

ANGLE

TWELFTH EDITION 2024-2025



JACKSON, WYOMING | TETON PASS BIG FILL

CMGC PROCESS ACCELERATES EMERGENCY REPAIRS

When a portion of Wyoming Highway 22/Teton Pass collapsed in a landslide in June 2024, the region's residents lost a lifeline. The pass is a critical route for people who live in Idaho and work in the tourist hotspot of Jackson, Wyoming. For some commuters, a 24-mile trip to work turned into an 86-mile journey.

After Wyoming DOT installed a temporary bypass to alleviate the immediate crisis, it selected Ames Construction for a permanent repair. The "Big Fill" is WYDOT's first alternative delivery project. Even with a learning curve for the project owner, the process moved swiftly. A typical CMGC process may take months or years, but the Big Fill's two work packages were complete in less than three months.

The division in work packages allowed Ames to start construction on the first package on Aug. 2 while details were refined on the second package. The area sees up to 400 inches of snow in a season, and there was no

time to lose. Ames crews worked double shifts, often seven days a week, with one goal: Get as much done as possible before snow arrives.

For the first work package, crews excavated 66,822 cubic yards of the failed material and installed 61,700 square feet of soil nail walls. This package was complete on Sept. 28, two days ahead of schedule.

The second work package involves soil stabilization and the installation of foam glass aggregate material for lightweight fill. The jobsite elevation varies from the bottom of the cut at 7,560 feet to the roadway elevation at 7,670 feet. Even with several storms and 2 feet of snow, the team worked through the Thanksgiving holiday to reach an elevation of 7,596 feet before shutting down for the winter.

Construction will resume in April 2025 and is on track to be complete by July.





Because the Big Fill project is so important to eastern Idaho residents, Idaho DOT is allowing Ames to use staging areas in Idaho for incoming materials even though the project is in Wyoming.



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