October 9, 2020

To Whom it May Concern:

We are writing to express our grave concerns regarding Grand Targhee Resorts’ proposed expansion. We vehemently oppose this proposal on the following grounds:

1. The proposed plan does not satisfy the “purpose and need statement” as defined by the National Environmental Policy Act. In fact, the purpose of the project can be simply stated: more coffers in Mr. Gillette’s pockets. The “need,” as defined by Grand Targhee Resort’s proposal is actually a “want.” Needs and wants are different, and NEPA says nothing about the “purpose and wants”; it clearly states “purpose and need.”
2. Grand Targhee Resort has already created a significant scar on the front of one of the most prominent peaks on the east side of the valley: Peaked. This scar is an abomination to the pristine views that should be protected by the Forest Service and other Teton Valley entities. Please prohibit Grand Targhee from ruining the scenic views on the east side of Teton Valley.
3. Grand Targhee Resort proposes new trails for bikers and hikers. I’m a hiker, and I speak from experience when I say that Grand Targhee’s focus is only bikes. In fact, many of the hiking trails I once enjoyed have either become too busy with bike traffic to be passable, or the bikers have ridden the trails when they were muddy and they are now so deeply rutted that they cannot be hiked.
4. Teton Canyon is already overused. The parking lots are overflowing. Drivers are forced to park along roadways if they wish to hike. The Teton Canyon road, itself, is so heavily traveled that it is nearly impassable during much of the summer and winter travel seasons.
5. Many of our neighbors, some of who are also family members, are on the Alta Culinary System. For more than fifty years, the water was pure. Then, Grand Targhee Resort added more biking trails to attract more mountain bikers. Of course mountain bikers, being animals, leave their excrement and urine along the trails. The result has been multiple occasions of contamination in the Alta Culinary System. This is grossly unfair and unacceptable.
6. We live in Alta, just off of Ski Hill Road. We travel Ski Hill Road daily and are alarmed by the increase in traffic to Grand Targhee during the ski and mountain bike seasons. This road was not constructed to handle the existing traffic load, and will certainly become even more dangerous if Grand Targhee expands its offerings.
7. Because Alta is part of Teton County, Wyoming, law enforcement is scarce, including traffic patrols. Rarely does Teton County, Wyoming law enforcement have a presence in Alta.
8. We have been told that Grand Targhee Resort’s consultant is also compiling the EIS for the Forest Service. If this is true, the ludicrous conflict of interest cannot be ignored.
9. Targhee’s current sewage pond is currently at capacity. Do we really want another sewage pond in our beautiful forest?
10. Additional buildings, groomers, life lights, etc., create light pollution. Please protect our beautiful dark night skies that are filled with stars and planets we can actually see (unlike more populated areas).

Thank you for providing this opportunity to express our opposition to Grand Targhee Resort’s proposed expansion. It may be what Grand Targhee wants, but it is not what Teton Valley needs.

Sincerely,

Steve and Diane Green