



Luther Propst, Chair
Natalia D. Macker, Vice-Chair
Greg Epstein
Mark Newcomb
Wes Gardner

October 30, 2023

Jason Crowder, Deputy Director
Office of State Lands and Investments
122 W. 25th St., Herschler Bldg. Ste. W103
Cheyenne, WY 82002

Sent via U.S. Mail and by email to jason.crowder@wyo.gov

Re: The Kelly Parcel – T 43 North, R 115 West, Section 36

Dear Deputy Director Crowder:

The Teton County Board of County Commissioners understands that the Office of State Lands and Investments (OSLI) has initiated the administrative review and analysis process related to the proposed disposal of the Kelly Parcel located here in Teton County.

The Teton County Board of County Commissioners unanimously urges the Wyoming State Board of Land Commissioners to deny the proposed public auction of the Kelly Parcel.

The Wyoming Game and Fish Department submitted a letter to OSLI dated September 29, 2023 that well describes the important wildlife habitat and hunting values of this parcel. We simply reiterate that the Kelly Parcel provides crucial wildlife habitat for several species of significant value. As such, the land is critical to hunters, visitors to Grand Teton National Park, and State wildlife managers. It is a critical movement corridor; provides habitat for iconic species of national concern and interest; and supports rare and highly sought-after opportunities for hunters.

- Tracking data verifies that “pulses of elk, totaling one thousand (1,000) head or more, as well as antelope and deer, traverse the area each spring and fall.”
- The parcel provides crucial winter habitat that may become even more critical pending the outcome of National Elk Refuge and State feed ground management plans.
- The Greater Sage-Grouse Jackson Core encompasses the entire Parcel.
- “Eighty-seven (87) Wyoming Species of Greatest Conservation Need have distributions that include the State Parcel.”

In summary, development could well decimate the wildlife, open space and scenic values that support tourism in Wyoming.



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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Teton County recognizes and applauds the mandate for the State of Wyoming to meet its fiduciary duties and provide revenue for public education in Wyoming. We are proud that our county provided over \$80 million in recapture property tax to Cheyenne last year to assist school districts around the State in meeting their financial obligations to provide the basket of goods for education throughout the State.

We are confident a double win can be achieved that supports the schools and protects the parcel's value to the State's wildlife. Our community was impressed with the efforts of the State of Wyoming in working collaboratively with the National Park Service to transfer the trust lands to Grand Teton National Park beginning in 2010 and culminating in 2016 with the \$46 million transfer of the Antelope Flats Parcel. Our Board looks forward to another great day soon when the Kelly Parcel can also be transferred to Grand Teton National Park and the State of Wyoming can obtain significant additional funding for the school children of Wyoming.

The unprecedented auction for development of a parcel of State lands within the boundary of a national park would be a regrettable milestone in the history of our State. We respectfully request that you reject the proposal to auction this parcel to the highest bidder.

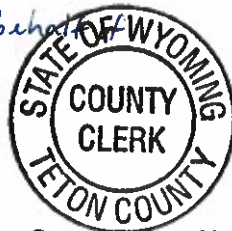
Thank you for your consideration.

Very Truly Yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Luther Propst".

Luther Propst, Chair
Teton County Board of County Commissioners

Attest: *Rose Robertson on behalf of*
Maureen Murphy
Maureen E. Murphy
Teton County Clerk



Cc: Chip Jenkins, Superintendent, Grand Teton National Park.
Cc: State Board of Land Commissioners: Mark Gordon, Governor, State of Wyoming; Chuck Gray, Secretary of State, State of Wyoming; Kristi Racines, Auditor, State of Wyoming; Curt Meier, Treasurer, State of Wyoming; Megan Degenfelder, Superintendent of Public Instruction, State of Wyoming.