

HOUSING

## WGFD to build seven employee housing units south of Jackson



by **Buckrail @ Lindsay**

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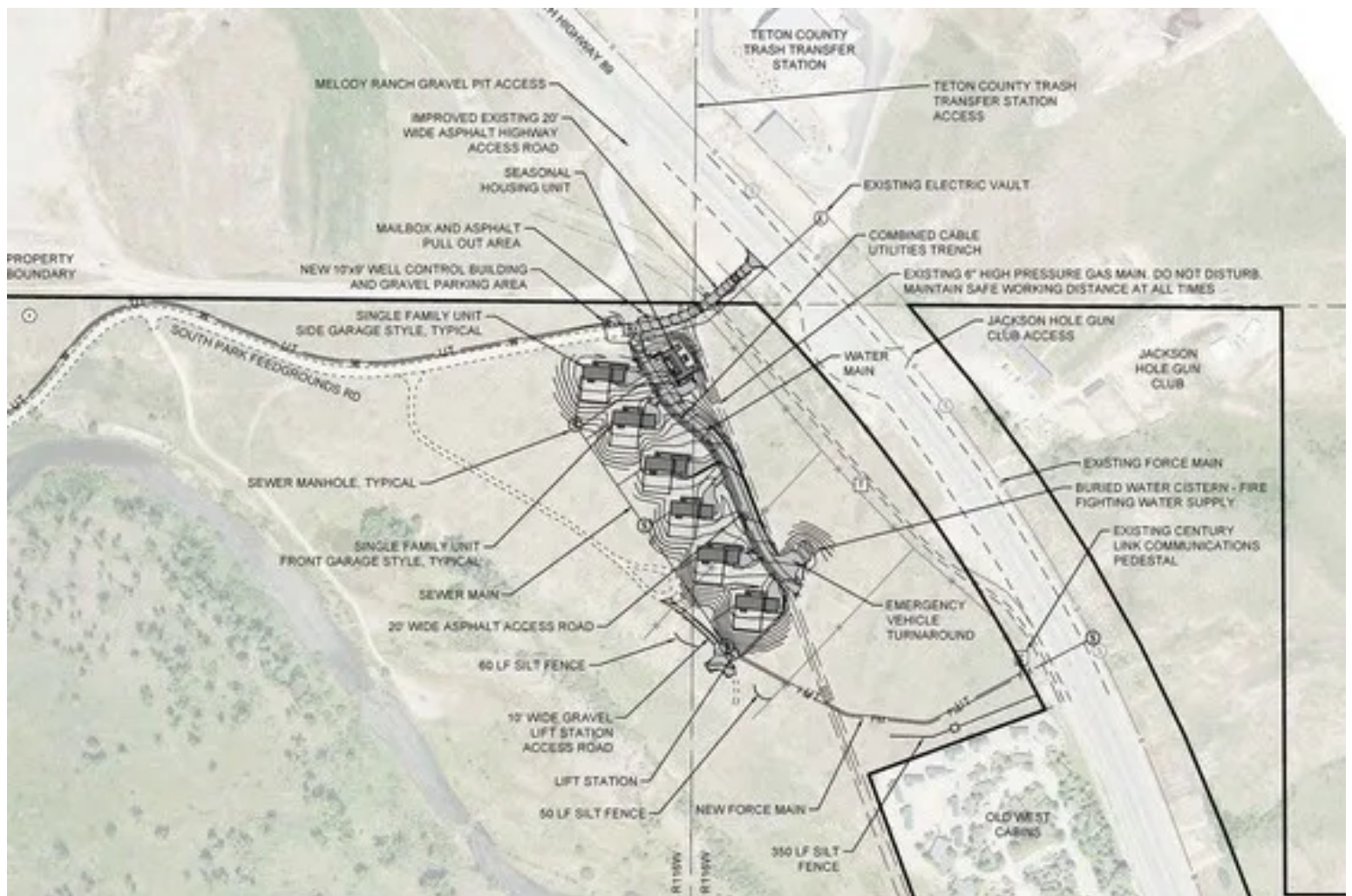
The project location is on WY 89, across the road from the Trash Transfer Station, Jackson Hole Gun Club and just north of the Old West Cabins.  
Photo: Nick Sulzer // Buckrail

JACKSON, Wyo. — The Wyoming Game and Fish Department (WGFD) hopes to break ground on a new employee housing project in August, the agency announced in a press release issued Tuesday.

The project is slated to create six new single-family homes for employees and one multiple occupancy home for temporary employees on the northeast corner of the commission-owned South Park Wildlife Management Area (WHMA) on WY 89, about five miles south of Jackson.

“Like many Jackson-based agencies and organizations, Game and Fish has faced significant problems with employee recruitment and retention due to the ever-increasing cost of housing in Teton County,” the release stated.

In 2019 the WGFD Commission explored the option of moving the regional office out of Jackson due to the extremely high cost of housing in the area. However, there was support from the community for Game and Fish to maintain a strong presence in the region and retain the office.



The location of the employee housing project is on WY 89, across from the Jackson Hole Gun Club and just north of the Old West Cabins. Photo: WGFD

The location of the project was selected in 2021 and according to WGFD, “development on this particular portion of the WHMA will not impact high-value wildlife habitat or the Department’s management of wintering elk.”

Wyoming State Statute allows for the Game and Fish Commission to be exempt from formal land development regulations (LDRs) and after several meetings with County planning staff, using that exemption was identified as the best course of action.

According to the release, Game and Fish is committed to working with all stakeholders to make sure the project meets the housing needs and community vision. Teton County health and fire safety requirements will also be applied to the project.

The Commission has contracted with Jorgensen Associates, Inc. for design and project oversight, and Dick Anderson Construction as the construction manager with a guaranteed maximum price for the project set at \$12.2 million.

According to WGFD, the Commission has been setting aside money for several years to complete high-priority projects such as this. No State of Wyoming general funds will be used on the project.

“We have come a long way on this project and are confident we will be able to develop a small housing complex that everyone will be happy with,” Game and Fish Deputy Director John Kennedy said. “It’s very gratifying to see the efforts of so many coming closer to fruition. The public urged the Commission to maintain a strong presence in Jackson, and this project is critical in order to do that.”