

Snake River Audubon Society
A Chapter of the National Audubon Society



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RE: Snake River Audubon Society comments on the Mahogany Ridge planned development.

The Snake River Audubon Society has visited the Teton Valley on numerous occasions and has performed and participated in bird surveys on property surrounding the proposed Mahogany Ridge development. This area has a diverse bird population in summer, and in spring and fall migration, and it supports winter populations of several rare species.

Roads, recreational areas, and buildings as shown in the Mahogany Ridge plan will fragment existing bird habitat and will lead to disruption of feeding, migratory, and breeding behavior. This familiar consequence of development inevitably results in wildlife population declines. Golf courses are in no way equivalent to native habitat.

We suggest the developers reformulate their plans to include permanent open space managed exclusively for wildlife. We believe that each acre of development should be matched with at least an acre of dedicated wild-land. We also advise it is important that these open spaces be in one block, un-bisected by roads, and closed to human activities during critical breeding and migration seasons.

Thank you for your consideration,

Mark Delwiche, President
Snake River Audubon Society

