for the benefit of one. And once Wind River Air is in, others will follow suit; it will set precedent.

PLEASE DENY this application!!

Should the Airport Board approve this permit, please impose significant conditions, such as requiring a bond to pay for rescue efforts and wildfire extinguishment caused by helicopter tour crashes on public lands.

Carole Sider

**From:** [Dave Wipper](#)  
**To:** [publiccomment](#)  
**Subject:** Wind River Air meeting 4.24.2020  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 22, 2020 8:48:39 AM

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To the members of Airport Board:

The essence of Jackson Hole and Grand Teton National Park is the definition of natural beauty. We all agree that tourism is a fundamental right of all people, but helicopter flights will infringe on literally every other niche of the wilderness that we all have come to enjoy peacefully on a daily basis.

Please do not allow helicopter tours.

Respectfully,

Dave Wipper

**From:** [Eugenie Copp](#)  
**To:** [publiccomment](#)  
**Subject:** Wind River Air Meeting 4/17/2020  
**Date:** Friday, April 17, 2020 9:11:26 AM

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My name is Eugenie Copp,  
I live in Jackson Wyoming .

I would like to address the Airport Board and Wind River Air directly and ask them to delay or postpone the application by Mr. Chambers until a time when the community at large can justly weigh in on this application.

Consider these facts.

Robinson R44 wrong ship.  
Highest fatal accident rate from 2006 to 2016.  
Service ceiling is 14,000 ft.  
Above 10,000 feet the ship must carry oxygen for passengers adding more weight.  
With a maximum of 3 paying passengers plus pilot this does not seem to be a viable business model.  
Regulations "request" flying 2,000 feet above Park terrain.

These things I know because I helped the pilots that flew the Park research planes counting sheep,wolves, bears,goats,elk, wolverines and recovering tracking collars.  
I know the little yellow plane that people shook their fists at as they skinned into the mountains,sailed in the lake, climbed on the Grand Teton for experiences of a lifetime.

And those flights were extremely limited.

I know the distance an animal runs when they hear a helicopter versus a plane.  
There is a big difference.  
It means business.  
It stresses them. It is harassment.  
The Park animals are habituated to planes  
but the sound of a helicopter means they are going to be chased and or shot at even if it is only a dart gun.

I am not in any way in favor of scenic flights in Grand Teton Park.

It is a bad idea for so very many reasons.

**From:** [Hannah Greene](#)  
**To:** [publiccomment](#)  
**Subject:** Wind River Air Meeting 4/17/2020  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 15, 2020 10:24:31 AM

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Dear Airport Board,

I am a Jackson resident of 13 years. I'd like to express to you that I highly oppose the helicopter tours that are being considered on Friday, April 17, 2020. I am urging Tony Chambers to at least postpone his application until the pandemic is over.

Respectfully,  
Hannah Greene

**From:** [Patty Reilly's Guided Connections](#)  
**To:** [publiccomment](#)  
**Subject:** Wind River Air meeting April 17- thank you  
**Date:** Friday, April 17, 2020 10:08:37 AM

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Dear airport board,

Your choice of considering helicopter flights by Wind River Air in Teton County is very questionable. Here is some input from myself including those of neighbors that asked me to pass it along- we live in Wilson, WY.

Helicopters should remain in the areas they have served most responsibly since their outset -those being medical emergency purposes, fire- fighting, rescue operations, scientific exploration and unfortunate war missions.

What would be the purpose of allowing helicopter tours over the town of Wilson and north into the Tetons south of GTNP?? It would sound like a "war zone for humans and wildlife". The noise impact is huge. Helicopter fly overs are terrifying for many as they are reminders of war zones.

We have one of the most pristine regions in the States- why would you consider introducing this business of helicopter flights? Who makes the profit here and for whose sake is the purpose? Just to entertain well- to do tourists? Why support one business that does nothing to support the wild nature that we all treasure here, and that is quickly diminishing elsewhere. Why introduce another invasive factor to our county?

Speaking for myself and neighbors we say an emphatic "No" to helicopter tours.

Thank you , Patricia Reilly

**From:** [Mike Cottingham](#)  
**To:** [publiccomment](#)  
**Cc:** [Nick Cottingham](#); [Andree Dean](#); [Virginia Lynch Dean](#); [Cottingham, Christopher](#); [Sarah Cottingham](#)  
**Subject:** Wind River Air Meeting April 17, 2020  
**Date:** Thursday, April 16, 2020 11:00:43 PM

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My name is Mike Cottingham and I have been a valley resident since 1975. I am the founder of Wilderness Adventures, a teen wilderness program, which has conducted backpacking trips into the Jedediah Smith, Gros Ventre, and Teton Wilderness areas, as well as in Grand Teton National Park since 1973. During this time period, over 18,000 of our students have been able to experience these natural ecosystems unencumbered by the intrusions of modern technology. They have enrolled in our programs in order to experience the solitude and peacefulness of these pristine environments. Permitting Wind River Air or anyone else to operate noisy, scenic helicopter flights over these lands will greatly diminish the wilderness experience our students have historically sought and would be a travesty for those seeking this experience in the future. Our Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem has always been special because of its unique wilderness character. Allowing Wind River Air to degrade this unique quality is wrong and unfair to all of our students and to the millions who come here every year to escape the noise pollution of urban life. Thank you.

**From:** [Joannie Epstein](#)  
**To:** [publiccomment](#)  
**Subject:** Wind River Air Meeting April 17, 2020  
**Date:** Thursday, April 16, 2020 10:27:28 AM

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To the Jackson Hole Airport Board and Tony Chambers,  
Concerning the application by Wind River Air to operate helicopter tours around our valley, bordering our parks, and through our forests, we would like to express our concerns that this proposal serves no positive benefits to our community now or in the future. Thank you for considering safety issues and the sanity of locals and travelers, who wish to explore nature quietly. Please do not approve this application. Heli No!  
Steve and Joannie Epstein

Sent from my iPad

**From:** [Sam Dykema](#)  
**To:** [publiccomment](#)  
**Subject:** Wind River Air- Meeting April 17, 2020  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 15, 2020 11:27:13 AM

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Hi

I'm Sam Dykema and I'm a local college senior who's lived and grown up in the valley for most my life and I want to chime in on what seems to be a hot button issue here as Summer approaches.

I am opposed to the proposed scenic flights over the public lands surrounding Jackson Hole. This town has incredible privilege and access to enjoy nature and minimizing our impact and ensuring the future of our lands should be of the utmost importance. Biking, Hiking, camping and the plethora of other ways locals and tourists love to enjoy nature is completely different if you can hear a whirring helicopter overhead. They are very loud and sound carries and echoes throughout our expansive wild areas. This could be massively disruptive to the wildlife that makes this place special while also potentially boosting the chances of negative animal-human interactions if they cannot hear the noises of approaching people(s) in the frequented recreation areas the proposed flight path would fly.

Our valley and the community's access to the outdoors is too sacred and too fragile to allow this kind of impact to be regarded as an acceptable to explore our environment. We are already so fortunate to have the plethora of low-impact methods already available to locals and tourists alike.

Thanks for your time and consideration, please make the right decision.

Regards,

Sam Dykema

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Samuel Dykema  
Indiana University 2020  
Aspiring Sports Media Professional



**From:** [Tenzing Coburn](#)  
**To:** [publiccomment](#)  
**Subject:** Wind River Air Meeting April 17th  
**Date:** Thursday, April 16, 2020 11:34:53 AM

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Dear Airport Board

Please do not allow the scenic Heli tours to go forth. I have grown up in this valley my entire life, and allowing such a thing to happen would be saddening and detrimental to our community. I have forever, and will forever, cherish our community and public lands here. As you know, the character of our community has been changing especially rapidly. Allowing private heli tours will only exacerbate this worsening of change. How can we sit idle and allow this to happen to our collective character?

Just scratching the surface here of consequences, these tours will create air and noise pollution, disturb wildlife, upset the locals who cherish the community and our public lands, and potentially deter future visitors. If you allow this, where do we draw the line? Do we then eventually grant permission to other heli tours and business that want to steamroll us into submission and who want to disrupt our way of life? Is it worth allowing this at the expense of all these consequences?

Best,  
Tenzing Coburn

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Tenzing Coburn  
POBOX 1022  
Wilson, WY 83014  
307-699-3982

**From:** [Leith Barker](#)  
**To:** [publiccomment](#)  
**Subject:** Wind River Air meeting April 24, 2020  
**Date:** Thursday, April 23, 2020 11:41:35 PM

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Dear Airport Board,

Thanks for the opportunity to comment.

First of all, I feel that it is morally inappropriate to even be discussing issues such as this during the current pandemic. This permit application should be postponed until life in JH has returned to as close to normal as possible.

It honestly seems a bit cowardly to try to push this permit through during a time when most local residents are worried about their lives and livelihoods due to Covid-19. Many folks are unaware of this meeting as they can't get the newspaper or the Daily papers.

It feels like a hidden agenda that is trying to sneak past the majority of residents before they are aware of it. Currently a "silent" enemy to the valley which will become a loud and toxic enemy if it is permitted.

If postponement is not possible, then count me as one who strongly opposes the proposed Helicopter tours.

Our valley should be as free as possible from the noise pollution and the airborne lead pollution that these tours would produce.

For the greater good (human and animal) please be on the right side of history on this and vote NO Helicopter Tours.

Sincerely,

Leith Barker  
Moose

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Linnea Gardner](#)  
**To:** [publiccomment](#)  
**Subject:** Wind River Air meeting April 24, 2020  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 22, 2020 9:40:56 AM

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To the Airport Board, Wind River Air and other concerned parties,

I would like to weigh in on the issue of Heli-Tours in the Jackson Hole Valley and surrounding areas.

Just my personal opinion, which may not mean much, but as a member of the public and having lived and worked here for many years I think it justified.

I ***don't*** think we should allow helicopter tours within this area. Too many compromises to the benefit of the few. We don't need the additional noise. Wildlife does not need the additional harassment. If you value the tourism that already exists within this valley and surrounding area, you will realize that they also come here to "get away" from these very intrusions. It is a large part of why I visited and later moved here.

Already my small quiet part of the valley has become subject to winter Heli-ski tours which I have found to be a huge intrusion on my personal space, solitude, and quiet. I have witnessed individual helicopters swooping up a small valley to show their clients a close-up of wildlife which I am sure was not sanctioned, and did not look legal. The point being that even with regulations in place, people will break them for an extra buck in their pocket, while others suffer for it.

Please take into consideration the impact such a venture will have on the skies, the area, the wildlife, the residents, and overall environment. Thank you.

Respectfully,

Linnea Gardner

Wilson, WY

307.734.6896

**From:** [Maddie McMillan](#)  
**To:** [publiccomment](#)  
**Subject:** Wind River Air meeting April 24th  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 22, 2020 10:50:04 AM

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I do not see the reasoning behind having these tours. The park is a "Wildlife First" belief and this is not taking care of them. It's hard enough on them with too many people around all summer and now you want to cause more noise and disturbance from up above. I vote NO to the tours.

**From:** [Amy Charlton](#)  
**To:** [publiccomment](#)  
**Subject:** Wind River Air Meeting Friday April 17th  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 15, 2020 10:29:34 AM

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Good morning!

As a home owner in Atla Wyoming I strongly oppose scenic air tours in Jackson County. The impact will be felt by all who live in the area on both sides of Teton Pass. Noise disruption for wildlife and all who call the valley home. Please consider opposing Scenic Helicopter Tours in the Teton, it is one of the few places left in this country that still feels on most days, "unspoiled".

Thank you.

Amy Charlton  
Alta, WY

**From:** [Andy Ankeny](#)  
**To:** [publiccomment](#)  
**Subject:** Wind River Air Meeting on April 17th  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 15, 2020 8:52:04 AM

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To the JH Airport Board,  
Please deny the permit to Wind River Air for their proposed scenic flight operation.  
There is a diversity of opinion in Teton County as there should be, but one thing most are united on - Our most valuable resource is the surrounding wild and natural resources. These resources are under threat from numerous and varied interests. They will not benefit from further intrusions. Undoubtedly some of the places that Wind River would fly over are Wilderness, which limit motor vehicle access.....I believe Helicopters fall in that category.  
Andy

Andy Ankeny, AIA  
Principal

**CLB Architects, P.C.**  
307 733 4000 | WY  
406 206 5554 | MT  
[clbarchitects.com](http://clbarchitects.com) | [instagram](#)

**From:** [Jeffrey Heilbrun](#)  
**To:** [publiccomment](#)  
**Cc:** [clare@jhalliance.org](mailto:clare@jhalliance.org)  
**Subject:** Wind River Air Meeting, 4-17-20  
**Date:** Thursday, April 16, 2020 3:29:32 PM

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To the board and Mr. Chambers:

Thank you for taking public comment on this critical decision.

I am a 33 year resident of Jackson with a home in Moulton Loop, south of the airport. I am against the proposed heli-tour operation. Jackson Hole Airport is unique inasmuch as it is the only airport within a national park. The necessity for this airport is for transportation in and out of our valley and while controversial in it's location within the park, it is essential for commerce. A heli-tour operation is not essential and the corresponding noise disturbance will contradict the serenity sought by those who visit and use our public lands. Beyond noise pollution, there is real danger in operating over increasingly dry public lands and would cause yet another risk to summer fires and the lives needed to fight those fires.

Jeff Heilbrun  
[jheilbrun@wyoming.com](mailto:jheilbrun@wyoming.com)  
307-690-1508

**From:** [Barb Dery](#)  
**To:** [publiccomment](#)  
**Subject:** Wind River Air Meeting, April 17, 2020  
**Date:** Thursday, April 16, 2020 8:22:08 PM

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I am writing to express my dismay that the Jackson Hole Airport Board is considering allowing scenic helicopter tours to operate out of JAC. As a former employee at JAC, I have spent many hours admiring the serenity during the down time between flights. The setting at the JAC airport is like no other. It is stunning. Driving in on airport road I have seen herds of elk, many moose, antelope and coyotes. The wildlife, with the Teton range in the background, always takes my breath away.

I am very concerned how the helicopter tours will affect the wildlife. I am concerned about the continual noise from the constant take offs and landings of the helicopters. I am concerned about the overall affect the tours will have on the whole character of the setting in Grand Teton National Park.

I plead with you, the JAC airport board, to deny access for these tours to Wind River Air, llc.

Thank you for considering my views.

Barb Dery

Victor, ID

Sent from my iPhone



**From:** [Chris Englund](#)  
**To:** [publiccomment](#)  
**Subject:** Wind River Air Meeting--4/17/20  
**Date:** Friday, April 17, 2020 9:55:00 AM

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I absolutely oppose having helicopter tours operating out of the JH Airport.

I've lived in Jackson Hole since 1975, and remember Kjerstad Helicopters operating flights over the Gros Ventre before it became a wilderness area. It was a terrible experience, having the sight and sound of helicopters destroying otherwise peaceful tranquility.

Chris Englund  
[MountainSufi@gmail.com](mailto:MountainSufi@gmail.com)  
307.690.0650

**From:** [Heidi Leeds](#)  
**To:** [publiccomment](#)  
**Subject:** Wind River Air Mtg April 17, 2020  
**Date:** Thursday, April 16, 2020 10:00:21 PM

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Dear Board,

We are writing with regard to the proposed operation of Wind River Air's helicopter scenic tours within Grand Teton National Park.

We join many other community members who question not only the safety of such an operation but the intrusion of unnecessary sound into this unique and fragile environment.

Nationwide, many have demonstrated their concern—hence, the proposed Safe and Quiet Skies Act.

As you know the Act seeks to prohibit tour flights within a half mile of wilderness areas, national parks,

and national wildlife refuges. We support this Act and hope that other communities, governmental agencies and other

governing bodies will as well.

In short, we respectfully request that the FAA revoke WRA's Letter of Authorization. We also request that the FAA complete the requested

environmental and safety studies.

Our national parks are, what Ken Burns described, "America's Best Idea".

Let's do what we can to keep them this way.

Sincerely,

Phil and Heidi Leeds  
Jackson, WY

**From:** [Joannie Epstein](#)  
**To:** [publiccomment](#)  
**Subject:** Wind River Air Mtg. Apr. 24, 2020  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 22, 2020 11:03:13 AM

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**We are against any kind of helicopter tours in and around our valley, forests, and parks. We are asking the Airport Board to ask Tony Chambers to listen to the majority of the citizens of Jackson Hole and withdraw his application for his helicopter tour business because it has no benefit to our community and poses safety, fire, and rescue issues.**

**At least, we are asking the Airport Board to encourage Tony Chambers to postpone his application to operate controversial helicopter tours until after this pandemic is over. In addition, we are demanding that the Airport Board include conditions on any permit, which must require a significant bond to pay for any and all rescue efforts and wildfire extinguishment caused by helicopter tour operations and crashes on public lands.**

**Thank you for addressing our concerns,**

**Joannie and Steve Epstein**



**From:** [Marilyn Couch](#)  
**To:** [publiccomment](#)  
**Subject:** Wind River Air Permit April 17, 2020  
**Date:** Friday, April 17, 2020 7:56:28 AM

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My name is Marilyn Couch I am a resident of Teton Valley, Idaho and Portland, Oregon. I strongly oppose the idea of allowing helicopter tours in and around the Tetons. We are fortunate to live so close to the Tetons and the wildlife that inhabit the public lands near-by.

It is because of the quiet and wilderness that we visit and live here. There are few places like this in America.

Adding the noise- buzzing of helicopters to our skies would disturb the wildlife and degrade the experience for those of us on the ground.

I was lucky enough to ride in a glider from the Driggs airport two years ago. The view, the stillness, the quiet was something I will never forget. Magical. No helicopters.

Thank you.

Marilyn Couch

**From:** [Hans N Flinch](#)  
**To:** [publiccomment](#)  
**Subject:** Wind River Air Permit 4/19 Meeting  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 15, 2020 8:47:45 AM

---

Good morning Airport Board and Wind River Air,

I am writing today to express my opposition to Wind River's permit application to run commercial helicopter tours. The applicants proposal will add a significant amount of noise and visual pollution to some of the last remaining areas of solitude in the Lower 48. The proposal to run commercial tours over The Gros Ventre and Jedediah Smith wilderness areas will disrupt wildlife, hunters, anglers and people simply seeking a rare quiet and solitude away from man made sounds.

We should be wary of adding noise to our already cluttered soundscape. I would urge the Airport Board to dent the permit and the applicant to reconsider his impacts on our community.

Thank you,  
Hans N Flinch  
1170 Brangus Dr.  
Jackson, WY 83001

Hans N. Flinch, PLA

**From:** [CarolFlick](#)  
**To:** [publiccomment](#)  
**Subject:** Wind River Air permit application April 17th  
**Date:** Thursday, April 16, 2020 10:10:46 AM

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Dear Airport Board

It is with a heavy heart and honestly, total disbelief, that it is even a consideration to allow helicopters to invade the beauty and solitude of our unique valley. Please take this time of crisis to slow down and reassess what is critical to keeping it as pristine as possible for the wildlife, nature and the people who treasure it.

Thank You for considering the bigger picture,

Carol & Jim Flick

**From:** [Cheryl Hayden](#)  
**To:** [publiccomment](#)  
**Subject:** Wind River Air permit application  
**Date:** Thursday, April 23, 2020 11:48:20 AM

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We are opposed to helicopter tours out of the Jackson Hole Airport. Please deny the Wind River Air permit application for helicopter tours.

Thank you,  
Cheryl and Tim Hayden



**From:** [Alice Stevenson](#)  
**To:** [publiccomment](#)  
**Subject:** Wind River Air permit application  
**Date:** Thursday, April 16, 2020 8:59:38 PM

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To: Airport Board  
RE: helicopter tours (Wind River Air, LLC)

I am writing these comments for the Virtual Airport Board meeting on Friday, April 17 at 9:00 a.m.

My family and I have lived in Teton County, ID or Teton County, WY for 50 years. The Tetons are our home, regardless of the arbitrary boundary between the two counties. We know what Jackson Hole was like before it became a home for the rich and famous or was inundated with millions of tourists. We, like most others, love the natural beauty and the bountiful wildlife—they are what makes Jackson Hole so special.

Helicopter tours, on the other hand, would make Jackson Hole cease to be special—no more solitude while hiking in the mountains, no peace for the critters who live in the Tetons or in the valley. The airport already brings lots of traffic and noise to Jackson Hole—please don't permit more. Helicopter tours over public lands are a bad idea.

I urge you to deny the permit for Wind River Air LLC.

Sincerely,  
Alice Stevenson

Alice J. Stevenson  
1101 E 5250 S  
Victor, ID 83455  
[alicejeanstevenson@gmail.com](mailto:alicejeanstevenson@gmail.com)  
208-201-2973

**From:** [Maggie Moore](#)  
**To:** [publiccomment](#)  
**Subject:** Wind River Air permit application  
**Date:** Thursday, April 16, 2020 8:33:40 PM

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Dear Airport Board,

Please do not move forward with Wind River Air's proposal to run scenic helicopter tours. The noise pollution would negatively impact the quality of life that we all enjoy, ruin the quiet idyll that visitors come here in search of and greatly disturb wildlife. Please vote to keep the public land that their tour routes would circumvent protected for the enjoyment of the entire PUBLIC and not open to exploitation for the profit of one man. Heli No.

Thank you for your careful consideration.

Sincerely,

Maggie Moore

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*Maggie Moore*  
Founder



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P.O. Box 1676  
Jackson, WY 83001  
203-610-2477

[www.artemisartadvisory.com](http://www.artemisartadvisory.com)

**From:** [Roble, Dan \(BILH - Legal\)](#)  
**To:** [publiccomment](#)  
**Cc:** [windriverair@gmail.com](mailto:windriverair@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** Wind River Air Permit at JH Airport  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 14, 2020 3:35:29 PM

---

Dear Airport Board Members: I support the application of Tony Chambers for a permit to provide scenic helicopter rides from the JH Airport. While Tony can provide these rides without a permit, he has chosen the permitting path to encourage community input. This community member salutes Tony for taking this path and looks forward to availing myself of his service. Thank you for your consideration of his permit application and this note in support. Dan Roble.

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**From:** [Karen Helm](#)  
**To:** [publiccomment](#)  
**Subject:** Wind River Air permit meeting 4/17/2020  
**Date:** Friday, April 17, 2020 6:29:34 AM

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To the JH Airport Board and Wind River Air,

Since when do we want the beauty and peace of our beloved public lands scarred by noisy, intrusive helicopters? For the sake of visitors to the Park, residents of Jackson Hole, and our treasured wildlife, please do not allow this permit to be granted. NO revenue stream quantifies the approval of this request by Wind River Air.

Thank you,  
Karen and Tom Helm  
Local Homeowners

**From:** [Andrew Russ](#)  
**To:** [publiccomment](#)  
**Cc:** [Sarah Russ](#); [clare@jhalliance.org](mailto:clare@jhalliance.org)  
**Subject:** Wind River Air Permit Meeting Friday, April 24th 8:00 AM  
**Date:** Thursday, April 23, 2020 4:47:13 PM

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To the Jackson Airport Board of Directors:

We are residents of Jackson, WY and we would like to request that the board members postpone all non-essential and controversial matters (like the permitting of intrusive helicopter tours) until the public can meaningfully engage in person. In the event you choose to move forward, we would like to make the following public comment:

*We are **strongly opposed** to helicopter tours. The Jackson Hole airport is the only airport located within a National Park. As such, it is appropriate and lawful to apply heightened permit scrutiny, and if approved – apply additional conditions on any permits to fly in and around a National Park. Especially when the sole purpose of the flight is recreational viewing. This flight path will include portions of Grand Teton National Park (for take off and landing), National Forests, and the National Elk Refuge – all areas founded with the intention to protect and preserve the natural environment and wildlife, Per the National Park Service’s mission “**To preserve unimpaired**”. The board must take into consideration the protection of that environment when evaluating this permit. We would argue that grants you the authority to deny this permit outright. In the event that you choose to move forward, we would request that you:*

- Require the financing of a study (supervised by GTNP) to identify the environmental impact these tours will have on local wildlife as well as the overall visitor experience.*
- Require a substantial bond to pay for rescue efforts and wildfire extinguishment caused by helicopter tour crashes on public lands.*

Thank you for considering this statement.

Sarah and Andrew Russ

Residents of Jackson, Wyoming

**From:** [Lisa Samford](#)  
**To:** [publiccomment](#)  
**Subject:** Wind River Air permit, April 17 meeting  
**Date:** Friday, April 17, 2020 7:40:05 AM

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Please do not approve this permit application, today.

A LOT more information and public input is needed. We are in the midst of a global pandemic, and most people have their attention focused elsewhere.

Helicopters are invasive in our special landscape. When I hear one, fly overhead, I say a quiet prayer for those being rescued or life-flighted, or for the fire fighting team trying to protect our community, knowing that the sound is a necessary assault.

There is simply no reason to encourage this kind of scenic "joy ride" at the expense of the people and creatures who live on the ground.

Vote "no" please.

Lisa Samford  
Wyoming Native, and Jackson Hole resident for more than 35 years.

**From:** [Tim O'Donoghue](#)  
**To:** [publiccomment](#)  
**Subject:** Wind River Air Permit  
**Date:** Thursday, April 16, 2020 2:33:26 PM

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Dear Jackson Hole Airport Board of Directors,

As is true throughout our community, I am aware of the eventuality of Wind River Air receiving a permit to operate out of the Jackson Hole Airport. While I won't repeat the many comments and reasons from our community that strongly oppose this, I wish to express our perspective as an organization that promotes environmental and social responsibility as part of our community's efforts to become more sustainable and realize the vision established by the Town and County to be "a world-leading sustainable community and destination."

The Jackson Hole Airport received BEST Certification due to your impressive, substantial commitment to environmental and community responsibility as demonstrated by your sustainability activities and results. For example, JAC's Fly Quiet program reflects your intent to minimize the negative impact upon the surrounding environment and community through mitigating noise that occurs over sensitive areas, including Grand Teton National Park and the surrounding national forest, as well as upon the quality of life of the neighboring community. The operations of Wind River Air directly conflicts with the Town and County's vision for our future, the purpose of the Fly Quiet Program, and the overall environmental and social responsibility commitment demonstrated by the Jackson Hole Airport that is highly valued by our community.

For these reasons, we highly recommend that if a operating permit must be approved for Wind River Air, then the Jackson Hole Airport Board of Directors imposes the strictest conditions possible to the fullest extent your authority allows upon Wind River Air.

Very sincerely,

Timothy O'Donoghue, Executive Director  
Riverwind Foundation  
Jackson Hole & Yellowstone Sustainable Destination Program  
PO Box 13190  
Jackson, WY 83002  
[Riverwind@wyoming.com](mailto:Riverwind@wyoming.com)  
<http://www.sustainabledestination.org>  
(307) 690-3316 (cell)  
(307) 739-9023 (home office)

**From:** [Chuck Taylor](#)  
**To:** [publiccomment](#)  
**Subject:** Wind River Air proposal being considered April 17, 2020  
**Date:** Thursday, April 16, 2020 1:35:49 PM

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Dear Airport Board Members -

My name is Charles Taylor and I live in Victor, Idaho. I love free enterprise, but Wind River Airs helicopter proposal in my opinion is ill advised. Most people in the Teton Valley moved here to get away from this type of distraction. As a former National Park Volunteer, there is a reason the Park Service does not allow helicopters (or drones for that matter) to fly over the park. Do citizens not deserve the same consideration? Let this quote from John Muir sink in, "Thousands of tired, nerve-shaken, over-civilized people are beginning to find out that going to the mountains is going home; that wildness is a necessity". Don't you think it would be hard to do this with helicopters flying overhead.

Look, I'm not a tree hugger, but I thought I heard the noise of my last helicopter blade when I left Vietnam!

I would love to support free enterprise, but this is wrong thinking!

Sincerely,

Charles M. Taylor



**From:** [Colleen](#)  
**To:** [publiccomment](#)  
**Subject:** Wind River Air proposal during JH Airport Board virtual meeting April 17, 2020 at 9:00am re: WRA.  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 15, 2020 3:00:08 PM

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## JH Airport Board and Tony Chambers of Wind River Air:

When we moved to this valley for employment in 1976 we were excited to experience nature and wildlife unspoiled. In 1978, we bought property north of town and built an abode across from the southern boundary of the airport pre-allowance of commercial and corporate jets at the airport by the Department of the Interior. There was air traffic but with extended periods of intense quiet. Aircraft took off and landed directly over the southern boundary fence of the airport. Currently, aircraft is larger and noisier with increased vibration to buildings and structures surrounding the airport with flight paths almost directly over our house. So we read with interest and empathy the article published Oct. 5, 2017 in the Jackson Daily regarding the residents and groups in Hawaii suing the FAA over lack of regulations for the helicopter tours buzzing their communities and national parks. One of the ranchers cited that the helicopter noise starts early and continues all day. During any season especially peak season here in the valley and National Park there is a similar situation with commercial jets and the infestation of corporate/private jets flying unregulated into and out of JH Airport any hour of the day or night without concern for the residents who live near the airport. We are not referring to any medical emergency situation requiring medevac or SAR. Currently, there is no existing nocturnal flight or noise curfew at the airport. It is strictly voluntary. Every seven minutes an aircraft takes off or lands. Additionally, in the colder months, there is a continual machine/generator noise reverberating all through the night. In addition to the noise, the smell of jet fuel is pervasive as jets expel fuel for a lengthy period of time while preparing for takeoff. Permitting helicopter tours will exponentially increase this existing noise and chemical pollution to area residents. This is definitely not conducive to personal health and well-being or environmental air quality.

With increased aircraft in the valley's air space, there is also an impact on wildlife( their displacement and stress is already visible with the increase in backcountry camping/hiking, ATV's, mountain bikes and irresponsible pet owners), to the areas designated as wilderness, wildfire risks, and safety hazards.

In the words of the Hawaiian rancher "It's miserable"; and the direct opposite

of “Stay Wild” and “Fly Quiet”. In a National Geographic article on sustainable communities Dan Buettner states “...Enlightened leaders make conscious decisions to favor quality of life over economic development or political expediency.” Teton county and the city of Jackson have some tough decisions to make - to continue to market this beautiful valley that’s turning into a theme park and game reserve where entitlement is courted and catered to or become a sustainable community for the quality of life for all of its residents. We hope you favor a sustainable community for all. We are opposed to Wind River Air’s proposal for Helicopter tours over this special valley.

Regards,

Colleen M. Crook

Duwayne J. Crook

Homeowners/Property taxpayers since 1978

April 2020 comment for JH Airport Board meeting on April 17,2020 at 9:00

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

**From:** [James Derrico](#)  
**To:** [publiccomment](#)  
**Subject:** Wind River Air proposal  
**Date:** Friday, April 17, 2020 7:44:32 AM  
**Attachments:** [Helicopter Tours.docx](#)

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See Attachment

**From:** [Diane MURPHY](#)  
**To:** [publiccomment](#)  
**Subject:** Wind River Air Proposal  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 22, 2020 5:57:30 PM

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Board Members,

I flew RW medical evacuation flights during my Emergency Medicine training in the early 1980s and served as the Medical Director of Air St Lukes (RW/FW operations) in Boise, Idaho from 2002 to 2007. I am very familiar with RW issues and I believe that helicopters play an important role in medical transport/rescue, fire control, construction etc.,. Recreational operation of these vehicles, however, is not appropriate in or around Grand Teton National Park.

The flight path in on-line documents suggests that the RW would be flying just outside the Western border of the Park up to the area of Teton Canyon, WY. This is a noise sensitive area (Jedidiah Smith Wilderness) for wildlife as well as locals and visitors trying to escape the noise, Jet A odor and man-made activity of our suburban/urban environments. The economic agenda of one individual should not trump the quality of life and wilderness experience of numerous visitors and residents. If one cannot “get away/unplug” here then where? In addition, once one operator is permitted it will be difficult to limit other operators and/or expansion of the applicant’s business (Driggs Airport?).

Sincerely,

Kenneth C. Murphy MD

**From:** [Laura Garrard](#)  
**To:** [publiccomment](#)  
**Cc:** [Clare Stumpf](#); [Brooke Sausser](#)  
**Subject:** Wind River Air proposal, Agenda Item V  
**Date:** Monday, April 13, 2020 4:22:32 PM

---

Dear Board and Mr. Chambers of Wind River Air:

I have written before and would like my comments to become record regarding Tony Chambers or any other pilot who proposes to conduct helicopter tours from the Jackson Hole Airport and/or conduct tours over the lands surrounding Grand Teton National Park and Jackson Hole. My comments with an addendum are below. *In addition, I request that you postpone the consideration of Chambers' proposal until this challenging time of social distancing ends, as it is not appropriate to move forward on such a widely objected issue without a full public exchange. The Board needs to stand by its decision last month to postpone this proposal until it's safe to gather in person.*

First I will quote my previous letter to your Board:

"As a citizen of Jackson for 15 years and a business owner, I am writing to inform you of my opposition to helicopter tour operations being considered anywhere in our valley and surrounding areas. I, and I do not believe the members of this town, who moved here to enjoy the wildlife and wild places within a relatively quiet environment, will not tolerate any amount of helicopter touring. We have all been to wild places ruined by the invasive presence and droning noise of helicopter tours and cannot open the door to one operator that will certainly lead to additional operations in our valley, mountains, and surrounding wild areas. As well, this type of operation will adversely affect our ecotourism and wildlife touring/viewing and backcountry experiences as we know them to be now. We and our wildlife already tolerate large aircraft noise a few times a day and a small amount of small craft airplane activity; we benefit from this local luxury of having an airport close by, and we know the noise is disruptive to our ecosystem. However, the addition of helicopter tour noise, which could frankly become an "ear and mind-sore" for people here--who have worked so hard to survive here to enjoy its one-of-a-kind environment--is not acceptable in any degree. It must be a strong, "No Thank you," not in this area. Helicopters are reserved for emergencies and difficult tasks here.

Last weekend, I had the opportunity to tour the coast of Carmel, CA, a protected shoreline. Rest assured, there were no helicopter tours there. The surrounding owners of multimillion-dollar properties there, and I'm sure here, would not tolerate it, nor would its citizens who care about the protected coastal lands. I can imagine how my experiences of listening to sea lions offshore, birds, and the waves while viewing otters and seals nearby would have been so adversely affected as my experiences in Hawaii and the Grand Canyon have been by the hovering, noisy helicopters there. And here I can certainly imagine how our apex experiences of wildlife viewing, touring, skiing, backpacking, camping, horseback riding, rafting, and climbing would be ruined by such invasive noise and presence.

It's *certainly* nothing personal toward the person asking for permission, although I don't understand why he would think it possible here now due to our resolution against it in the past. Tony must understand that this is not going to be favorable for the larger community and step away from this opportunity. Sadly, there can be no compromise or "win, win" with this issue. I have spoken to a good many residents and clients about this, and it's an emphatic "Absolutely Not" from all of them. We cannot open this door.

Our hands are not tied in this. *We've confronted this issue before and have already drawn up a Town resolution against helicopter tours that we just need to remain true to.* Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,  
Laura Garrard, MS, CLT, CST-T, CMT"

I also wish to add:

Just last weekend, I was cross-country skiing in the back country and reveled in the quiet. I was reminded how different our experiences in nature will be here if there were to be helicopter noise in our valley and

mountains. How awful it would be to go out animal viewing at the Refuge with the distraction of pervasive helicopter cacophony. How sad it would make me to know the loss of hearing the wind, the birds, the silence while hiking in the back country. How angry I would be to see and hear helicopters overhead as I backpack in the Jedediah Smith Wilderness in an effort to reconnect and leave behind development. And how ashamed I would be as part of a community that was not able to prevent the gateway to the Greater Yellowstone region from welcoming visitors from around the world to the wild West with helicopter noise and commercial overreach. I'm afraid that our wake-up call, to a lost opportunity to protect our environmental peaceful experiences--that for which we've fought so hard to have here in carving out an existence in living--will be a constant drumming, a daily disruptive helicopter reminder of our failure... if we don't act strongly and NOW!

In this time of COVID-19, it has become obvious that regardless of one governing agent's decision, in the end we must all act locally in favor of what's best for our community and not for the business of an individual. Many of us have given up our incomes for the safety of others. Chambers' right to do this type of touring certainly does not outweigh the health and safety of our community. He needs to honor what is best for our community as expressed by ALL our town and county leaders, as well as hundreds of citizen signatures and comments and the memberships of our outdoors/conservation nonprofits and tourism organizations, and desist his plans to tour in this valley and over the public lands here. Just because one can does not mean someone should. The values of our Town as proclaimed in a 2017 resolution signed by our Town Council states that we are stewards of the surrounding public lands and it's our responsibility to uphold protections needed to maintain our status as an award-winning sustainable destination. Our Town has proclaimed its stand, and all who offer tourism in our Town are aligned with the same proclamation. Is this one individual operator therefore truly following regulation. No he is not. One ruling is not the end of this story nor the beginning of the Wind River Air's adverse business scheme.

Sincerely,  
Laura Garrard

**From:** [Statia Taylor](#)  
**To:** [publiccomment](#)  
**Subject:** Wind River Air proposal  
**Date:** Friday, April 17, 2020 5:34:28 AM

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Please, please consider the in-proportionate impact a handful of people in a helicopter, beating its way across the skies of Jackson Hole would have. It's an intrusion of sound that carries farther than a half mile, reverberating from mountains, filling valleys, silencing birdsong, freezing wildlife in its tracks, overwhelming the rush & splash of river sound. We hear it infrequently in emergencies, let's NOT inflict it upon the entire ecosystem on a daily intentional basis. Please vote NO.

Thank you, Statia Taylor

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Liz Greenberger](#)  
**To:** [publiccomment](#)  
**Subject:** Wind River Air Proposal  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 14, 2020 4:20:54 PM

---

To Whom It May Concern,  
Please add this public comment to the upcoming Jackson Hole Airport hearing on Friday, April 17, 2020.

As a landowner with several lots on Moulton Loop, I am expressing my concern about the proposed helicopter tours planned by the Wind River Air. I feel the noise and disturbances would be deleterious to the value of my properties. I object to allowing this touring operation.

If you need to contact me, I can be reached for further comment at (310) 650-6290

Sincerely,

Liz Greenberger

[lyaris5252@gmail.com](mailto:lyaris5252@gmail.com)



**From:** [Jesse Stover](#)  
**To:** [publiccomment](#)  
**Subject:** Wind River Air public comment 4.17.2020  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 15, 2020 12:50:15 PM

---

Hello JH Airport Board-

I do not support the approval of the Wind River Air's scenic helicopter tour. Please don't ruin our valley with nonessential helicopter flights and noise pollution. There is almost no economic benefit to the community at large having a scenic helicopter tour operate in our valley. Application approval would put the economic interest of a single individual over an entire communities quality of life. Please consider the community impacts to approving this application. Additionally, please consider the safety of passengers and the proposed helicopter being used for this scenic tour application.

Regards,  
Jesse Stover

**From:** [Meredith Landino](#)  
**To:** [publiccomment](#)  
**Subject:** Wind River Air Public Comment  
**Date:** Friday, April 17, 2020 7:40:44 AM

---

Dear Airport Board and Wind River Air,

I firmly believe that allowing helicopter tours in Grand Teton National Park is not consistent with the National Park Service's mission to conserve unimpaired each park's natural and cultural resources and values for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of present and future generations.

I will keep it short.

Allowing helicopter tours is not protecting nor valuing the enjoyment for current and future generations in Grand Teton National Park. Once you go down this path, it will be hard to turn around.

I implore you not to allow helicopter tours in our scenic and peaceful National Park.

Heli-No,  
Meredith Landino

**From:** [Rob Stephenson](#)  
**To:** [publiccomment](#)  
**Subject:** Wind River Air public comments  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 15, 2020 12:36:12 PM

---

I and many others agree flying helicopter tours over our private lands is a bad idea.

- Helicopter tours over wilderness areas is not compatible with Wilderness area rules, which should be expanded to include the air
- Wildlife on these lands are already under extreme pressure, which helicopters would exacerbate
- Helicopter tours benefit a few wealthy clientele who can afford this expensive luxury at the expense of the many people on the ground trying to experience wilderness

---

**Rob Stephenson LEED® AP**  
Associate Principal

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**From:** [Barb Beller](#)  
**To:** [publiccomment](#)  
**Cc:** [Janna Rankin](#)  
**Subject:** Wind River Air to conduct heli tours around the Tetons  
**Date:** Friday, April 17, 2020 12:18:25 PM

---

I am opposed to allowing Wind River Air to conduct heli tours around the Tetons. Flying over or near the National Parks, Forest and particularly the Wilderness areas would violate the intent of preserving some unique areas of the country for peaceful enjoyment. Below is a information copied from the Forest Service. Flying helicopters near or within the National Park and Wilderness Area airspace would impact the experience including views within these areas. The risk to human health and the environment has not been adequately evaluated including the noise and air pollution from helicopters in or near a wilderness. I argue that the sight and noise of helicopters would violate the intent of the law. These areas are set aside with restrictions against motorized equipment although specific provisions have been allowed specific to areas such as Yosemite and Boundary Waters in MN.

1. Has the Federal Government through publication of a new rule in the FAR defined the flight restrictions for the parks and wilderness areas? See Boundary Waters, MN, Yosemite changed this law passed in October 1984 to allow this type motorized (helicopter) vehicle that will impact the wilderness, CA s experience?
2. If there is a accident/crash does this company have a plan to fight fires caused by their activity?
3. With regard to #2, How would a fire be fought in the heavily used Teton National Park i.e. notification and evacuation of hikers and campers east and west of the Tetons?
4. I acknowledge that a crash may be low probability, the weather conditions and winds near this range add more complexity and risk to flight. An accident in the area would be very high consequence, not only to the passengers that are by choice accepting the risk, but to the sensitive ecosystem in the area.
5. Based on the assumption that there could be a helicopter crash, how would the resulting fire be fought in the wilderness or do you just rely on tax payers to clean up after you if there is an accident?
6. What is the environmental impact from the noise and exhaust emitted from the helicopters?
7. Is there a map of the areas that you are allowed to fly and flight density?

#### Reference:

In October 1984 the Wyoming Wilderness Bill was signed into law creating the Jedediah Smith Wilderness (123,451 acres) and the Winegar Hole Wilderness (10,721 acres) on the Caribou-Targhee National Forest. **The Wilderness Act allows hiking, camping, hunting, fishing, skiing, and grazing in these areas. Campfires are allowed in most areas, but some areas are closed to open fires to protect resources. Mechanical transport and motorized equipment is prohibited year round and some additional regulations apply to protect the wilderness character.** Horses can be used in both Wilderness areas; however, overnight camping with stock is not allowed in specified locations.

The [Jedediah Smith Wilderness](#) was designated because of the unique karst limestone geology. It lies on the west slope of the Teton Range, adjacent to Grand Teton National Park. The towns of Victor, Driggs, Tetonia, and Ashton, Idaho are 10 to 30 miles west of the Wilderness.

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

**From:** [annette.larson](#)  
**To:** [publiccomment](#)  
**Subject:** Wind river air  
**Date:** Friday, April 17, 2020 9:55:57 AM

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I was unable to get into the zoom board meeting. I wanted to make a comment about the Wind River Air proposal.

Needless to say, the lack of access to the meeting is frustrating. I suspect others are having a similar difficulty. When deciding such proposals that have great impact to our community, Zoom is obviously not a worthwhile or viable mode of communication. Such proposals should be postponed until the community can meet in person with the board.

Most of us live here because we like the mountains, outdoor sports, living with nature and seeing the animals. Helicopters flying in our midst will interfere with what we value

Unfortunately, we have encroached on animal habitat from all directions and now the WindRiver helicopters would be assaulting them from above. We must respect and protect their needs and not add yet another human induced stress.

Have you ever been close to a helicopter? They are unbearably loud and the exhaust smell is overwhelming. An experience not to be forgotten!

I see nothing positive in this endeavor for our community. We do not want the air pollution, noise pollution or visual pollution helicopters flying around our valley would bring. We already struggle with air quality here.

Please reject this proposal.  
Annette Larson

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Shirley Thomas](#)  
**To:** [publiccomment](#)  
**Subject:** Wind River Air  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 15, 2020 9:58:11 AM

---

As full-time residents of Teton County and avid outdoor enthusiasts, my husband and I are appalled at the prospect of helicopter tours over even part of our land. We were in Kauai recently and hiked the NaPali coast trail. The noise and disruption by the tours there was just terrible. While we were there, a flight ended with 4 passengers and pilot going down and killed. This was devastating.

Is this what we want in our serene and quiet spaces? We have so few places to escape these days and the quiet and solitude of our parks and lands is one of them.  
Please deny this application.  
Shirley and Dan Thomas  
Jackson, WY

**From:** [Mary Elzemeyer](#)  
**To:** [publiccomment](#)  
**Subject:** Wind River Air  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 15, 2020 10:00:25 AM

---

To the Airport Board of Directors,

In reference to your meeting April 17 regarding permitting Wind River Air to fly commercial Helicopters from Jackson Hole airport I would like you to NOT allow this permit. I can understand Search and Rescue and police/safety escort flights but opening up airspace to helicopter commercial requests is undermining our peace and quiet and visual beauty which surrounds our areas. In my opinion ,the environmental impacts to wildlife are also not worth the financial gains.

Sincerely,

Mary Elzemeyer



**From:** [James Revercomb](#)  
**To:** [publiccomment](#)  
**Subject:** Wind River Air  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 15, 2020 12:15:02 PM

---

Dear Airport Board,

There is no place in the valley for the scenic heli tours Wind River Air is proposing, as it would taint the experience of so many others who live and travel to northwest Wyoming to enjoy its natural beauty and splendor. The minimal economic impact this operation would have by no means justifies its existence at the expense of so many others and the wildlife that inhabit the area. I hope the Board can weigh the pros and cons of this proposal and for the sake of wildlife, natural beauty and the public, deny this proposal.

Sincerely,

James Revercomb  
Roanoke Mountain Adventures  
806 Wasena Ave, Suite 300  
Roanoke VA 24015  
307-699-1322 (Cell)  
540-525-8295 (Shop)

**From:** [Andrew Salter](#)  
**To:** [publiccomment](#)  
**Subject:** Wind River Air  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 15, 2020 1:18:52 PM

---

Please DENY the requested permit. Keep the skies over and around our treasured national park quiet and safe. Helicopter tours do not belong over and near our national parks.

Thanks.

**Andrew H. Salter**



Teton Law Group, LLC  
180 North Center Street #11  
P.O. Box 594  
Jackson, WY 83001  
p. 307.201.1145  
f. 888.415.0798  
c. 206.612.4039  
[asalter@tetonlaw.com](mailto:asalter@tetonlaw.com)  
[tetonlaw.com](http://tetonlaw.com)

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**From:** [Didi Thunder](#)  
**To:** [publiccomment](#)  
**Subject:** Wind River Air  
**Date:** Thursday, April 16, 2020 10:28:57 AM

---

Dear JH Airport Board:

How many times must we fight yet another proposal of a private operator to run scenic helicopter tours over our valley?

I'm not a socialist or leftist. I believe that if corporations thrive, we all do. But in the context of Teton County being regarded as the most elite, privileged county in the nation (see *Billionaire Wilderness*), do we want another service that caters exclusively to rich people? The national and local optics of this are very, very bad.

Didi Thunder  
Wilson  
690-8685

**From:** [Teresa Taylor](#)  
**To:** [publiccomment](#)  
**Subject:** Wind River Air  
**Date:** Thursday, April 16, 2020 12:06:01 PM

---

To those of you considering this:

Please, please, please find some inner strength from deep down inside to oppose this. You know it's wrong . Our beautiful landscapes offer not only the opportunity to see gorgeous vistas, incredible wildlife, but also offer one of the last commodities know on this planet - SILENCE.

People come from all over to indulge in the quiet to reconnect with themselves and spirit and nature. The noise of helicopters in these areas will be a sure sign to all that Jackson Hole has indeed sold its soul...

There are known adverse affects of noise on our wildlife... please ask for impact studies. A perfect example is the panda couple who everyone thought was infertile ... just recently after the crowds were gone and they had solitude, the began mating...

Nature knows best.

Humbly submitted ,  
Teresa Taylor

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Donna Wahoff-Stice](#)  
**To:** [publiccomment](#)  
**Subject:** Wind River Air  
**Date:** Thursday, April 16, 2020 7:05:11 PM

---

I are residents of the Teton Valley and enjoy walking in the solitude of the Wilderness and National Forest and National Park on both sides of the Tetons. Please do not permit scenic helicopter rides to destroy this quiet wildness. This isn't an amusement park.  
Thank you for your consideration.  
Donna

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [barbara aronowitz](#)  
**To:** [publiccomment](#)  
**Subject:** Wind River Air  
**Date:** Thursday, April 16, 2020 6:54:10 PM

---

We believe conducting heli tours over the Tetons would violate the beauty the Tetons represents and would undermine the concept of wilderness itself. There is no need to pollute the environment--people should get out and explore the wilderness on foot. Profit should not come before conserving our environment.

Barbara & Gerald Aronowitz  
Victor, ID

**From:** [hallie.lane](#)  
**To:** [publiccomment](#)  
**Subject:** Wind River Air  
**Date:** Friday, April 17, 2020 12:33:57 AM

---

Knowing this area since the 70's for me was about getting out doors and experiencing this incredible place with alacrity. I realize not everyone is capable of hiking into the woods to find the peace of nature but please don't destroy that sacred experience for those of us who live here for that reason and cherish it. There are many of us who have worked hard over the decades to build our homes and lives here. We didn't do that to see and hear recreational use helicopters. People have the opportunity to view our beautiful landscape when they fly in and out of the valley. Do we really need more congestion in the air? There are plenty of other mountain towns that offer heli rides, let's not be one of them, and keep both sides of the Tetons free from excess man made noise. Local humans and animals will benefit.

Thank you,  
Hallie Poirier

**From:** [Katharine Shepard](#)  
**To:** [publiccomment](#)  
**Subject:** Wind River Air  
**Date:** Friday, April 17, 2020 8:09:55 AM

---

Please don't allow the Wind RiverAir company to fly in and around the Tetons. We have enough air traffic with the airport there, plus the great number of private planes in this area. This is a potential danger to all those pilots. The noise level is also great enough at this point. There are those of us who love a quiet walk (or serious backpack trip) in those mountains. We don't want to be "strafed" by low flying helicopters! How about getting out of the vehicle (of any type!) and walking into these magnificent places??!

Katharine Shepard

New email [shepardatski@gmail.com](mailto:shepardatski@gmail.com)



**From:** [Mike](#)  
**To:** [publiccomment](#)  
**Subject:** Wind River Air  
**Date:** Friday, April 17, 2020 9:35:57 AM

---

I am writing to express my opposition to the wind river air proposal. Unfortunately I have been on the zoom meeting and disconnected three times. First let me say that I believe it's tone deaf and absurd to have a public hearing during this time when we're all socially distancing and staying at home. How many other individuals with an opinion are also unable to virtually attend?

The wind river air proposal is incompatible and inappropriate. To fly over our national parks and wilderness areas is fundamentally wrong environmentally and incongruous with the values of our community.

The only "thwack" of helicopter noise we should hear is in the unfortunate event that our esteemed Heli Yes team is out trying to save someone.

I ask that you deny this permit application.

Regards,

Mike Pfeil

Victor Idaho

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Karen Daubert](#)  
**To:** [publiccomment](#)  
**Cc:** [Jared Smith \(jaredasmith@msn.com\)](mailto:jaredasmith@msn.com)  
**Subject:** Wind River Air  
**Date:** Monday, April 20, 2020 2:46:55 PM

---

I am writing in opposition to the proposal to have scenic flights in the area. My husband and I live in Wilson and have both spend hundreds of days in Grand Teton National Park – treasuring its peace and quiet! Allowing the noise of flights seems to be counter to every ethic that makes this valley so special. I am reminded of Hawaii and the scenic flights which results in a continual buzz and underlying stress – for both people and for animals.

Please keep me on your mailing list and please deny this permit!

Karen Daubert  
5755 Fish Creek Road  
Wilson, WY 83014  
206-310-1792

**From:** [Carol Baker](#)  
**To:** [publiccomment](#)  
**Subject:** Wind River Air  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 22, 2020 9:37:35 AM

---

We are fervently opposed to permitting Wind River to begin tourist flights in the valley. We believe this is an incredible safety risk with potential for crashes on public lands, very expensive rescues and for starting wild fires. Furthermore, heli flights for non rescue purposes would be an horrible intrusion on the peace and beauty that the National Park is suppose to provide for all. We should not let the selfish interests of a few people disrupt the grandeur and peace that the rest of find and respect for the others by using the Park on foot or with limited car access.

If operations are nonetheless approved, the company should be required to post a significant bond to pay for rescue efforts and wildfire extinguishment that it may cause to be necessary.

In order to make sure that all voices are heard, the Airport Board should postpone this meeting until after the COVID 19 restrictions have been lifted to enable full community engagement.

Sincerely,

--

Carol Baker

**From:** [Mike Pfeil](#)  
**To:** [publiccomment](#)  
**Subject:** Wind River Air  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 22, 2020 11:11:37 AM

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Dear Board Members,

I am writing to express my opposition to the Wind River Air proposal.

First let me say that I believe it's tone deaf and absurd to have a public hearing during this time when we're all socially distancing and staying at home. This is not a matter of critical importance and certainly can and should wait until such a time that the public can come together and share there concerns face to face. Your first attempt to do this hearing via Zoom didn't work so well and I assume this weeks attempt will also exclude many voices. Also, how many individuals with an opinion are unable to virtually attend?

The Wind River Air proposal is incompatible and inappropriate for this ecosystem. To fly over our national parks and wilderness areas is fundamentally wrong environmentally and incongruous with the values of our community.

The only "thwack" of helicopter noise we should hear is in the unfortunate event that our esteemed Heli Yes team is out trying to save someone.

I ask that you deny this permit application.

Regards,  
Mike Pfeil  
Victor Idaho

**From:** [Karla Wallace](#)  
**To:** [publiccomment](#)  
**Subject:** Wind River Air  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 22, 2020 2:27:41 PM

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I oppose letting helicopters buzz over GTNP. People visit there to get away from traffic and noise. It's an escape from the nonsense in the world. If I want to hear air traffic I'll go to the airport. Don't ruin a peaceful place.

**From:** [STEPHEN FARRELL](#)  
**To:** [publiccomment](#)  
**Subject:** Wind River Air  
**Date:** Thursday, April 23, 2020 1:06:05 PM

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Dear sir and madam, my husband and I live on Moulton Loop. In fact we own 10 acres there. We're tax payers but also understand business. We also understand that people, the environment and wildlife can only be stressed so much. Sometimes things stretched to far break.

Why should we be subjected to a helicopter touring company literally in our own backyard? Airport traffic is a necessity, a private company looking to profit off of own peace and privacy is unacceptable. Not everything has a price tag and I believe our rights to peaceful enjoyment of our property takes precedence over profit.

I respectfully ask, on behalf of myself, my neighbors, the environment and our wildlife that we so diligently try to protect, please please deny this company and any company from providing helicopter rides out of Jackson airport. We don't need more of a circus atmosphere.

Respectfully, Frances T. Marino

Sent from my iPad

**From:** [Janis Falabella](#)  
**To:** [publiccomment](#)  
**Subject:** Wind River Air  
**Date:** Thursday, April 23, 2020 7:28:13 PM

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Dear Airport Board Members:

I'm writing to you today about Mr Chambers request for a permit to operate Heli Tours in Teton County. I am opposed to allowing any Heli Tours in Teton County. And as you well know from prior meetings, the majority of the public is also opposed. Those of us who live in Teton County Wyoming have moved here for the serene beauty, wild nature and peacefulness of the valley. We are invested in this area with heart, mind and pocket book. Having a loud noisy helicopter passing overhead while you are hiking, biking, riding a horse or any of the other ways in which folks recreate in the Mountains is NOT compatible use. It will severely detract from everyone's enjoyment and use and will have a negative impact on tourism in the valley, wildlife and the value of our properties. In addition, there is a significant safety issue. The pro's and con's should be carefully weighed. I hope that you will support the residents of Teton County and decline the permit for this. This is NOT the place for Heli Tours.

Sincerely,  
Janis Falabella  
Alta, Wyoming

**From:** [Billy Madej](#)  
**To:** [windriverair@gmail.com](mailto:windriverair@gmail.com)  
**Cc:** [publiccomment](#)  
**Subject:** Wind River Air  
**Date:** Thursday, April 23, 2020 6:42:14 PM

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To Whom It May Concern: I am writing to you in regards to the possible air permits for Wind River Air. Jackson Hole is a special place, one that needs to be protected. The Grand Teton National Park is home to so many animals and so much peace and quiet. The park is not that large and these animals share the valley with the residence of Jackson Hole. If we keep pushing these limits of what can and will fly in and out of our park then when will it stop? These wild places in the USA/World need all the protection they can get. What if a spark comes from one of the planes and burns down a good portion of the park, or even the town? What if migratory birds and other animals have to change their habits yet again for us as humans? We need to stand for our protection of the parks and such vast lands. As a tour company what would happen if there was nothing left to tour?

Thank you for your time and considerations  
Billy



Virus-free. [www.avg.com](http://www.avg.com)



**From:** [Joseph Bauer](#)  
**To:** [publiccomment](#)  
**Subject:** Wind River Air, 4/17/2020  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 15, 2020 11:52:20 AM

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Climate scientists worldwide are monitoring clearing skies due to reduced greenhouse gas emissions during this pandemic. Proof that we can reduce our human impacts on environment. I believe in ending motorized recreation activities. Humans should focus on burning calories...not fossil fuels. Wind River Air could sustain their business with Search and Rescue, Life- flight, etc.

As a Jackson resident 1976 to 2001 and now Alpine resident since 2001 our local airpark has noticeably increased local noise pollution.

application on 4/17/2020.

Please deny this

Thank you, Joe Bauer Alpine, Wy

**From:** [Ned Corkran](#)  
**To:** [publiccomment](#)  
**Subject:** Wind River Air, April 17 meeting  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 15, 2020 11:35:23 AM

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I oppose Wind River Air's proposal to run aircraft sightseeing flights in and around our public lands. I have seen these kinds of flights in the Grand Canyon and I believe they detract from the natural and scenic value of our public lands and especially detract from the peace and quiet that other visitors have come to experience. They also detract from the quality of life for people who live here.

Thanks,  
Ned Corkran

**From:** [Sylvia Beck](#)  
**To:** [publiccomment](#)  
**Subject:** wind river air, april 17 public meeting  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 15, 2020 1:55:54 PM

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I cannot be at the meeting, but I feel very strongly that allowing sightseeing helicopters over JH and environs would be a terrible mistake. Not only would it be disturbing to the park users, who go to commune with nature, not to hear or see choppers, but it would be disturbing to the animals as well. Please don't let Wind River Air rob us of our serenity while we are enjoying the outdoors. JH is wonderful because it is so wild and untouched. Let's keep it that way.

thank you,  
Sylvia Beck  
4005 N Teewinot  
Wilson, WY

**From:** [James Little](#)  
**To:** [publiccomment](#)  
**Subject:** Wind River Air, comment for meeting April 17, 2020  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 15, 2020 9:06:00 AM

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To the Airport Board:

As a resident of Teton County since 1972, I would encourage you to deny any applications from Wind River Air to begin tourist air tours from the Jackson Hole Airport. Thank you for considering my opposition to their proposed plans.

Jim

Jim Little Sr. MD FAAP  
PO Box 724  
Wilson, WY 83014  
307-733-4627 Office  
307-413-4484 Cell  
[jlittlewy@mac.com](mailto:jlittlewy@mac.com)

**From:** [Doug McWhirter](#)  
**To:** [windriverair@gmail.com](mailto:windriverair@gmail.com)  
**Cc:** [publiccomment](#)  
**Subject:** Wind River Air, LLC Helicopter Tours  
**Date:** Friday, April 24, 2020 12:11:14 PM  
**Attachments:** [WindRiverAir\\_WGFD\\_4\\_24\\_2020.pdf](#)

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Mr. Chambers,

Please see the attached letter describing our desire to hopefully meet with you and learn more of your proposed operations.

Thanks and take care,

Doug McWhirter

--

Doug McWhirter  
Wildlife Management Coordinator  
Wyoming Game & Fish Department  
420 N. Cache  
Jackson, WY 83001  
(307) 733-2321  
[Doug.McWhirter@wyo.gov](mailto:Doug.McWhirter@wyo.gov)

E-Mail to and from me, in connection with the transaction of public business, is subject to the Wyoming Public Records Act and may be disclosed to third parties.

**From:** [Doug McWhirter](#)  
**To:** [windriverair@gmail.com](mailto:windriverair@gmail.com)  
**Cc:** [publiccomment](#)  
**Subject:** Wind River Air, LLC Helicopter Tours  
**Date:** Friday, April 24, 2020 12:11:14 PM  
**Attachments:** [WindRiverAir\\_WGFD\\_4\\_24\\_2020.pdf](#)

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Mr. Chambers,

Please see the attached letter describing our desire to hopefully meet with you and learn more of your proposed operations.

Thanks and take care,

Doug McWhirter

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Doug McWhirter  
Wildlife Management Coordinator  
Wyoming Game & Fish Department  
420 N. Cache  
Jackson, WY 83001  
(307) 733-2321  
[Doug.McWhirter@wyo.gov](mailto:Doug.McWhirter@wyo.gov)

E-Mail to and from me, in connection with the transaction of public business, is subject to the Wyoming Public Records Act and may be disclosed to third parties.

**From:** [RFM Rico](#)  
**To:** [publiccomment](#)  
**Subject:** Wind River Air, LLC Permit Application - April 17 Airport Board Meeting  
**Date:** Thursday, April 16, 2020 1:33:21 PM

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Dear Airport Board Members,

If approved Wind River Air's proposal for scenic helicopter tours over public lands would lead to yet another negative impact on the sanctity of our wild places and cause further erosion to what makes this area so unique. The proposal will benefit the few who can afford the luxury of such an "adventure" and, of course, the tour operator to the detriment of the outdoor experiences of the majority who seek them. But of even greater concern should be the intrusion that this type of activity has on wildlife.

Please have the wisdom and foresight to deny the permit application, and protect a part of what we love so much about Jackson Hole, the silence of our skies.

Thank you for your consideration.

Francesca Paolucci-Rice and Richard A. Rice  
1960 South Park Ranch Road Jackson, Wyoming 83001

**From:** [s.king](#)  
**To:** [publiccomment](#)  
**Subject:** Wind River Air, LLC. application Friday, April 24 . 2020  
**Date:** Thursday, April 23, 2020 5:38:33 PM

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Grand Teton is a place of immense silence. It's no place for the sound of helicopters. You can hear them long before you can see them. I've flown in them in Antarctica, Greenland, Alaska & the lower 48, rarely over people. They are amazing. They have no place ruining the experience of many visitors for a very few in the Park. The Jackson Hole Airport is an island in the Park. No way to get there except flying over the Park, no way to do it quietly.

I have lived beside Tetons since 1974. I have camped, climbed, skied, hiked, boated & biked in the Park every year since. Yearly, at Leigh Lake, the helicopter noise has increased. It is incredible how loud & long a helicopter passing takes. The mountains & canyons are echo chambers. There is a term for it, "NOISE POLLUTION". This is exactly what multiple daily flights over the Park is! Please, please DO NOT allow this pollution in GTNP. Now is the time to say NO, if allowed, it may never be able to be taken away. It's a National Park!

Steven King - Victor, Idaho



**From:** [Morgan Beavers](#)  
**To:** [publiccomment](#)  
**Subject:** Wind River Air, LLC; April 17th 9am meeting  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 15, 2020 3:04:51 PM

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Hello,

I am unable to attend the meeting and wish to have the following comment read aloud:

**I am a resident of Dubois, and I have long loved our area for the wildlife and peace it offers. While the public lands around Jackson, particularly the Parks, are undoubtedly crowded during tourist season, adding the noise of helicopters is a shortsighted action that serves human selfishness and ignores the ramifications for other animals. Of course our Parks are not pristine wilderness expanses where elk, bison, and bear enjoy a nuisance free life, but helicopter traffic will surely be an added stressor, driving these animals into hiding when they would rather be out roaming the valley. And for mere amusement, rather than surveillance or medical needs, such action seems to disregard the purpose of the parks. Please do not approve the license for Wind River Air, LLC. We owe it to our community to maintain as far as possible a sense of quiet, wildness, and refuge for the animals who call it home.**

Thank you,  
Morgan

**M. Morgan Beavers**  
*Marketing & Communications Director*



127 E Ramshorn | P.O. Box 659 | Dubois, WY 82513  
[www.mopwyomingoutdoors.com](http://www.mopwyomingoutdoors.com)  
C: 470-214-3827  
O: 307-455-4100



**From:** [william hayes](#)  
**To:** [publiccomment](#)  
**Subject:** Wind River Air. April 24th Meeting  
**Date:** Thursday, April 23, 2020 1:59:47 PM

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Are you hearing the silence over our Valley since the pandemic arrived? Perhaps less than six planes a day fly high overhead and only two from JAC. It won't last, but this hush embodies the peaceful essence of Nature, which abundantly surrounds us. Do we honestly want to destroy this sublime environment with noisy heli flights? SAR has the only heli flights in the Valley, and should remain so. When the airport is busy in summer/winter, we have plentiful noise; but a trade off we accept. We should not increase the noisy disturbance with heli flights that are far noisier and remain at altitudes lower than JAC in/out or fly-over aircraft. Also, it highly inequitable for a few passengers in helicopters to destroy the hush and ruin the experience of the majority who seek the peace that Nature provides in our pristine forests, on our rivers & streams and lakes. "Thousands of tired, nerve-shaken, over-civilized people are beginning to find out that ... wildness is a necessity." With John Muir's words as a guide, please do not permit one company and a privileged few - with the heli's visual and sound disruption - to seriously damage this Valley's natural essence.

Thank you,  
Bill Hayes

**From:** [Lee](#)  
**To:** [publiccomment](#)  
**Subject:** Wind River Air  
**Date:** Monday, April 13, 2020 10:28:25 AM

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Dear Jackson Hole Airport Board:

I m very concerned about the prospect of Wind River Air operating scenic helicopter rides out of the Jackson Hole airport. These operations present a huge safety issue when considering the area of operation not only over residential areas south of the airport (as shown in the proposed routes) but also over the public lands, including parks and national forests. A crash during the dry summer season could ignite fires.

Rescues in mountainous areas present dangerous challenges for the Search and Rescue personnel. In addition to safety, the noise of helicopters is very disruptive to people (residents and hikers) and to the great variety of wildlife we are so very luck to have in the area. please do what you can to prevent or restrict this operation.

Thank you,

Lee Kintzel, 6220 North Aspen Drive

**From:** [jennifer carter](#)  
**To:** [publiccomment](#)  
**Subject:** Wind river air  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 15, 2020 8:08:56 PM

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As someone who has a home along the flight path, I am in opposition to this plan. It will disrupt our birds I see regularly, hawks, sand hill cranes, geese and ducks. It will cause noise pollution and disrupt wildlife in the forest of the mountains. I don't want to hear helicopters when I am in the mountains, I go into the backcountry to escape noise and this will potentially ruin my experience in the wilderness area.

Thanks for listening, Jennifer Carter, 4400S 1000E, Victor ID 83455 (208)390-0988

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPad](#)

**From:** [Helen Cottingham](#)  
**To:** [publiccomment](#)  
**Cc:** [Mike Cottingham](#); [Virginia Dean](#); [Joannie Epstein](#); [clare@jhalliance.org](#)  
**Subject:** Wind River Air: April 17, 2020 Meeting  
**Date:** Thursday, April 16, 2020 10:17:00 PM

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So why did we all move here in the first place? This is NOT anywhere, USA.

My husband and I arrived here in the fall of 1975.

Why?

Natural beauty, wildlife, pristine environment, more wildlife, PEACE & QUIET, so you can hear and enjoy all that the natural beauty and wildlife have to offer.

THERE ARE NOT MANY PLACES LEFT IN THE WORLD TODAY THAT CAN OFFER THIS.

Helicopter tours have no place here. WE WANT TO KEEP OUR SKIES SAFE AND QUIET.

Noise pollution is a serious issue. It will disturb all of us who LIVE here, as well as Stress Out our wildlife. They don't have a say in this and will MOST DEFINITELY BE AFFECTED IN A NEGATIVE WAY.

What a sad, sad way to lose what we all have held to be so dear and precious in our valley. Raising our children in this environment has been very special.

PLEASE do not allow helicopter tours in our beautiful Jackson Hole.

There are many, many other ways to see, experience, enjoy, appreciate, behold, and truly be engaged in our natural beauty.

Sincerely,  
Helen Cottingham

**From:** [Jeff Foott](#)  
**To:** [publiccomment](#)  
**Subject:** Wind River Air/ meeting April 17th  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 15, 2020 9:34:42 AM

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I have lived in Jackson Hole over 50 years. Worked as a biologist and a climbing guide. We live in a rare area of beauty. In the Mts and around the rivers I can't think of a more despicable sound/sight than a tourist helicopter. Think about what you are turning loose on the residences and more importantly, visitors who have come for the beauty and peace they don't have at home. Destroying a resource so someone can make some money is nonsense!! I won't be coming to the hearing for Wind River Air, but I hope you listen carefully to what is said.  
Jeff Foott

PLEASE NOTE NEW ADDRESS

[jefffoott1@icloud.com](mailto:jefffoott1@icloud.com)

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**From:** [jeff.willemain](#)  
**To:** [windriverair@gmail.com](mailto:windriverair@gmail.com); [publiccomment](#)  
**Subject:** Wind River Air--Friday April 17  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 15, 2020 11:16:32 AM

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I live year-round and recreate in the Shadow Mountain, Gros Ventre and Teton Wilderness areas. I understand and respect that the airport board is legally constrained in this matter. I have no objection to heli tours per se. However, to the extent one use significantly impacts another, I believe there must be balance. (ATV use on Shadow Mountain is one example-multiple trips throughout the day—there is little wildlife where there used to be a lot; horseback riding is no longer prudent or enjoyable in the area of high ATV use.) Sound is disruptive. I believe that frequent helicopter traffic over these areas is simply not appropriate; as it is the wildlife and quiet that other users of these areas value, and, I believe will be significantly impacted given the planned routes.

Jeff Willemain

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

**From:** [Bailey Collins](#)  
**To:** [publiccomment](#)  
**Subject:** Wind River Air-Meeting April 17, 2020  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 15, 2020 12:35:15 PM

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Hello,

My name is Bailey Collins and I am emailing to oppose the proposal that would allow scenic helicopter flights in the Jackson area. I personally believe that this would negatively impact wildlife and outdoor recreation greatly. Helicopters create a lot of noise pollution which can be very disruptive to wildlife by blocking out noises that are key to animal behavior such as the noise of approaching humans. As well as, helicopter tours will detract from the wild qualities of the Jackson Hole area. Such a wild and rugged area should not be made so accessible for tourism and economic gain, the wild aspect of Jackson Hole is what the people who live here cherish and wish to preserve. Furthermore, helicopters burn a lot of fuel and produce high carbon dioxide emissions compared to car travel of the same distance. All of these factors would negatively impact the Jackson area, and that is why I am opposing the proposal of scenic helicopter tours in Jackson. Thank you for your time and consideration.

--

Bailey Collins  
Project Manager  
Yellowstone-Teton Clean Cities  
[www.ytcleancities.org](http://www.ytcleancities.org)  
[bailey@ytcleancities.org](mailto:bailey@ytcleancities.org)  
307.699.5895



**From:** [Walt Esquivel](#)  
**To:** [publiccomment](#)  
**Subject:** Wind River Air's scenic helicopter tours application to JH Airport Board scheduled for 4/17/20  
**Date:** Thursday, April 16, 2020 10:33:04 AM

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Dear Jackson Hole Airport Board:

Unfortunately, Tony Chambers and his company, Wind River Air, LLC, are proceeding with a plan to conduct scenic helicopter tours from Jackson Hole Airport, a plan with NEGATIVE consequences.

Scenic helicopter tours do NOT improve the experience for most people in Jackson Hole and go AGAINST the community's wildlife and environmental values. Tours flying WRA's proposed routes will ADVERSELY affect river trips, hiking and camping trips, and wilderness areas; and will INCREASE unwanted fossil fuel emissions along with noise and visual pollution which will ADVERSELY affect our sensitive ecosystem.

Overwhelmingly, the community prefers to protect and maintain an atmosphere for all to enjoy and to allow wildlife to live in peace. Most sensible people would agree that scenic helicopter tours are an INAPPROPRIATE and INVASIVE use over Grand Teton National Park, the National Elk Refuge, Wilderness areas, and the Bridger-Teton National Forest.

We hope Mr. Chambers will WITHDRAW his application after concluding scenic helicopter tours in Jackson Hole are NOT a good, ethical fit with the community's values. Let's turn DOWN the noise, visual clutter, and fossil fuel pollution. Let's do the right thing.

Respectfully,

Walt Esquivel, MBA, MA; Captain, U.S. Marine Corps (Veteran)

**From:** [Franz Camenzind](#)  
**To:** [publiccomment](#)  
**Subject:** Wind River Aviation - Helicopter-Tours  
**Date:** Thursday, April 16, 2020 1:27:31 PM

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Dear JH Airport Board Members,

**I oppose Wind River Air's (WRA) application to originate scenic helicopter flights from the JH Airport.**

I understand that your options are limited, but know that a large segment of this community is opposed to scenic helicopter flights occurring in the Jackson Hole area.

Reasons for my opposition:

- Concern for operational safety of the Robinson R44 helicopter, particularly at high altitudes.
- Opposed to the noise disturbance to humans and wildlife over residential areas, near Grand Teton Park and adjacent Wilderness areas.
- Opposed to the Robinson R44 helicopter because on average it burns 15 gallons of Low Lead Avgas per hour of flight time, and for every 100 hours of flying it produces about 7 pounds of airborne lead pollution that will fall over populated areas, GTNP and adjacent Wilderness Areas. (The CDC states that there is NO safe lead level for humans, particularly for children.)

Scenic helicopter flights will create unwanted noise pollution and toxic, airborne pollution. I sincerely believe that scenic helicopter flights should be prohibited everywhere in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. Lets begin that effort right here in Jackson Hole.

Please, do whatever you can to invalidate WRA's application.

Thank you for your service to the community,

Franz Camenzind

Jackson

**From:** [Joan Anzelmo](#)  
**To:** [publiccomment](#)  
**Subject:** Wind River Aviation Public Comment  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 14, 2020 10:17:09 AM  
**Attachments:** [Email to JH Airport Board 3.10.2020.pdf](#)  
[March Board Mgr Replies to questions.pdf](#)

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Dear Airport Board,

I was surprised to see you add Wind River Aviation and public comment regarding the company's application to the April agenda during the ever rising numbers of COVID-19 cases in Teton County. Our state and our country are in a major national emergency with no end in sight. Wind River Aviation scenic helicopter tours are not a priority during a national emergency. Furthermore, the public should have an opportunity to comment in person regarding our concerns, once in person meetings resume.

Scenic helicopter tours are not an essential public aviation service. Mr. Chambers shows great disrespect for our greater Jackson Hole community by moving forward with his application, doubly so at such a dangerous time for our state and and our country.

I previously submitted my comments to you on March 10, and included several questions. Mr. Elwood was kind enough to send a written response to my questions. However his replies shocked me in that Jackson Hole Airport management and the Jackson Hole Airport Board are not planning to set certain parameters for the operation of the scenic helicopter tours.

As many of you know I served on National Incident Management Teams during wildland fires throughout the western US, over the span of 25 years, including here in Jackson on multiple occasions. I remain in touch with firefighters all over the country. Currently there is great worry over the coming fire season, in both severity and lack of ready firefighting resources. Fire managers throughout the country are working to assess how best to protect fire crews from COVID-19. Some crew members have the virus and some have family members who have the virus.

There is a real possibility, that no matter how severe a wildland fire is, there will not be adequate firefighters, pilots and other fire support staff to respond due to COVID-19, compounded by the predicted intensity of the 2020 fire season and with no resources left.

Think about last fall here in Jackson. Our two fast moving wildfires that almost burned into the National Museum of Wildlife Art and residences on Broadway, and the following weekend, the Saddle Butte Fire, that almost took out numerous homes. Were it not for the excellent local agency firefighters and air resources that arrived so quickly, there would have been major tragedy here.

The Robinson R88 helicopter has a deadly track record, especially at higher elevations. It is irresponsible for this aircraft to be permitted to base at the JH Airport and fly over sections of Grand Teton, the Bridger-Teton and above private homes. The risk of accidents is real. Were the aircraft to crash, tragically the passengers would likely die. The tragedy would be compounded by the likelihood that the crash would ignite a wildland fire. If there are no firefighting resources available and immediate suppression action is not taken, there is a serious risk for a full blown wildfire that would harm or kill people, wildlife, and burn homes and other private property. Additionally local agencies would have to respond to any crash, adding unnecessary burdens for already maxed out law enforcement and search and rescue personnel.

I hope you will reassess what is safe and what is not safe within the authorities you have.

It seems elected officials, appointed boards, and federal agencies, including the FAA, should be able to learn from the previous deadly track record of this aircraft and choose human safety over allowing a non essential, commercial amenity for tourists.

I have attached the first letter I sent you in March as well as the responses I received. My questions remain for you the Board.

Thank you.

Joan Anzelmo

**From:** [Fritz Doster](#)  
**To:** [publiccomment](#)  
**Subject:** Wind River Aviation Tour Comments  
**Date:** Thursday, April 16, 2020 8:43:01 AM

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My name is Fritz Doster, and I have concern about the operation of helicopter tours in and around the Jackson Hole valley and Grand Teton National Park. My main concern is the noise produced by helicopters flying and hovering overhead during scenic tours. I see this as disruptive to both the people and wildlife in the valley. In many locations, the mountainous terrain seems to amplify the noise disturbances as well, making it more of a nuisance.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Fritz Doster  
*Town of Jackson Resident*

**From:** [awbarbour@aol.com](mailto:awbarbour@aol.com)  
**To:** [publiccomment](#)  
**Subject:** Wind River Heli Tours  
**Date:** Thursday, April 16, 2020 4:21:44 PM

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My opposition to the thought of helicopters flying over the Grand Tetons is firm and considerable. The history of these tourism flights is filled with crashes taking lives, wildlife scared to the point of not reproducing, hikers tripping from the disruptive noise of the aircraft.

The Tetons are to be gazed upon, hiked upon in the near silence that a national park is meant to deliver.

Do not disrupt the relative serenity of the Grand Tetons. Turn down the application for tourism flights by helicopters or other aircraft.

Anne Callison  
Denver CO

If you need other identifying information, contact me by email.

**From:** [Kim McGregor](#)  
**To:** [publiccomment](#)  
**Subject:** Wind River Heli  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 21, 2020 9:37:45 PM

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Please record my opposition to having helicopter tours operate out of our JH Airport. This will not be a positive addition to anyone's experience of visiting Jackson Hole. Have proper studies been made of safety issues related to helicopters in general? Mountains, high elevation weather and it's incredible changeability, not to mention the NOISE related to helicopters need to be addressed. I'm sure the bereaved family members of Kobe Bryant and his daughter would weigh in against having helicopters used, due to the large potential danger factors. Personally and selfishly, I would hate to have helicopters cruising around in the skies while I'm out hiking or skiing in our back or front-country. This is also not something that ordinary visitors would be able to afford and would be limited to the uber-wealthy. Is this something we should be promoting? I think not. Thanks for listening to a 42 year resident of Jackson Hole.

Kim McGregor  
South Park  
Sent from my iPad

**From:** [Lee](#)  
**To:** [publiccomment](#)  
**Subject:** Wind River helicopter application meeting  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 21, 2020 10:12:10 AM

---

Please defer this meeting to a time when the public can participate and provide more than three days' notice. I strongly oppose approval of these helicopter tours because of the dangers of crashes and fires, disturbance to animals, and disturbance to local residents (my home at 6220 North Aspen Drive is due south of the airport and directly in the flight path of the tours).

Thank you,

Lee Kintzel



**From:** [Elaine Engelman](#)  
**To:** [publiccomment](#)  
**Subject:** Wind River Helicopter Tours meeting April 24, 2020  
**Date:** Friday, April 24, 2020 7:37:00 AM

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Jackson Hole Airport,

I am a resident of Moulton Loop Ranches and strongly oppose the proposed helicopter tours by Wind River. The noise from the low altitude helicopter flights would be disrupting to people and wildlife which we enjoy roaming across the residence. The cost paid for our property and property taxes are significant investments and the tours would negatively impact not only our investment but our privacy and enjoyment of our property.

The abysmal safety record of the helicopter class proposed is an even greater concern. I feel it is an endangerment to residences near the airport and a crash would certainly make national news and negatively impact the image and tourism of Jackson Hole.

Wind River should choose an alternate location in a smaller airport where residences are not directly below take off and landings noise and where safety is less of an issue.

Thank you,

Elaine Engelman M.D  
Robert Engelman PhD DVM  
280 Moulton Loop  
Jackson, WY

**From:** [Andy Heffron](#)  
**To:** [publiccomment](#)  
**Subject:** Wind River Heli-scenic tours  
**Date:** Thursday, April 16, 2020 10:28:29 AM

---

As a resident of Alta, Wyoming, I am very much opposed to the proposed Helicopter Tour application. The wildlife impacts from frequent trips over consistent routes at relatively low altitudes should be enough to deny this application on its' own. Those who purchase property adjacent to an airport have no right to complain about airport noise but for those of us who live along the proposed flight path have a right to peaceful enjoyment. I urge you to deny this permit.

Andy Heffron  
1955 Bustle Creek Road  
Alta, WY 83414  
307-699-2947

**From:** [s.king](#)  
**To:** [publiccomment](#)  
**Subject:** Wind river llc application 24 April 2020  
**Date:** Friday, April 24, 2020 5:51:30 AM

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It seems that during a worldwide pandemic, this is not an appropriate time for public comment on the Wind River, LLC proposed application. There are much more important issues effecting the population that would be effected by this proposal. I would suggest asking for a postponement until a more appropriate time for this discussion.

Steven King  
Victor, Idaho  
Sent from my iPod

**From:** [Penny Mohan](#)  
**To:** [publiccomment](#)  
**Subject:** Wind River mtg April 17, 2020  
**Date:** Thursday, April 16, 2020 4:29:25 PM

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PLEASE do not allow, or at least delay, a totally unnecessary, intrusive private helicopter service to use our airport and fly over our lands, including of course and especially, Grand Teton National Park. Surely it is not always about the bottom line \$\$? Profit to Wind River, fees to the airport? Since when do we have to sanction this kind of impact--noise, fuel consumption, inevitable stress on wildlife and waterfowl, possible conflict with commercial flights which could pose danger to hundreds, for a few tourists who would come to Jackson anyway, and to line the pocket of a private entrepreneur? He promises not to fly over the Park. Tell that to the wind, the noise, the birds, the elk.....

Please: NO.

Penny Mohan  
Wilson

**From:** [Suzie](#)  
**To:** [publiccomment](#)  
**Subject:** Wind River Tours - proposed Heli Tours  
**Date:** Thursday, April 16, 2020 6:59:12 PM

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To all concerned:

PLEASE PLEASE reject this application.

This incredibly beautiful area is quickly becoming more and more urbanized.

I have lived here for 14 years, having moved from Colorado. The traffic noise has increased dramatically in recent times, as well as the numbers of private jets taking off and landing during the summer which are extremely noisy.

Please do not add to this disruption of the peace and tranquility of our area by introducing helicopters!!!!

These tours are incredibly noisy and intrusive and totally out of place here.

I have experienced them in other states which were once peaceful and beautiful in their natural state but now completely ruined by helicopter tours.

Thank you for your consideration of these very important comments.

Suzie Trueman

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Eve Barnett](#)  
**To:** [publiccomment](#)  
**Subject:** Wind River  
**Date:** Friday, April 17, 2020 8:59:39 AM

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Helicopter tours are incompatible with the natural and wild values Jackson Hole prides itself on. Helicopters are very noisy and will inevitably disturb wildlife, residents, and visitors alike. If one company is successful, more will inevitably arrive, compounding the problem. Places like the Grand Canyon and Sedona are example where helicopters have detracted from the natural landscape as well as the peace and quiet most people were drawn there for.

**From:** [Maggie Radford](#)  
**To:** [publiccomment](#)  
**Cc:** [Anna Valsing](#); [windriverair@gmail.com](mailto:windriverair@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** WRA Application - 4/24/20 meeting  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 22, 2020 11:27:33 AM

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Dear Airport Board,

While I am pleased with the decision to separate the WRA application from all other Airport Board business, I am dismayed that you are attempting to have this very important public discussion without the public being able to attend in person. Last week it was revealed that numerous letters of opposition have been submitted against this application; given this clear opposition in the community, it seems that the Board should instead hold this application hearing once we can all meet in person. Additionally, the relatively short notice for this rescheduled meeting will not allow many people (myself included) ample time to participate on Friday morning given other commitments that cannot be changed at this time.

I respectfully request that Mr. Chambers agree to postpone the hearing of his application until he can hear from everyone on this extremely important community issue in person.

Sincerely,

Mary Radford

**From:** [hadden forry](#)  
**To:** [publiccomment](#)  
**Cc:** [windriverair@gmail.com](mailto:windriverair@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** WRA proposal  
**Date:** Thursday, April 23, 2020 6:54:27 PM

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There is a 92 page comprehensive, scientific study from 2011 by Harbrow, Cessford, and Kazmierow entitled The Impact of Scenic Helicopter Tours on Recreationists and Wildlife in New Zealand's Natural Areas. As you know, New Zealand's outdoor enthusiasts and ecosystem are both very similar to our own.

The study provides abundant evidence of the negative impact of helicopter tours on wildlife including acute and chronic physiologic stress, changes in flight behavior, the flushing of birds (both mothers and fledglings) from nests, collisions of birds with these helicopters, alteration in movement and activity patterns of bighorn sheep, habitat displacement of many different types of animal species, the list continues.

The article also provides overwhelming evidence for how primarily the noise, but also the visual pollution caused by helicopters negatively impacts the overall experience of recreationists in these natural places.

One can argue that scenic helicopter tours will boost tourism in Jackson, but in the same breath argue it will reduce tourism as outdoor recreationists will become hesitant to come here where their tranquility is compromised.

There is hard science that underscores the comprehensive negative impact scenic helicopter tours have on an ecosystem and tourism industry very similar to ours.