

Survey for Backcountry Users on Winter Use of Teton Pass

Why a survey?

The winter of 2018-19 raised a number of concerns regarding winter backcountry recreational use on Teton Pass – (i.e., skier-triggered avalanches that endangered motorists; parking conflicts; ski descents through road cuts; uncollected dog poop; and more). To ensure public safety and sustainable access, Wyoming Department of Transportation (WYDOT), Bridger Teton National Forest (BTNF), Wyoming Highway Patrol, Teton Backcountry Alliance (TBCA), and others are now exploring short-term and long-term actions to address these issues, particularly around the interface of recreational activity on the Pass and WYDOT's ability to keep WY Highway 22 safe for motorists.

To assist managing agencies with this effort and advocate for continued responsible access, we are running this on-line survey to solicit backcountry users' input. Below we have provided places to share your thoughts on these topics and comment on solutions. We have also listed some possible solutions that originated from the TBCA Steering Committee and conversations we have had with Teton Pass users. Proposed solutions below do not necessarily represent agency considerations. Therefore, please do not contact the agencies about the options presented below. Instead, write your comments on this survey.

Answers will be compiled, made available to the public, and shared with the relevant agencies. To protect people's privacy, please do not include names in your survey responses. All names will be removed before the results of the survey are made public.

We thank you for participating!

About the Teton Backcountry Alliance:

TBCA is a new grassroots organization dedicated to promoting public safety, community, stewardship, and sustainable access for Teton-area winter backcountry users. TBCA addresses these goals through dialogue, public information, problem solving, and advocacy. For more information about TBCA see <https://www.facebook.com/TetonBackcountryAlliance/>. If you have questions about the survey, email us at TetonBackAlliance@gmail.com.

Thank you for your participation!

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ABOUT YOU

1. What is your home zip code?

2. Gender

- Female
- Male
- Rather not answer

3. Year you were born:

4. Which winter activities do you enjoy on Teton Pass? (check all that apply)
And which activity do you do most often? (check one)

	Yes (check all that apply)	Most often (check one box)
Ski	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Snowboard	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Snowshoe	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Snowmobile to ski/snowboard	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Snowmobile	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sledding	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (describe below)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Other activity (please describe and state if it is your most common activity)

5. How often do you visit Teton Pass for winter recreation?

- Several times a week
- Once a week
- Several times a month
- Once a winter
- Other (please specify)

6. What year did you first visit Teton Pass for winter recreation?

7. Do you use Highway 22 to commute to Teton County, Wyoming?

- Yes
- No

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YOUR CONCERNS

8. What do you consider to be the top three concerns or problems relating to winter backcountry recreation on Teton Pass?

First concern:

Second concern:

Third concern:

9. What is your best suggestion for an action that would address each of the concerns you listed above?

1st concern action:

2nd concern action:

3rd concern action:

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SHORT-TERM ACTIONS

Please respond to the possible short-term solutions in each problem category below. Note: TBCA gathered these ideas during community discussions.

1) Winter uses, avalanches, and the Highway 22 road corridor:

10. With regard to winter uses, avalanches, and the Highway 22 corridor, please rate how necessary each action idea is to you:

	not necessary	somewhat necessary	very necessary	don't know
Temporarily close high-consequence avalanche zones, such as Twin Slides and/or Glory Bowl, to all human presence during CONSIDERABLE, HIGH, and EXTREME avalanche conditions, as defined by the BTNF Avalanche Forecast Center.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Temporarily close Glory Bowl and Twin Slides during WYDOT avalanche hazard mitigation.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Full winter closure of Twin Slides to all human presence.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Full winter closure of Twin Slides and Glory Bowl to all human presence.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Full winter closure of road cut areas above the highway.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Hitchhiking allowed only in plowed pullouts (i.e., hitchhiking at the bottom of Glory Bowl would be prohibited).	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
No pedestrian traffic on the road bed in winter (i.e., roadside pedestrian traffic would be allowed only on top of the snowbanks, i.e. skinning).	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Laws and strict penalties for those who violate closures and/or cause damages.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

11. OPTIONAL: Your comments on closures

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SHORT-TERM (Cont.)

2) Education and presence

12. With regard to education and presence, please rate how necessary each action idea is to you:

	not necessary	somewhat necessary	very necessary	don't know
Expansion of the Teton Pass Ambassador program with more ambassadors to communicate directly with winter recreationists.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Better signage on Teton Pass stating what is expected of users.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
More on-line information about uses, hazards, laws, and etiquette on Teton Pass.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

13. OPTIONAL: Your comments on education and presence.

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SHORT-TERM (Cont.)

3) Parking:

14. With regard to parking, please rate how necessary each action idea is to you:

not necessary somewhat necessary very necessary don't know

No more than five cars wait for a parking place on top of the Pass. If you arrive and five cars are waiting, you leave.

Permit to park on Teton Pass, Shovel Slide overflow, Coal Creek, and Phillips Bench parking lots. This permit would require signing a contract say that the holder understands and would abide by rules.

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Parking fees

15. Would you be willing to pay a fee to park on Teton Pass? Proceeds could go to support Pass facilities and the Teton Pass Ambassador Program, for example.

Yes

No

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LONG-TERM PLANNING

Agencies are exploring the idea of a Teton Pass Corridor Plan to provide long-term solutions to current issues and the growing popularity of the area by winter recreationists. Below are possible elements of a corridor plan. Please respond to the possible long-term solutions in each problem category below.

16. With regard to long-term planning, please rate how necessary each action idea is to you:

	not necessary	somewhat necessary	very necessary	don't know
Launch a Winter Corridor Planning process for Teton Pass.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Construction of avalanche snowsheds over sections of highway that cross avalanche paths, such as Twin Slides and Glory Slide.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Provide a shuttle service to transport winter backcountry users between the Wyoming valley bottom to Teton Pass.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Construct a designated recreation parking lot at or near the top of the Pass. (NOTE: According to current regulations, the plowed area atop the Pass is not a parking area. It is intended as a pullout for snowplows and traffic.)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Construct a small visitor center at or near the top of Teton Pass with bathrooms, information for visitors, and a rescue cache.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Create a plowed roadside pull-out for hitchhikers and chain-up near the HWY 22 junction with Trail Creek Road.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Groom a ski trail on or near the existing bike path paralleling HWY 22, from end of Trail Creek Road to Wilson to allow both downhill and uphill winter travel.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

17. OPTIONAL: Your comments on long-term planning and long-term solution.

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CODE OF ETHICS

18. The Teton Backcountry of Alliance is developing a Code of Winter Ethics for backcountry users. What points should be included in that code?

Code 1:

Code 2:

Code 3:

Code 4:

Code 5:

19. Please add any other thoughts/input/ideas/comments you may have regarding these topics?

Thank you for your participation!