

ORIGINAL HOUSE
JOINT RESOLUTION
NO. 0005

ENROLLED JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 2, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SIXTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WYOMING
2014 BUDGET SESSION

A JOINT RESOLUTION to the United States secretary of the interior, the director of the national park service and the superintendent of Grand Teton National Park relating to maintenance of the Moose-Wilson road.

WHEREAS, the pedestrian and bicycle pathways built in Grand Teton National Park are a resounding success, allowing people of all abilities - seniors, children, and adults, able-bodied as well as persons with disabilities - the chance to safely experience public lands without fear of being injured or killed by vehicles; and

WHEREAS, in 2007 the final environmental impact statement for the Grand Teton National Park transportation plan approved pathways and transit as a means to enhance visitors' safety and experiences in their national park; and

WHEREAS, before the pathways were approved and constructed, two (2) people were killed on roads in Grand Teton National Park on road segments where no pedestrian or bicycle pathway existed prior to 2007, and

WHEREAS, currently there is a seven (7) mile long gap along the Moose-Wilson road within the planned or built pathway network that links Teton County's pathways with the Grand Teton National Park; and

WHEREAS, two-way vehicle access from Teton County along the rural Moose-Wilson road is important and meaningful for public access to the park, as it has been for the last 120 years, predating the establishment of this national park; and

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WHEREAS, Wyoming residents and other visitors should have a choice to experience Grand Teton National Park outside their vehicle if a pathway provides them that opportunity; and

WHEREAS, private funding will pay for the costs and maintenance of the Moose-Wilson pathway section in Grand Teton National Park, so as not to burden taxpayers of the United States; and

WHEREAS, Teton Village, the Town of Jackson and Teton County are key gateway communities to Grand Teton National Park and should be stakeholders in solutions on planning for public safety and public access; and

WHEREAS, the increased presence of grizzly bears along the Moose-Wilson road shows successful management of the species and should not mean a closure to the public when such a precedent would have implications on federal lands and national parks throughout the western United States.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WYOMING:

Section 1. That the legislature of the state of Wyoming supports continued two-way vehicle access on the Moose-Wilson road for the continued historic access on these national park lands within Wyoming.

Section 2. That the legislature of the state of Wyoming encourages Grand Teton National Park to work with adjacent gateway communities and communicate cooperatively on key issues of public safety and public access.

Section 3. That the legislature of the state of Wyoming encourages Grand Teton National Park to study a

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complete pathway designed and constructed in an environmentally sensitive way that keeps visitors and their children safe.

Section 4. That the legislature of the state of Wyoming encourages Grand Teton National Park to partner with private donors to construct the needed pathway and recreational infrastructure so that the visitors on the Moose-Wilson road are safe and their enjoyment is enhanced.

Section 5. That the legislature of the state of Wyoming firmly cautions Grand Teton National Park about creating a precedent with regard to grizzly bears being used as a trigger for the federal government's closure of public lands, as such a precedent would have major implications for hikers, horseback riders, hunters, sportsmen, bikers, birders and overall public uses throughout the West.

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Section 6. That the Secretary of State of Wyoming transmit copies of this resolution to the Secretary of the Interior, to the Director of the National Park Service, to the Wyoming Congressional Delegation, and to the Superintendent of Grand Teton National Park.

(END)

Speaker of the House

President of the Senate

Governor

TIME APPROVED: _____

DATE APPROVED: _____

I hereby certify that this act originated in the House.

Chief Clerk