

## RE-2 Employee Post Travel Disclosure of Travel Expenses

Date/Time Stamp

**Post Travel Filing Instructions:** Complete this form within **30 days** of returning from travel. Submit all forms to the Office of Public Records in 144 Hart Building. **This form is a public disclosure. The form and all attachments will be made publicly available.**

**Certification:** *In compliance with the Regulations Governing Privately Sponsored Travel, Senate Rule 35, and the Honest Leadership and Open Government Act of 2007, I certify that I accepted the following gift of privately sponsored travel:*

Private Sponsor(s):  
National Association of Counties

Travel Dates:  
06/17/2025 to 06/21/2025

Name of accompanying family member (if any):

Relationship to Traveler:

### Expenses

| Transportation Expenses | Lodging Expenses | Meals Expenses | Other Expenses (Amount & Description) |
|-------------------------|------------------|----------------|---------------------------------------|
| \$958.11                | \$1,316.92       | \$600.87       | \$275.00                              |

*I also certify that attached to this form are all required documents for post travel disclosure, including:*

- The final **Employee Pre-Travel Authorization** (Form RE-1)
- The final **Private Sponsor Travel Certification Form** with all attachments
- The final invitation
- The final approved itinerary

*Finally, I certify that all trip information reflected in the attachments above accurately reflects the travel that I accepted. If there were any changes to the trip after I received approval from the Committee, the changes are described in ATTACHMENT 1.*

7/21/2025

Date

AARON GOTTESMAN

Printed Name of Traveler



Signature of Traveler

### TO BE COMPLETED BY SUPERVISING MEMBER/OFFICER

*I have made a determination that the expenses set out above in connections with travel described in the Employee Pre-Travel Authorization form, are necessary transportation, lodging, and related expenses as defined in Rule 35.*

7/21/2025

Date



Signature of Supervising Senator/Officer

## ATTACHMENT 1 – CHANGES FROM APPROVED PRE-TRAVEL

**Note:** Material changes to a trip that occur after the Committee has issued an approval letter may invalidate the Committee's approval. Please contact the Committee with any questions regarding changes to an approved trip.

Were there any changes to the pre-approved travel expenses? (Transportation, Meals, Lodging, Other)?

☒ Yes ☐ No

| Expense Change | Revised Amount | Explanation                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|----------------|----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Transportation | \$958.11       | New total reflects the flight costs (which were consistent with pre-travel price) and the charter bus, which was slightly less expensive than the pre-travel estimate.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Meals          | \$600.87       | New total for meals reflects the actual price of all food (Tuesday, June 17: lunch & dinner   Wednesday, June 18: breakfast, lunch & dinner   Thursday, June 19: breakfast, lunch & dinner   Friday, June 20: breakfast & lunch) throughout the duration of the trip. Food and beverage rates constrained based on exclusive vendors at hotel and vendors. These are the best available rates available due to the remote location and program site-requirements for food vendors. The new total expense amount is attributable to relatively high hotel food prices given the remoteness of the area and the need to eat breakfast and most dinners on-site at the hotel to ensure ample time for educational programming throughout the day. |
| Lodging        | \$1,316.92     | Final price, with taxes and fees, for hoteling for all three nights. Both hotels were best available rate within close proximity to programming that provided adequate security for participants.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |

Were there any changes to the pre-approved itinerary?

☒ Yes ☐ No

Explanation: On Friday, June 20, attendees participated in the "Strengthening Tribal-County Partnerships in Gallatin County and the Greater Yellowstone Region" from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Speakers included Gallatin County Commissioner Zach Brown and Dr. Shane Doyle, who is a Montana-based scholar, teacher, and community advocate whose work focuses on the history and heritage of Native American tribes. With the addition of Dr. Doyle, the session lasted longer than on the original itinerary so the "Bridger Aerospace Demonstration" was removed from the schedule. Instead, participants just had lunch until 12:00 p.m., at which point official programming ended for the site visit and participants were offered an optional bus ride to the airport.

Were there any additional changes to the pre-approved trip?

☐ Yes ☒ No

Explanation: There were no additional changes to the pre-approved trip.



February 11, 2025

Dear Aaron,

As the Executive Director and CEO of the National Association of Counties (NACo), it is my pleasure to extend an invitation to you as a leader in federal policymaking to participate in NACo's 2025 Federal Fellowship Initiative. This is an invitation-only cohort that will be comprised of congressional staff, White House officials and other federal agency representatives. County governments play a critical role as public service providers for America's citizens. Since 1935, NACo has represented the interests of all of America's 3,069 counties and assisted them in the pursuit of excellence in public service.

NACo's Federal Fellowship Initiative focuses on the importance and structure of America's intergovernmental system, with a specific emphasis on the roles, responsibilities, operations and policy priorities of county governments across the country. As part of the initiative, NACo aims to educate members of Congress, Congressional staff and federal policy officials about the roles and responsibilities of counties across the country.

As important partners in our nation's intergovernmental system, county governments employ one out of every 50 workers, invest more than \$660 billion each year in our local communities and provide vital public services that are the foundation of our society. To provide a clearer picture of the full county landscape and the essential role counties play in fostering safe, vibrant and health communities across the nation, NACo recently released an updated [County Landscape Report](#) and accompanying [Executive Summary](#).

Members of the cohort will meet several times throughout the year-long Initiative:

- **NACo Federal Fellowship Initiative Pre-Trip Event:** Thursday, May 15, 2025
- **Teton County, Wyo. and Gallatin County, Mont. Rural Counties Site Visit:**  
Tuesday, June 17 – Friday, June 20, 2025
- **Urban Counties Site Visit:** Fall 2025 (*Location TBD*)

During the June in-person, field-based tour located in Teton and Gallatin Counties, participants will engage with federal, state and local leaders, and visit tour sites including the Teton County Housing Authority, Teton County Emergency Operations Center, Grand Teton National Park, Bridger-Teton National Forest, Yellowstone National Park and Gallatin County Airport Authority/Bridger Aerospace. **NACo will cover all costs for participant travel, lodging and meals for this site visit and other events associated with the Fellowship Initiative.** More information about the Federal Fellowship Initiative can be found [here](#), and related Ethic Committee documents will be sent to participants in the coming weeks.

NACo Managing Director of Government Affairs Eryn Hurley and NACo Legislative Associate Naomi Freel are available to assist you in any way possible to coordinate your participation. Please contact Ms. Hurley at [ehurley@naco.org](mailto:ehurley@naco.org) or 571.262.9015 and Ms. Freel at [nfreel@naco.org](mailto:nfreel@naco.org) or 574.440.9952 with any specific questions.

We hope you will be able to accept our invitation and look forward to your participation in our Federal Fellowship Initiative.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matthew Chase". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Matthew" and last name "Chase" clearly distinguishable.

Matthew Chase  
Executive Director/CEO



## RE-1 Employee Pre-Travel Authorization

Date/Time Stamp

**Pre-Travel Filing Instructions:** Complete and submit this form at least 30 days prior to the travel departure date to the **Select Committee on Ethics in SH-220**. Incomplete and late travel submissions will not be considered or approved.

Name of Traveler:

Aaron Gottesman

Employing Office/Committee:

Ernst, Joni

Private Sponsor(s):

National Association of Counties

Destination(s):

Jackson Hole, Wyoming ; Bozeman, Montana

Travel Dates:

06/17-20, 2025

**NOTE:** If you plan to extend the trip for any reason you **must** notify the Committee.

Explain how this trip is specifically connected to the traveler's official or representational duties.

As the chief counsel and policy advisor for Senator Ernst handling state and local economic development, this trip will provide an opportunity to learn more about the specific issues, considerations, and challenges states and localities face in building local economic communities when those communities include or abut state or federally managed land, as well as how publicly funded services are impacted as a result of the presence of such land.

Do you have an accompanying family member or spouse on this trip?

Name and Relationship to Traveler:

☐

(signify "yes" by checking box)

I certify that the information contained in this form is true, complete and correct to the best of my knowledge.

6/5/25

Date



Signature of Employee

## TO BE COMPLETED BY SUPERVISING MEMBER/OFFICER

(President of the Senate, Secretary of the Senate, Sergeant at Arms,  
Secretary for the Majority, Secretary for the Minority, and Chaplain)

Joni K. Ernst

(Print Senator's/Officer's Name)

hereby authorize

Aaron Gottesman

(Print Traveler's Name)

an employee under my direct supervision, to accept payment or reimbursement for necessary transportation, lodging, and related expenses for travel to the event described above. I have determined that this travel is in connection with his or her duties as a Senate employee or an officeholder, and will not create the appearance that he or she is using public office for private gain.

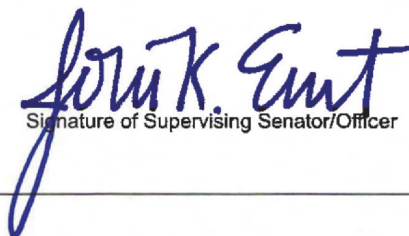
I have also determined that the attendance of the employee's spouse or child is appropriate to assist in the representation of the Senate.

☐

(signify "yes" by checking box)

6/5/25

Date



Signature of Supervising Senator/Officer

# National Association of Counties: NACo Federal Fellowship Initiative Summer 2025 County Site Visit

 AARON GOTTESMAN

Title:

None

Employing Office/Committee:

ERNST, JONI

Duty Station:

WASHINGTON, DC

Destination(s):

Jackson Hole, Wyoming

Bozeman, Montana

## Explain how this trip is specifically connected to the traveler's official or representational duties:

As the chief counsel and policy advisor for Senator Ernst handling state and local economic development, this trip will provide an opportunity to learn more about the specific issues, considerations, and challenges states and localities face in building local economic communities when those communities include or abut state or federally managed land, as well as how publicly funded services are impacted as a result of the presence of such land.

Name of accompanying family member (if any):

Not Entered

Name and Relationship to Traveler:

None

## Organization Information

### Organization Name

National Association of Counties

### §501(c)(3) Organization Type

N/A

### Address 2 (Optional)

Suite 400

### Phone Number

2029424224

### Is your organization classified as a §501(c)(3)?

☐ Yes

☒ No

### Address

660 N. Capitol Street NW

### City, State Zip

Washington, District Of Columbia 20001 United States

### Organization URL

[www.naco.org](http://www.naco.org)

## History of Congressional Travel

This is the fifth congressional trip that NACo will be sponsoring. NACo sponsored similar congressional travel through county site visit trips to 1) Miami-Dade County, Fla. in October 2022, 2) Maricopa, Yavapai and Coconino Counties, Ariz. in June 2023, 3) Los Angeles and Orange Counties, Calif. in February 2024 and 4) Clark County, Nev. and Washington County, Utah in September 2024.

## Educational Activities

NACo hosts two member-based events annually that provide congressional staff with an opportunity to engage with county leaders and strengthen the intergovernmental partnership. Congressional offices and staff are also invited to these events to speak and update county leaders on their work on Capitol Hill.

## Lobbyist and Foreign Agent Registration Information

Lobbyist Registration Status: *I certify that the sponsor is not a federally registered lobbyist and do not retain or employ a federally registered lobbyist.*

Foreign Agent Registration Status: *I certify that the sponsor is not an agent of a foreign principal and do not retain or employ an agent of a foreign principal.*

## Foreign Government Involvement

Foreign Agent Registration Status:

☒ I certify that the sponsor is not a foreign government.

☒ I certify that the sponsor is not an entity that is owned or operated by a foreign government.

☒ I certify that the sponsor does not receive funding from a foreign government.

Comments

None Entered

## Signature Page

The signature page is below.

## Purpose and Details

Provide a brief description of the trip.

This trip fulfills NACo's mission of strengthening the intergovernmental partnership by educating congressional staff and federal officials on the roles and responsibilities of county governments.

Explain how the purpose of the trip relates to your organization's mission.

NACo is a 501(c)(4) nonprofit established to serve and strengthen America's counties. This trip will focus on the importance and structure of America's intergovernmental system and educate attendees on county roles, mandates, operations and policy priorities to help strengthen their communities.

## Is your organization the only sponsor for this trip?

☒ Yes ☐ No

## Grantmaking Organizations (Optional)

There are no grantmaking organizations.

## With or Without Regard for Congressional Participation

The trip is arranged or organized specifically with regard to congressional participation.

## Lobbyist/Foreign Agent Involvement in Planning, Organizing, Requesting or Arranging

☒ The trip will not in any part be planned, organized, requested, or arranged by a registered lobbyist or agent of a foreign principal, other than de minimis involvement.

## Lobbyist/Foreign Agent Financing

- ☒ The trip will not be financed in any part by a registered lobbyist or agent of a foreign principal.
- ☒ No funds or in-kind contributions were earmarked directly or indirectly for the purpose of financing this specific trip from a registered lobbyist or agent of a foreign principal or from a private entity that retains or employs one or more registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal.

## Lobbyist/Foreign Agent Accompaniment

Complete if all sponsors are §501(c)(3) organizations

- ☐ The trip is limited to three days (for trips inside the continental United States) or seven days (for trips outside the continental United States), and no lobbyist or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee at any point throughout the trip
- ☐ The trip is limited to a one-day event (exclusive of travel time and **one** overnight stay) and no registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee on any segment of the trip
- ☐ The trip is limited to a one-day event (exclusive of travel time and **two** overnight stays) and no registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee on any segment of the trip

Complete if any of the sponsors is not a §501(c)(3) organizations.

- ☒ The trip is limited to three days (for trips inside the continental United States) or seven days (for trips outside the continental United States), and no lobbyist or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee at any point throughout the trip
- ☐ The trip is limited to a one-day event (exclusive of travel time and **one** overnight stay) and no registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee on any segment of the trip
- ☐ The trip is limited to a one-day event (exclusive of travel time and **two** overnight stays) and no registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee on any segment of the trip

## Certification of No Recreational Activity and No Alcohol

- ☒ Travel expenses paid for will not include expenditures for recreational activities.
- ☒ Travel expenses paid for will not include expenditures for alcohol, except as permitted by the Regulations Governing Privately Sponsored Travel.

Invitees

**i** Members and staff from the House of Representatives **will** receive invitations.

The list of invitees is below.

Travel Details

Trip Start Date/Time:  
06/17/2025 @ 07:00 AM

↔

Trip End Date/Time:  
06/20/2025 @ 10:15 PM

Will the traveler be accompanied by a family member for whom the sponsor will pay travel expenses?

☐ Yes ☒ No

Itinerary

The itinerary is below.

Transportation (Per Member/Officer/Employee: \$970.78 | Accompanying Family Member: \$0.00)

| Transportation Type                                                                                                                                                            | Class | Amount   |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|----------|
| Airfare                                                                                                                                                                        | Coach | \$820.78 |
| <b>Note</b><br>Multi-city plane ticket, includes travel both ways: Washington, D.C. (DCA) to Teton County, Wyo. (JAC) & Gallatin County, Mont. (BZN) to Washington, D.C. (DCA) |       |          |
| Other                                                                                                                                                                          | Coach | \$150.00 |
| <b>Note</b><br>Group charter bus service for the entire duration of the trip                                                                                                   |       |          |

Lodging (Per Member/Officer/Employee: \$1,187.00 )

| Check-In                                                                                                                                                    | Check-Out  | Facility                  | City         | State   | Country       | Nights | Cost/Night | Cost Exceed Per Diem |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|---------------------------|--------------|---------|---------------|--------|------------|----------------------|
| 06/17/2025                                                                                                                                                  | 06/19/2025 | Jackson Lake Lodge        | Jackson Hole | Wyoming | United States | 2      | \$419.00   | No                   |
| 06/19/2025                                                                                                                                                  | 06/20/2025 | AC Hotel Bozeman Downtown | Bozeman      | Montana | United States | 1      | \$349.00   | Yes                  |
| <b>Cost Exceeds Per Diem Reason</b><br>Hotel is best available rate within close proximity to programming that provides adequate security for participants. |            |                           |              |         |               |        |            |                      |

Meals (Per Member/Officer/Employee: \$482.00 )

| Date                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Breakfast | Lunch   | Dinner   | Incidentals | Total           | City         | State   | Country       | Cost Exceeds Per Diem |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|---------|----------|-------------|-----------------|--------------|---------|---------------|-----------------------|
| 06/17/2025                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | \$0.00    | \$41.00 | \$100.00 | \$0.00      | <b>\$141.00</b> | Jackson Hole | Wyoming | United States | Yes                   |
| <b>Cost Exceeds Per Diem Reason</b><br>Food and beverage rates constrained based on exclusive vendors at hotel and vendors. These are the best available rates available due to the remote location and program site-requirements for food vendors. |           |         |          |             |                 |              |         |               |                       |
| 06/18/2025                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | \$31.00   | \$43.00 | \$82.00  | \$0.00      | <b>\$156.00</b> | Jackson Hole | Wyoming | United States | Yes                   |
| <b>Cost Exceeds Per Diem Reason</b><br>Food and beverage rates constrained based on exclusive vendors at hotel and vendors. These are the best available rates available due to the remote location and program site-requirements for food vendors. |           |         |          |             |                 |              |         |               |                       |
| 06/19/2025                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | \$25.00   | \$30.00 | \$75.00  | \$0.00      | <b>\$130.00</b> | Bozeman      | Montana | United States | Yes                   |
| <b>Cost Exceeds Per Diem Reason</b><br>Food and beverage rates constrained based on exclusive vendors at hotel and vendors. These are the best available rates available due to the remote location and program site-requirements for food vendors. |           |         |          |             |                 |              |         |               |                       |
| 06/20/2025                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | \$26.00   | \$29.00 | \$0.00   | \$0.00      | <b>\$55.00</b>  | Bozeman      | Montana | United States | No                    |

### Reasonable Miscellaneous Expenses (Per Member/Officer/Employee: \$275.00 )

| Expense Type                                            | Amount   | Notes                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|---------------------------------------------------------|----------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Other (Room/Event Rental)                               | \$50.00  | The cost of renting space at hotels/event venues for meetings and meals.                                                                                                                                                   |
| Other (Catering Service Fees)                           | \$125.00 | The cost-of-service fees for meal set up and attendants.                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Other (Printing, Shipping, Daily Refreshments and Tips) | \$100.00 | Cost of printing and shipping educational materials and other items necessary for the programming, as well as snacks and refreshments throughout the trip and tips for bus driver and other service industry professionals |

### Additional Attachments

| Document Name                        |
|--------------------------------------|
| There are no additional attachments. |



## PRIVATELY SPONSORED TRAVEL

## SPONSOR SIGNATURE PAGE

I hereby certify that the information submitted in connection with the trip listed below is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Trip Name: NACo Federal Fellowship Initiative Summer 2025 County Site Visit  
Travel Date(s): Tuesday, June 17 - Friday, June 20, 2025  
Travel Destination(s): Teton County, Wyo. & Gallatin County, Mont.  
Sponsor: National Association of Counties

Matthew D. Chase

*(printed name of sponsor representative)*

CEO/Executive Director

*(title)*



*(signature of sponsor representative)*

3/11/2025

*(date)*





## LIST OF INVITEES

### National Association of Counties (NACo)

#### Summer 2025 Federal Fellowship Program – Teton County, Wyo. & Gallatin County, Mont.

June 17-20, 2025

| TITLE                         | OFFICE                           | FIRST NAME | LAST NAME   |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------|-------------|
| Senior Policy Advisor         | Office of Senator Bill Cassidy   | Ron        | Anderson    |
| Legislative Assistant         | Office of Senator Rick Scott     | Logan      | Anderson    |
| Counsel                       | Office of Senator Cynthia Lummis | Conner     | Brown       |
| Legislative Assistant         | Office of Senator Chuck Schumer  | Lizzy      | Burke       |
| Legislative Assistant         | Office of Senator Mike Crapo     | Erika      | Ose         |
| Chief Counsel/Policy Advisor  | Office of Senator Joni Ernst     | Aaron      | Gottesman   |
| Legislative Director          | Office of Senator Roger Wicker   | Daniel     | Hillenbrand |
| Senior Advisor, Health Policy | Senate Finance Committee         | Charlotte  | Rock        |
| Legislative Assistant         | Office of Senator Dick Durbin    | Amber      | Moore       |
| Legislative Aide              | Office of Senator Steve Daines   | Riley      | O'Leary     |
| Health Policy Director        | Office of Senator Roger Marshall | Max        | Seltzer     |
| Staff Director, Democratic    | Senate Finance Committee         | Joshua     | Sheinkman   |
| Legislative Assistant         | Office of Senator Eric Schmitt   | Alexander  | Thiessen    |
| Economic Policy Research Aide | Office of Senator Chris Coons    | Ivan       | Torrez      |

## National Association of Counties 2025 FEDERAL FELLOWSHIP INITIATIVE

TETON COUNTY, WYO. & GALLATIN COUNTY, MONT. | JUNE 17-20, 2025

### TUESDAY, JUNE 17 – ARRIVAL & TETON COUNTY

**7:00 AM ET – 12:24 PM MT**      **FLIGHT FROM WASHINGTON, D.C. (DCA) TO TETON COUNTY, WYO. (JAC)**  
AA2304; AA3278

**1:30 PM – 3:00 PM**

300 So. Batch Plant Rd.  
Jackson, WY 83001

**Teton County Disaster Prevention, Response and Recovery**

*Nearly 900 counties – representing almost one-third of all counties experience at least one natural disaster each year. As disasters intensify across the country, county governments play a crucial role on the front lines of emergency management and recovery. In June 2024, a landslide on Teton Pass, a vital route for Teton County's workforce, disrupted commuting and created significant economic impacts. The county, in collaboration with the federal government, declared an emergency to repair the highway and address the broader challenges, underscoring the need for resilient infrastructure and affordable housing solutions. During this discussion, participants will hear from the Wyoming Department of Transportation along with county law enforcement and search and rescue officials about current operations and federal programs that support the county's ability to respond to events like these, including the Payment in Lieu and Taxes (PILT) and Secure rural Schools (SRS) programs. **Lunch will be provided.***

- **Hon. Natalia Macker**, Commissioner, Teton County
- **Hon. Mark Newcomb**, Commissioner, Teton County
- **Matt Carr**, Sheriff, Teton County
- **Mike Estes**, Search and Rescue Coordinator, Teton County
- **Mike Moyer**, Chief, Jackson Hole Fire/EMS, Teton County
- **Darin Westby**, Director, Wyoming Department of Transportation

**3:30 PM – 5:00 PM**

200 S Willow St, Jackson,  
WY 83001

**Housing Solutions for Teton County**

*As a gateway community, Teton County faces significant challenges in providing affordable housing for its workforce and residents. The high demand for housing, driven by job growth and limited land availability due to federal protections, has led to escalating property values and a shortage of affordable options. As of 2022, there was an estimated need for approximately 5,300 additional housing units by 2027 to meet the community's requirements. Counties across the*

country play a key role in housing by managing zoning, funding affordable housing programs, partnering with private developers and administering federal assistance like CDBG and Section 8. For example, the Teton County/Jackson Affordable Housing Department oversees various initiatives aimed at increasing affordable housing. They manage a variety of programs, such as deed-restricted housing, where homes are reserved for residents who meet certain income and employment criteria. Participants will hear from local officials about the various strategies to mitigate the housing shortage and develop sustainable solutions that ensure a diverse and functioning community.

- **Hon. Natalia Macker**, Commissioner, Teton County
- **April Norton**, Director, Jackson/Teton County Affordable Housing Department
- **Tyler Davis**, Managing Partner, Keller Williams Jackson Hole
- **Matt Faupel**, Realtor, Compass Real Estate

#### **7:00 PM – 9:00 PM**

101 Jackson Lake Lodge Rd.  
Moran, WY 83013

#### **Welcome Dinner at Jackson Lake Lodge**

*Teton County officials will provide an introduction to their county, highlighting the unique role the county plays as a gateway to high-traffic public lands while still delivering essential services to year-round residents. Participants will hear about the county's partnerships with state and federal agencies, and how these relationships help manage the intersection of tourism, conservation, and essential public services. This session offers valuable insight into how counties like Teton navigate challenges facing the region, including housing affordability and natural disaster preparedness, as well as the complexities of federal land management.*

- **Hon. Mark Newcomb**, Commissioner, Teton County
- **Hon. Natalia Macker**, Commissioner, Teton County

### **WEDNESDAY, JUNE 18 – TETON COUNTY**

#### **7:30 AM – 8:00 AM**

101 Jackson Lake Lodge Rd.  
Moran, WY 83013

#### **Breakfast at Hotel**

#### **8:00 AM – 8:30 AM**

#### **Drive from Hotel to Grand Teton National Park**

#### **8:30 AM – 1:30 PM**

Jenny Lake Cabin,  
Moose, WY 83012

#### **Tour Grand Teton National Park: Tourism, Endangered Species and Gateway Communities**

*Counties play an essential role in supporting federal agencies such as the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the U.S. National Park Service (NPS) in*

*managing national parks, public lands and the conservation of endangered species. These partnerships are vital for maintaining infrastructure, providing services to residents and visitors and ensuring the stewardship of natural resources. Counties collaborate with federal agencies to develop policies, plan initiatives and implement resource management strategies that align with both federal laws and local priorities. This collaboration is especially important in balancing tourism and conservation efforts, as counties help facilitate responsible tourism while preserving endangered species and promoting sustainability. The shared goal is to maintain public access and protect these valuable ecosystems for future generations. By integrating local expertise with federal resources, counties contribute significantly to the conservation of Grand Teton National Park and surrounding areas. Participants will hear from both county leaders and officials from the NPS about their collective efforts to protect wildlife and manage public lands. **Lunch will be provided.***

- **Hon. Natalia Macker**, Commissioner, Teton County
- Hon. Mark Newcomb, Commissioner, Teton County
- **Palmer "Chip" Jenkins Jr.**, Superintendent, Grand Teton National Park, NPS
- **Maria King**, Management Specialist, Grant Teton National Park, NPS

**1:30 PM – 4:30 PM****Tour of Bridger-Teton National Forest: Gateway Communities and Forest Planning**

*Sixty-two percent of counties have federal lands within their boundaries. Even though they are not able to collect property taxes on federal land, county governments must still provide essential services for our residents and those who visit public lands each year, including law enforcement, search and rescue operations, fire protection and much more. Spearheaded by Teton County and the U.S. Forest Service, the Bridger-Teton National Forest is currently undergoing a comprehensive revision of its Land Management Plan, which has not been updated since 1990. This revision aims to address significant ecological, social and economic changes over the past three decades, including increased recreational use, wildlife habitat conservation and impacts of a changing climate. Participants will take the gondola up to the top of Snow King Mountain to hear from representatives of the National Park Service, U.S. Forest Service and county leaders about the challenges and opportunities in managing federal lands in partnership with local governments and will have the opportunity to hike the surrounding*

*grounds. The session will conclude at Aurora restaurant with refreshments overlooking the Teton Mountains.*

- **Hon. Mark Newcomb**, Commissioner, Teton County
- **Hon. Natalia Macker**, Commissioner, Teton County
- **Todd Stiles, District Ranger**, Bridger-Teton National Forest, U.S. Forest Service
- **Mary Cernicek**, Public Affairs Officer, Bridger-Teton National Forest, U.S. Forest Service
- **Sean McGinness**, Recreation Special Use Program Manager, U.S. Forest Service
- **Ryan Stanley**, General Manager, Snow King Mountain Resort
- **Micah Christensen**, Natural Resource Counsel, Wyoming County Commissioners Association

**6:30 PM – 9:00 PM**

**Dinner at Jackson Lake Lodge**

## **THURSDAY, JUNE 19 – TETON COUNTY & GALLATIN COUNTY**

**6:30 AM – 7:00 AM**

**Breakfast at Hotel**

101 Jackson Lake Lodge Rd.  
Moran, WY 83013

**7:00 AM – 8:30 AM**

**Drive from Teton County to Yellowstone National Park**

**8:30 AM – 1:00 PM**

41 Clover Ln,  
Yellowstone National Park,  
WY 82190

**Touring South Yellowstone National Park: Public Lands and the Federal-Local Partnership**

*When it comes to the management and preservation of national parks, counties serve as a key partner with federal agencies in balancing the needs of park conservation with those of residents, businesses and visitors. To continue the conversation from the previous day, participants will partake in a half-day briefing while hiking throughout southern Yellowstone National Park to get a firsthand look at local issues on the ground. As we travel from Teton County towards Gallatin County via the Yellowstone National Park, participants will hear how these counties support essential services like transportation, emergency response and more. We will hear from new agency representatives from the NPS to gain a better understanding of the unique challenges and solutions in federal lands across the country, and how counties serve as intergovernmental partners. **Lunch will be provided.***

- **Hon. Jennifer Boyer**, Commissioner, Gallatin County
- **Hon. Zach Brown**, Commissioner, Gallatin County
- **Cam Sholly**, Superintendent, Yellowstone National Park, NPS



- **Tami Blackford**, Executive Coordinator, Yellowstone Coordinating Committee, NPS
- **Stephanie Carter**, Interpretive Ranger, Yellowstone National Park, NPS
- **Clarice Doughty**, Interpretive Ranger, Yellowstone National Park, NPS

**1:00 PM – 3:00 PM****Touring West Yellowstone National Park: Gateway Communities, Tourism and Infrastructure Planning**

*Counties that border public lands often face distinct challenges related to tourism-driven infrastructure needs, seasonal population surges, economic development and natural resource management. During this on-the-ground briefing in West Yellowstone, participants will hear how Gallatin County, its neighbors and the federal government are working together to addressing these issues through a mix of local strategies and federal support. Gallatin County officials will share how communities like their own—which is home to just a few thousand year-round residents—manage peak-season demands from tens of thousands of visitors. Discussion topics will include tourism and economic development, growth moratoriums and transportation pressures, including airport and road infrastructure needs.*

- **Hon. Zach Brown**, Commissioner, Gallatin County
- **Hon. Jennifer Boyer**, Commissioner, Gallatin County
- **Dan Walker**, Town Manager, West Yellowstone

**3:00 PM – 6:00 PM****Touring Big Sky: Tourism, Transportation and Housing Developments**

*In Big Sky, where luxury tourism meets natural wonders, participants will continue to explore how Gallatin County is addressing the pressures of rapid growth and seasonal demand. The session will highlight the county's use of a Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP) grant to improve transportation in high-traffic areas, alongside broader infrastructure efforts to support tourism and development. Local officials will share how the county is partnering with the U.S. Forest Service to maintain public access, protect natural resources and ensure safety in popular recreation zones. The conversation will also cover the challenges posed by an influx of homebuyers and vacation property owners in this resort town, which have driven up housing costs for locals and tourists alike, as well as limitations at the Gallatin County airport, which must accommodate a high volume of seasonal visitors. Participants will gain a firsthand look at the intergovernmental coordination and strategic planning needed*



*to sustain vibrant gateway communities on the edge of America's most iconic public lands.*

- **Hon. Zach Brown**, Commissioner, Gallatin County
- **Hon. Jennifer Boyer**, Commissioner, Gallatin County

#### **7:00 PM – 9:00 PM**

##### **Dinner at est. 1864**

*Gallatin County officials will provide an overview of county operations in Montana's fastest growing and most populous county, where the demands of a rapidly expanding population intersect with the challenges of service delivery in rural communities. Officials will explain how the county—which covers more than 2,500 square miles of diverse terrain—balances infrastructure needs, housing pressures and economic development while coordinating closely with state and federal agencies that manage nearly half of the county's land. Participants will gain insight into the challenges and opportunities of managing growth, preserving natural resources and maintaining essential services in a rural region known for its scenic beauty and outdoor recreation.*

- **Hon. Zach Brown**, Commissioner, Gallatin County
- **Hon. Greg Chilcott**, Commissioner, Ravalli County
- **Eric Bryson**, Executive Director, Montana Association of Counties

### **FRIDAY, JUNE 20 – GALLATIN COUNTY & DEPARTURE**

#### **9:00 A.M. – 10:30 A.M.**

##### **STRENGTHENING TRIBAL-COUNTY PARTNERSHIPS IN GALLATIN COUNTY AND THE GREATER YELLOWSTONE REGION**

*Gallatin County and surrounding jurisdictions are working to deepen partnerships with neighboring Tribal Nations to promote shared stewardship, mutual respect and regional resilience. From coordinating on emergency response and land use planning to preserving cultural resources and advancing health and education initiatives, these relationships reflect a growing commitment to intergovernmental collaboration. By building trust and aligning priorities, Gallatin County and Tribal governments in the Greater Yellowstone region are laying the groundwork for more inclusive, effective governance that benefits all communities.*

- **Hon. Zach Brown**, Commissioner, Gallatin County

#### **10:30 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.**

##### **LUNCH BRIEFING AND BRIDGER AEROSPACE DEMONSTRATION**

*With the rising frequency and severity of natural disasters such as wildfires, counties are under increasing pressure to strengthen local emergency response and recovery capabilities. Bridger Aerospace is a prime example of how counties can utilize tax-exempt municipal*

*bonds to meet these growing challenges. Through a partnership with Gallatin County and the use of tax-exempt conduit financing, Bridger Aerospace expanded its operations and now provides critical aerial firefighting and surveillance services nationwide. Municipal bonds are a cornerstone of county infrastructure financing, helping local governments fund essential projects such as emergency services, roads, water systems and public safety initiatives. Counties invest over \$50 billion annually in infrastructure, with municipal bonds serving as a key financing mechanism that saves taxpayers an estimated \$9 billion each year due to their tax-exempt status. The success of Bridger Aerospace illustrates how counties can leverage these bonds to support innovative public-private partnerships, enhance disaster resilience and drive economic growth in their communities and beyond. **Lunch will be provided.***

- **Hon. Zach Brown**, Commissioner, Gallatin County
- **Dylan Rhoades**, Business Operations Analyst, Bridger Aerospace
- **Mel Holtz**, Director of Business Development, Bridger Aerospace

1:45 PM MT – 10:15 PM ET

**FLIGHT FROM GALLITIN COUNTY (BZN) TO WASHINGTON, D.C. (DCA)**  
AA1501; AA1787