

New name, same game

'Think About It Jackson Hole' is now rebranded as 'Jackson Hole Working.' It's a clever word association that's as transparent as its 5-board members' ongoing agenda: Tax, Spend, Build, Grow.

With a news article devoted entirely to this pro-development advocacy group, last week this paper teed up an all-star team of local business heavyweights with an open forum for their urban growth agenda. The group may have a new name, but they still aren't concerned with conservation or wildlife or anything else important to the common folk who live here. They are as commercial-centric as they ever were.

Perhaps their appeal should read: Please subsidize our businesses with government worker housing built with public money? That way we can keep our costs down and profits up.

They have a big dog in the fight. "They are a bunch of local businessmen looking out for their own interests," as the News&Guide wrote. They will go to every government meeting where your future is planned and plotted. You will likely be busy working.

"Why isn't that three or even four stories? Why didn't we get twice as many people in there?" pondered the group's architect when looking at a housing project.

But why stop there? Why not eight stories? Why not quadruple the renters? It may be just a matter of time for these folks.

Because Jackson Hole Working really advocates **Big-Growth**, think of twice as many people and

twice as much traffic. Double the line at the Post Office, twice as many schools and banks... This community cannot handle a population doubling. We are at capacity.

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"Jackson Hole Working wants to be the counterpoint to groups like Save Historic Jackson Hole" according to the News&Guide and they're seeking non-profit 501 (c) (3) status. They aim "to be a voice for the working community

that is often too busy to attend meetings and make public comment." Wow, such altruism!

They want "to voice an opinion they say is left out of elections because large sections of the working community—those who live in Idaho or in Lincoln County—are ineligible to vote." That reasoning is at odds with our US Constitutional system of representative government.

Here's the situation:

PROBLEM: We've overbuilt! Not everyone who wants to live in Jackson can live in Jackson.

THEIR REMEDY: Increase density; shove more people into congested areas. Tax the people to pay for the businessman's dormitories. Sell your car, ride the bus.

SHJH SOLUTION: Don't foul your own nest. A livable community is more important than growth. Wildlife has no voice and depends on us.

Ask yourself, is Jackson Hole Working a local reincarnation of Mother Teresa's altruism or is it motivated by 'profit' with a disregard for wildlife, conservation and a livable Jackson Hole. It's a question of values. You decide.