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Hi Mel, Hi Jay,

Here are my comments of facts, concerns, and issues regarding Grand Targhee's Master Development Plan Project.

Let it also be known that I am adamantly opposed to the MDP as presented. It is aimed at serving the profits of GTR, not the public who own the lands, nor communities that surround the resort. I also don't believe it serves the summer or winter recreation community very well either. It is far too much impact to approve in one action. Let GTR demonstrate its ability to conduct responsible growth by implementing its current expansion plans first.

Need

The needs identified by GTR are unsubstantiated in their proposal. There is no evidence provided that they need to change anything in order to remain viable. One could just as easily argue that guest expectations would be more in line with keeping GTR small and familiar, not aiming to become more of a giant resort.

However, there are definite issues facing GTR that all users are aware of. Transportation and parking are the most glaring ones, yet the MDP is mute on these very topics. Likewise, summer users are all too familiar with high speed traffic and wildlife collisions.

If GTR can demonstrate a need for growth or enhancement, I strongly suggest that they start with their already approved plans that they have ignored for years. There is simply no justification for this effort to grab public lands and develop high impact infrastructure.

Visibility

GTR is a relatively low profile resort. The MDP will profoundly change this in so many ways, and from so many new vantage points. I know of no one that wants this. Whether it be in Teton Canyon, the adjacent wilderness area, Grand Teton National Park, or from Teton Valley – this proposal will have significant and negative impacts on the scenery that is the backbone of our lifestyles and livelihoods.

It is safe to assume that this development will increase light and noise pollution as well, and it will expand those impacts to a wider region, regardless of any mitigation efforts made. Again, this will plainly negatively impact Teton Canyon, the adjacent wilderness area, Grand Teton National Park, and Teton Valley. I am not in favor of any increase lighting at GTR as it already creates more than enough light pollution.

Access to South Bowl and East Ridge

I am concerned that GTR's proposal will prevent access to the east and south of the ski area by back country users as they may restrict access while the proposed south bowl expansion is used for cat skiing. This would be a significant negative impact as it would, essentially, privatize public lands.

Wildlife impacts

Wildlife impacts need to be analyzed. This dramatic expansion brings the resort not only to the edge of additional wilderness acreage, but also closer to winter wildlife closures. Additional traffic will also bring increased wildlife vehicle collisions on our roadways.

Housing

Any expansion will require more employees that will need additional housing. The MDP is mute on how much need there will be, and how that need will be met. This needs careful analysis and creative solutions.

Increased utilization

The intended increase in usage from this expansion will have serious impacts on transportation. Traffic and parking (which are already problems with no effective solution from GTR to date) need careful analysis and realistic solutions.

Water

This expansion will significantly increase water usage by GTR. I am concerned that the new wells and the snowmaking could both threaten wildlife with decreased access to surface water, but also could hurt the Alta and Driggs communities with decrease aquifer recharge and/or impacts on water quality and polluted runoff. There is also the concern about managing increased sewage at GTR. This topic is broad and must be seriously analyzed.

Impact on Community

It is clear that the MDP will impacts that may have serious costs on the infrastructure and quality of life for Teton Valley communities. These need to be analyzed and addressed.