

# JACKSON HOLE AIRPORT STAFF UPDATE

January 25, 2019

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# Employee of the Month



Virginia Von Essen received the Employee of the Month Award for December. Virginia was recognized for her friendly service at the screening checkpoint an being an exceptional team player. Thank you for embracing the people helping people mantra Gini. Congratulations!

#### Community Outreach:





Airport staff gave a presentation to students at Jackson Hole Highschool for the "Bronc Life" program which included an overview of airport career paths as well as a brief history of the Airport.

Thank you to everyone for supporting the Holiday Food Drive this year. With your help, JAC was able donate over 300lbs of goods to JH Cupboard. These resources will help our local community immensely.

## **Teton Raptor Center Surprises Travelers:**

Passengers were not only greeted with mimosas, but raptors too upon their arrival for the past few Fridays at JAC. The Raptor Center receives federal funding to bring their raptor program to the public. The Center typically frequents the local visitor centers, but due to the government shutdown, they brought the program to the Airport!



(Photo by Teton Raptor Center)

## Supreme Court Ruling:

On January 15, 2019, the Wyoming Supreme Court ruled on an appeal regarding the scope of public records which governmental entities such as the Jackson Hole Airport Board (the "Board") are required to maintain and disclose. Under Wyoming statutes, the Board is both an airport board and a joint powers board.

The issue in the case was which of two Wyoming statutes describes the scope of records which joint powers boards must maintain and make available. The Board believed that the Special District Public Records and Meetings Act ("SDPRMA") governed the scope of documents required to be produced to the public. Airport joint powers boards are expressly listed as a type of "other specified entity" which are subject to the SDPRMA but are not listed anywhere in the broader Wyoming Public Records Act (the "Act"). Overruling the Teton County District Court in a lawsuit filed by Wyoming Jet Center LLC, the Supreme Court ruled that even though airport boards and joint powers boards are not within the Act's listing of governmental entities covered by the Act, joint powers board should be considered "special districts," at least for purposes of the Act.

At the time of the lawsuit, the Board had voluntarily responded and provided documents under numerous public records requests made by Wyoming Jet Center. The lawsuit did not assert that the Airport failed to produce documents required by the Act. Rather, it asserted that the Board did not produce a detailed listing of

documents which were withheld because they were privileged or contained third parties confidential financial

information. Wyoming Jet Center LLC asserted that such a detailed listing was required by the Act, the Board stated that it was technically subject to that Act, and Wyoming Jet Center then filed suit.

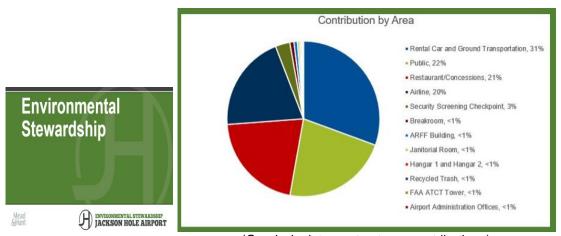
"The Airport Board has always been as transparent as possible when it comes to disclosure of public records," said Airport Executive Director Jim Elwood. "The Supreme Court's decision will not change that, since the Airport has never withheld documents simply because they were required to be produced under the Act rather than the SDPRMA." "In fact," said Elwood, "the Airport has continued to respond to Wyoming Jet Center's many records requests even after its lawsuit was filed."

"This decision will not have a significant impact on how the Airport Board responds to public records requests," said Elwood. "We will continue to honor a wide range of public records requests, so long as the records requested are not excepted from the Act, such as those which are privileged, contain confidential financial or personal information, or are not otherwise required to be withheld."

It is unfortunate this rose to the level of a lawsuit, since the scope of documents the Board will produce will not significantly change based on the ruling. However, when Wyoming Jet Center sued alleging that joint powers boards were "special districts" and on that basis were subject to the Act, the Board had little choice but to respond, since no Wyoming statute provided, and no court had previously held, that a joint powers board was a special district.

"The Airport Board is pleased to finally have this determination as to which public records statute applies to the Board," said Elwood. The Airport will now review the Supreme Court's decision and work to develop a public records policy that is consistent with the ruling. The Airport has a long history of making information available to the public and has posted a large volume of information on its website for anyone interested in the workings of the Airport, its governance and policy.

# Airport Publishes Environmental Stewardship Guide:

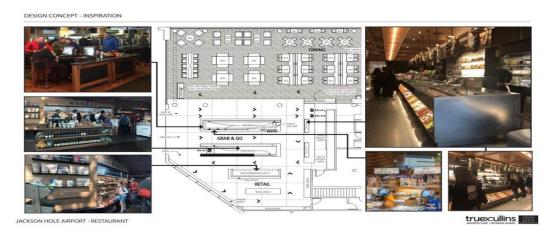


(Graph depicts waste steam contributions)

At its December Board meeting, the Board adopted an Environmental Stewardship Guide which establishes goals and road maps the path JAC has taken and will take to implement initiatives that preserve and protect the environment while supporting the values of our local community and Grand Teton National Park. The full report will available on our website soon.

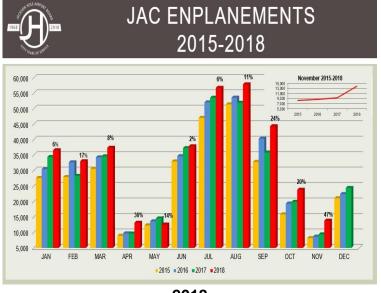
#### Jed's Makeover:

The Airport Board and architects Carney Logan Burke are working together to design a restaurant expansion that will also include a nursing room and pet relief area in the screening hold room.



# 2018 Operations:

2018 was another record enplanement year for JAC. Everyone has played a roll in keeping our facility safe, efficient and customer service orientated. JAC would just be another airport without all of you! Because of you, we are one of the finest airport's in the northwest!



2018 391,353 Enplanements 4,322 Flights