

**Snow King Mountain Stakeholders Group
January 23, 2018
Grand View Lodge – Jackson, WY
Meeting Summary – Final**

Attendance

Bob Carruth	Jeff Golightly	Brad Nielson
Geneva Chong	Brian Krill	Anna Olsen
Christie Gillespie	Jim LaRoe	Chris Owen
Sam Danahy	Joe Madera	Tyler Sinclair
Mary Erickson	Bob McLaurin	Ryan Stanley

Facilitation: Heather Bergman and Katie Waller

Action Items

<i>All</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Send questions to Heather about background information.
<i>Peak Facilitation</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft a table of member contact information with phone numbers and emails. • Create a PDF with all selected stakeholder applications. • Draft a meeting summary and send to SKMSG. • Finalize meeting summary one week after it is drafted and send to Tyler to be posted to the Town of Jackson website • Direct stakeholder questions regarding background information to the right person and send answers to SKMSG. • Prepare agenda for the next meeting and have it posted on the Town of Jackson website by February 6.
<i>Tyler Sinclair</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post all agendas on the Town of Jackson website at least one week before each meeting. • Post final meeting summary on the Town of Jackson website. • Email the following information to Heather by February 6: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Summary of the Master Plan and full document 2) Summary of applicable ownership and leasing information 3) Summary of regulatory and review processes and their connections 4) Summary of the Comprehensive Plan and full document
<i>Ryan</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Email the following information to Heather by February 6: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Summary of Mountain Master Plan and full document 2) Summary of financial status and any applicable documents 3) Timeline for all the respective plans and the build-out.
<i>Anna</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Email Heather applicable high-level information regarding the economic status of the Town of Jackson as it relates to Snow King and tourism by February 6.

<i>Brian, Bob C., and Christie</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Email Heather applicable information about user groups at the base of Snow King Mountain by February 6.
<i>Bob M.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet with Rod Newcomb to catch him up on SKMSG progress.

Press Release

The Snow King Mountain Stakeholder Group met for their first meeting on January 23, 2018. They discussed their protocols for working together and representing the community going forward, as well as their interests. This list of interests will anchor their work as they begin to develop scenarios and was influenced significantly by the community interests shared at the public meeting on January 22, 2018. Stakeholders will review documents and information regarding the Snow King area and the surrounding community between meetings and will spend February 13 asking clarifying questions about these foundational documents and beginning to draft scenarios.

Introduction

Tyler Sinclair, Planning Director, explained the history of the Snow King area as it relates to planning. The Town of Jackson, Snow King Mountain Resort Association (SKMRA), and US Forest Service (USFS) worked together for a few years before deciding that they needed to conduct a more holistic community engagement process that encouraged feedback pertaining the Snow King Mountain area as a whole, instead of piecemeal engagement efforts conducted by individual organizations or property owners representing individual parts of the larger Snow King Mountain area. SKMRA signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Town of Jackson to initiate this new kind of community engagement process. With the help of Heather Bergman of Peak Facilitation, USFS, Town of Jackson, and SKMRA have come together to support this process with no final vision in mind. The process is designed to move beyond individual perspectives in order to identify common interests and create integrative solutions in the future.

The Snow King Mountain Stakeholder Group (SKMSG) is a small-group approach to achieving achieve the goals of the MOU using a small-group approach. SKMSG will represent a variety of community interests as they work to identify potential scenarios for the future of the Snow King area. After the SKMSG has drafted potential scenarios, they will present these scenarios to the public in order to solicit feedback and further refine them.

USFS was not present at the meeting due to a furlough. However, they, along with SKMRA and the Town of Jackson have agreed to seriously consider the feedback from this process as they make decisions going forward. The process includes the Town of Jackson working as a cooperating agency with USFS and providing comments on any permit applications that are related to Snow King Mountain. The Town also controls the private property at the base of the Mountain and will be able to provide comments should any changes be proposed at the base. The only deliverable that the SKMSG is responsible for is the creation of multiple scenarios to be considered by the public, the Town of Jackson, USFS, and SKMRA. Since Snow King Mountain is in the backyard of the Town of Jackson, SKMRA is committed to listening to what the community has to say.

Protocols

Stakeholders discussed the rules that will guide their engagement through this process. Below are the highlights of their discussion, as well as their agreements.

Name

Partner organizations have been referring to this group as the Snow King Mountain Stakeholder Group. Stakeholders agreed that this name is acceptable and will continue to be used.

Purpose

The stakeholders agreed that the purpose of SKMSG is to enter into a collaborative workshop process to come up with multiple scenarios for the future of Snow King Mountain that balance community interests.

Membership

USFS is involved in the process, although they are not official members due to legal restrictions. All other named stakeholders were chosen based on their individual perspectives and experiences, so there will be no alternates at meetings. The names of members will be listed on the Town website, but there will be no available contact information. Heather Bergman will circulate applications and contact information amongst the stakeholders.

The stakeholders discussed potential advantages to members of the public knowing who they are and what perspectives they bring to the table. Some thought it would be a good idea to put their applications on the website for public consumption, but the group ultimately decided against it since this is a contentious issue. The names of all the stakeholders are in the Jackson Hole News and Guide and all meetings are public; community members are not excluded from observing the process.

Decision Making

The purpose of this group is not to come to any sort of final, consensus-based decision. Proposed scenarios should capture the different perspectives and interests of each stakeholder and will be shared with the public for feedback. It is the responsibility of each stakeholder to verbally share their opinions, should they disagree during a meeting.

Agency Roles

Due to legal restrictions, USFS will not be an official participant in the process but rather an active observer. They have experienced personnel changes recently and after a few key positions are filled, there will be a clear USFS contact for SKMSG. Stakeholders representing the Town of Jackson and Teton County are considered equal to every other member of the group, and will be available to provide information as needed. The same is true for stakeholders representing SKMRA; they are equal members and will provide information as needed.

Public Meetings

This process is funded by the Town of Jackson using public resources, so all meetings will be open and welcome to the public. All meeting dates and times will be posted on the Town of Jackson website. All agendas will be posted on the Town website at least one week in advance and Tyler Sinclair will make sure this task is complete.

Documentation

Documentation is important to create a shared memory for all participants as well as an administrative record for the engagement process. All meeting summaries will be nonattributory and will be given to the Town Council and USFS through the proper channels at the end of the process. Peak Facilitation will be drafting the summaries and will send the first draft to SKMSG. Stakeholders will have time to suggest edits to the draft to correct any errors. If there are substantive changes, the facilitation team will use their discretion to reconcile the suggestion with the meeting notes. The draft meeting summary should not be shared with anyone outside of the group, but the final draft can be sent to anyone. All final drafts will be posted on the Town of Jackson website.

Interaction with the Media

Since this topic will likely garner community and media attention, members discussed options for how they will interact with media during the SKMSG process. Some members thought it would be beneficial to speak with the press as long as they are speaking about their own experiences. Others thought it would be better to not speak with the press at all until the process is over. Since all meetings are open to the public and all documentation will be posted on the Town website, stakeholders agreed that no one will speak with the media. Any requests can be directed to Tyler Sinclair, who will offer a generic statement about the engagement process. The facilitation team will not speak to the press either, even after the process has been completed. Peak Facilitation will prepare a short press release about what progress was made for the press the day after each meeting.

Interaction with Other Entities

Jackson is a small town and it is likely that many stakeholders have connections to decision-makers in the area. Stakeholders discussed whether they should be allowed to talk to these outside decision-making entities, like the Town Council, during the SKMSG process. Some thought it would be acceptable to talk to members of Town Council if they only speak about their own experiences, while others thought that no one should talk with members of Town Council about the process until it is finished. Stakeholders agreed that they should generally avoid speaking to decision-makers about this process until it is over. However, if they find themselves in a conversation with a decision-maker, they can share their thoughts on the process if they do not lobby for an outcome or speak on behalf of the group as a whole or other members.

Interaction with the Public

The stakeholders recognize that they are representatives of a larger community that has a significant interest in the future of Snow King Mountain, and they take that role seriously. It is the responsibility of stakeholders to solicit feedback from the general public before each meeting. In order to take electronic feedback from the public, Tyler Sinclair will create an email address for this process that will be posted on the Town of Jackson website.

Community members will be able to email comments to this address. Peak Facilitation will compile all emails prior to each meeting and draft a summary of the primary themes identified in the emails. Stakeholders will spend time at each meeting reviewing received emails to inform their discussion. If someone sends an email to a stakeholder directly, they should use their discretion as to whether to bring it to the Group or not. While stakeholders are participating in SKMSG, they can lobby for public participation but not for any specific position, interest, or scenario.

Public Comment

SKMSG would like to allow time for public comment at their meetings. They will allot 10 minutes at the beginning of each meeting for this purpose, and the facilitator will use discretion in dividing time between all those who want to comment. In the case that there are more people than can realistically comment in 10 minutes, the facilitator will confer with the stakeholders to come up with a solution.

Funding

In the interest of full transparency, Peak Facilitation Group stated that it is being paid \$30,000 by the Town of Jackson to facilitate the SKMSG process. This amount covers the cost of facilitation, documentation, travel time, and some individual conversations. There are no outcome expectations associated with the contract. Peak Facilitation will confer with Tyler Sinclair at the Town of Jackson regarding process. All other functions, including agenda setting and documentation, will be discussed with SKMSG.

Other Rules of Engagement

The SKMSG stakeholders are expected to adhere to the following ground rules:

- Allow every voice to be heard.
- Participate in the discussion.
- Help ensure that everyone feels safe in the discussion.
- Treat everyone with respect.
- Talk about things that you know and let other people do the same.
- Listen to understand, not to respond.
- Focus on the topic at hand.

Interests

Community members identified roughly 80 interests that could impact the future of Snow King Mountain during a public workshop held on January 22, 2018. Drawing on the list of interests that was developed at the public workshop, SKMSG identified and discussed key interests that will be used to assess individual scenarios. Highlights of their conversation are below.

Ecological Interests

- Conservation is an important value of the community, particularly for wildlife and wildlands.
- At the community workshop, many community members expressed an interest in considering wildlife habitat on USFS lands adjacent to Snow King Mountain.

- Ecological concerns could be addressed by suggesting that SKMRA maximize use of its currently permitted area as opposed to expanding its boundaries.
- Environmental sustainability is a value for many people in Jackson and should be represented in any future plans for Snow King Mountain.

Economic Interests

- Community members expressed an interest in the viability of a sustainable company operating Snow King Mountain.
- There is an interest in SKMRA having year-round flexibility to operate as they see fit to remain financially viable, although there may not be agreement about what financially viable means. To some it could mean breaking even, while others may think it means making a profit. To others, it could mean that Snow King Mountain continues to exist regardless of where the funding comes from.
- Recognizing SKMRA's financial viability is important so that they can run their business as needed within legal constraints.
- Consideration should also be given to partners whose economic interests are closely tied to SKMRA.
- Growth has economic benefits and should be handled wisely.

Recreational Interests

- Ownership boundaries are not as much of an issue in the summer as they are in the winter.
- Community members expressed an interest in having flexibility in their recreation options throughout the year.
- Recreational interests seem to encompass natural features such as skiing and hiking trails, as well as non-natural features such as a base lodge.
- No matter what happens in regards to recreation, it should be well thought-out and planned in advance.
- Diverse recreation opportunities can include a variety of ski terrain that accommodates those of all abilities.
- Jackson has a history of developing world-class athletes and should have training and facilities to meet their needs.

Access Issues

- Affordability is a function of access.
- Accessibility can also include different ways for people to use Snow King Mountain and the base area.
- There is an interest in engaging diverse user groups at Snow King Mountain in the future.
- Uphill access could be rolled into interests about access.
- While ownership impacts the functionality of the area, people who use Snow King Mountain and the surrounding areas are likely looking for a seamless experience regardless of ownership.
- Having diverse offerings will allow Snow King Mountain to broaden its appeal, including its appeal with locals.

Cultural and Community Interests

- Community members expressed the importance of honoring the culture and character of Jackson when making decisions about Snow King Mountain's future.
- There is an emotional tie to Snow King Mountain for many community members, and it is likely that the emotion is going to be expressed differently by each person.
- Many people expressed that any changes should minimize impacts on the surrounding neighborhoods. There are many ways to minimize impacts, and that does not mean that there will not be any impacts.
- Addressing impacts to the community does not have to only imply negative impacts, as there will likely be positive impacts as well.
- Some changes to Snow King Mountain could impact community infrastructure and services.
- Any future changes to Snow King Mountain could be a great opportunity for the Town of Jackson to come together and appreciate the value and benefits of tourism. While there are drawbacks to tourism, there are benefits as well.
- Many people in the community are invested in Snow King Mountain remaining the "town hill" in their backyard.

General Interests

- Safety is a broad concern that spans many interests. It can include first-responder access, wildfires, crosswalks, etc.
- All facilities should be high-quality, including existing facilities. This interests spans ownership boundaries.
- Education is a stated interest and can include signs and visitor booths about science, education, and culture. It could also include educating the community about the impacts of growth or tourism.
- Events are another stated interest and can include accommodating more events, finding suitable spaces for them, or maintaining current event spaces through any future changes.
- The issue of loss and liability impacting various organizations is real and should be addressed; however, it may be best expressed as accountability. The best way to incorporate it into an interest is to have clear documentation that lays out the rights and responsibilities of all parties at the end of the scenario process.

After discussing the interests summarized below, stakeholders agreed to prioritize the following interests to guide their future conversations:

- Conservation of wildlife habitat and wildlands
- Economic viability of Snow King Mountain recreation and resort area
- Diversity of year-round recreational opportunities for diverse user groups
- Community accessibility and affordability
- Preservation of the cultural, environmental, and historical character of Jackson
- Prioritization of community safety
- Availability of high-quality facilities

- Minimized impacts to the surrounding areas.
- Consideration of impacts to infrastructure and services, both positive and negative
- Balanced impacts of development and tourism on the community, both positive and negative, that can serve as a model for others
- Consideration of community-wide educational opportunities
- Consideration for holding events
- Broadened appeal of the offerings and amenities at Snow King Mountain
- Clear and concise guiding documents to clarify rights, responsibilities, and accountability for all parties involved in the future of Snow King Mountain
- Maintained and enhanced world-class training and facilities
- Prioritization of environmental sustainability

Next Steps

SKMSG discussed the next steps for this process. They agreed to the following:

- Peak Facilitation will draft a meeting summary of this meeting and send it to all stakeholders. Stakeholders have one week to submit edits to the summary before it is finalized and posted on the Town of Jackson website.
- Background information is needed before stakeholders can move forward with creating scenarios. Various stakeholders will provide background material to Heather Bergman by February 6. She will then email all the materials to the group. All stakeholders should send any questions to Heather and she will get them answered and send out all answers to SKMSG. Background information assignments are below.
 - Tyler Sinclair will provide a short summary of the Master Plan, as well as the full document
 - Tyler Sinclair will provide information about who owns what land, as well as any leases.
 - Tyler Sinclair will work with USFS to compile a list of all relevant regulatory and review processes, as well as a summary of how they all fit together.
 - Tyler Sinclair will provide a summary of the applicable aspects of the Comprehensive Plan, as well as the full document.
 - Ryan Stanley will provide a short summary of the Mountain Master Plan, as well as the full document.
 - Ryan will provide a short summary about the financial status of Snow King Mountain, as well as any full documents.
 - Ryan Stanley will provide a timeline of all the respective plans, as well as build-out.
 - Anna Olsen will provide high-level information about the economic status of the Town of Jackson as it relates to Snow King Mountain and tourism.
 - Brian Krill, Bob Carruth, and Christie Gillespie will provide information about different user groups and their impacts at the base of Snow King Mountain.

- The next meeting will include a welcome, a summary of any emailed public comments, public comment, clarifying questions about background material, and the development of scenarios.
- All future meetings will be from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. in the Grand View Lodge. Subsequent meetings will be held on February 13 and March 12. The next community meeting will be held on March 7.
- Bob McLaurin will meet with Rod Newcomb, the one stakeholder who was unable to attend this meeting to ensure he is up-to-date with the SKMSG's process.