



**Matt Ward**

Victor, Idaho

Mel & Jay — 10/12/20

RE: Targhee Expansion  
Proposal.

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Matt



RE: Grand Targhee Master Development Plan Projects – Public Comment Submittal

10-12-20



Dear Forest Service & interested Parties,

I strongly oppose this Grand Targhee expansion, as it's currently proposed.

A lot of very thoughtful & detailed comments have already been shared on this site. My comments highlight some key points and I'll try to keep them short in bullets.

There are 2 main concerns & problems with this proposed expansion.

**1. Negative Impact to the National Forest & West side of the Tetons** – Clearly, this extreme expansion will have a negative impact on some of the most beautiful country in N. America & change the West slope of the Tetons forever.

**2. This extreme proposal will destroy what makes Grand Targhee so special** and will destroy why so many people from across the country come here and love this place. It's really unfortunate Geordie & his leadership team don't understand this. I'm speaking for friends from across the country, representing the entire spectrum of economic classes, not just myself.

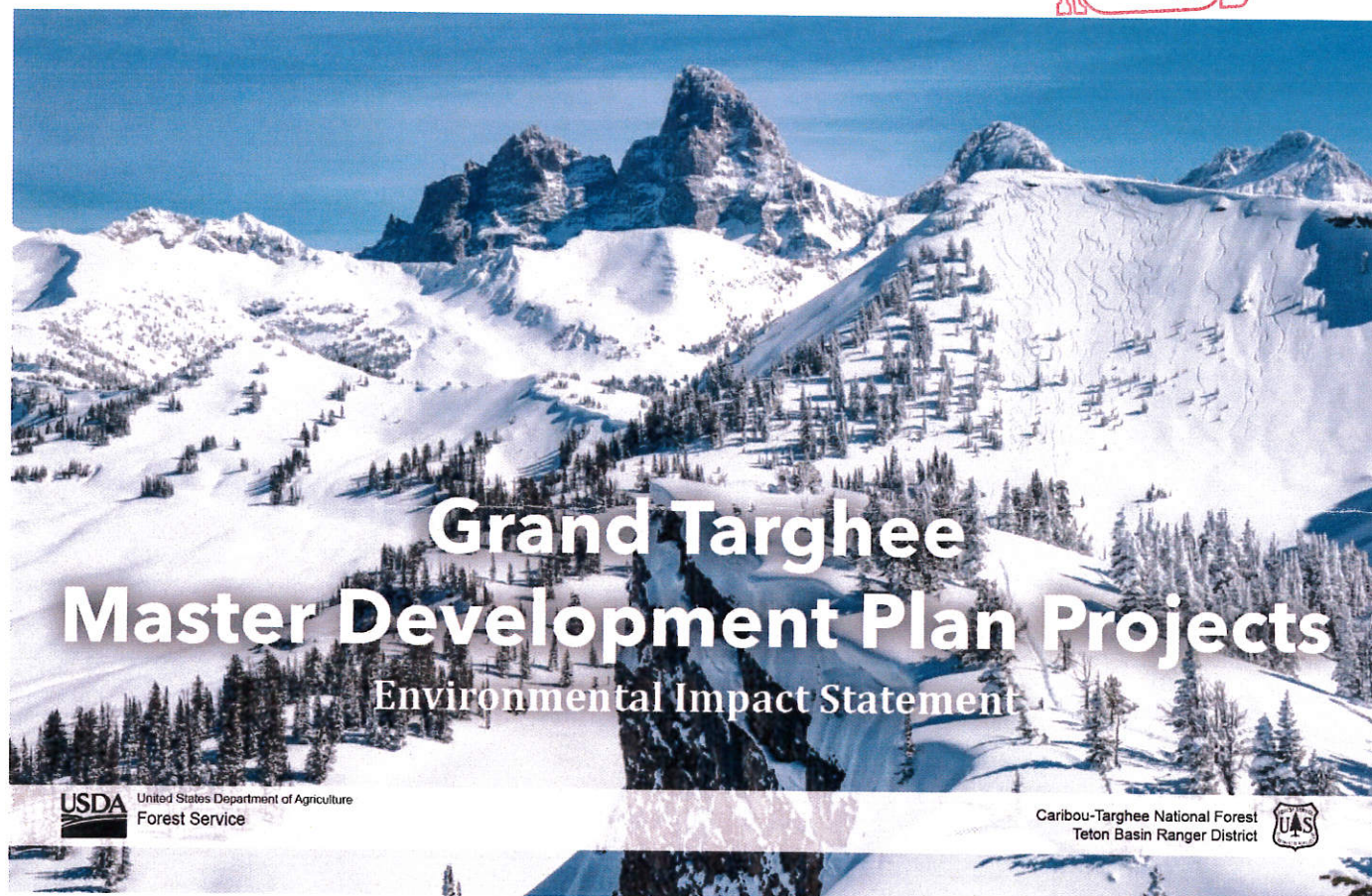
- How does building 2 huge lodges/restaurants at the top of 2 mountains & littering the side of a mountain with ski lifts benefit the National Forest, our community or anyone? These lodges are not proposed as humble little Corbets Cabin & the expansion of the ski acreage is extreme.
- The view from our Valley & Teton Canyon will be changed forever.
- Such an excessive plan will cost a ton of \$. Where is all the \$ coming from and what happens if they get started and run out of \$ or the funding sources change their minds and pull the plug?
- Total disruption of natural habitat for many animals, with some protected and endangered.
- The construction alone will have a major negative impact on the area. Traffic up Ski hill Rd., heavy equipment all over the mountain and up Teton Canyon.
- Negative impact on water – both surface and ground water. Erosion & silt in pristine streams and the cascading negative impact that will have on fish, animals & even farmers.
- Snow making – most of the proposed expansion is lower elevation &/or South facing slopes. How does that impact ground & surface water? What happened to the saying "Snow from the heavens not hoses"?
- Avalanche suppression – You will need this on the Teton Canyon side for sure. What will be the impact of bombing that beautiful protected area?
- From a business standpoint, how do you expect to get the hordes of people here, who you are looking to attract? If they don't live in a part of the country where they drive snow covered roads 6 months out of the year, like we do, majority of people are very nervous driving snow/ice covered mountain roads. Examples; Teton Pass, Pine Creek, Dry Farms, Ski Hill Rd. To get to The Ghee, people have to drive 2 of those roads and they do it in a rental car with normally lousy tires. We take this for granted, but these roads in winter terrify the majority of visitors. This is a fact.
- One of the strongest arguments in favor of this expansion, is the additional jobs this will bring to our area. If our Valley is looking for ways to create more jobs, there are many more effective ways to do that, that are not destructive and exploitive of our natural resources.

If Geordie & the owners of Targhee are looking for ways to generate more revenue, there are ways to do it while operating within the current foot print of the resort & retaining what makes this place so special. You can see by the many responses on this site, there are a lot of very bright people within our community who love this mountain and deeply care. I'm sure they have great ideas on this topic. Bigger is not better. Embrace Targhee's uniqueness, amplify it & capitalize on it. But don't exploit it.

Owning a top ski resort like Grand Targhee takes a lot of work, sacrifice & capital. We thank you for all that. But it's also a privilege with a responsibility to make a fiduciary decision that is truly in the best interest of others, especially if National Forest land is involved. I hope the owners decide to do what's right for everyone who loves The Ghee and The West Side of The Tetons.

Matt Ward

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## Welcome

The Caribou-Targhee National Forest (CTNF) is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to consider and disclose the anticipated environmental effects of implementing the Grand Targhee Resort (GTR) Master Development Plan (MDP) Projects, designed to improve the year-round recreational experience. The MDP was submitted to and accepted by the CTNF in 2019. While most of these projects would occur within the resort's existing Special Use Permit (SUP) area, there are two areas along the southeast and southwest borders of the SUP area (Mono Trees and South Bowl) where GTR is proposing a boundary adjustment.

The publication of the Notice of Intent to Prepare an EIS for GTR in the Federal Register on August 26th, 2020 initiated a 45-day formal scoping period. Information identified during the scoping period will be used to develop an environmental document that will analyze and disclose different alternatives for GTR's proposal. Detailed information on the scoping period is provided to the right under the "Public Involvement" header.

Additional information about the project, including a description of the Proposed Action and the Purpose and Need, is available in the Project Overview. Published project materials are available in the Project Library.



*NOTE: THIS IS NOT AN OFFICIAL FOREST SERVICE WEBSITE.*

## Public Involvement

The CTNF is requesting your comments on any component of this project. The purpose of this scoping period is to not only provide project information, but to also give interested parties an opportunity for early and meaningful participation in the project process. Your questions and comments regarding this proposal are an integral part of the environmental analysis process.

Due to concern about the public's ability to review the project proposal and provide scoping comments, we are extending the scoping period until October 12, 2020.

Respondents should include: (1) name, address, telephone number, and organization represented, if any; (2) reference to the "Grand Targhee Master Development Plan Projects"; and (3) specific facts, concerns or issues, and supporting reasons why they should be considered.

\* **Online Comment Submittal** - This was not working - attached error  
 Electronic comments including attachments can be submitted via the Forest Service project website.  
 Public comments can be viewed in the Public Comment/Objection Reading Room.

### Written Comment Submittal

Written comments must be submitted via mail, fax, or electronically to: **Mel Bolling, c/o Jay Pence, Teton Basin District Ranger, P.O. Box 777, Driggs, ID 83401.**

### Virtual Open Houses

Please join us for a live virtual public open house to review the Proposed Action and resources that have been made available for the GTR MDP Projects EIS.

To join us **Tuesday, September 8 at 6:00 p.m. MT** use:

<https://tinyurl.com/yxq62q8c>

To join us **Thursday, September 10 at 12:00 p.m. MT** use:

<https://tinyurl.com/yy4224dm>

During the meetings, participants will be able to chat to engage and ask questions.

## PROJECT LIBRARY

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# Grand Targhee 2018 Master Development Plan Projects #58258

## Commenting on This Project

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For more information about the proposed projects or for individuals who do not submit comments but wish to remain on this mailing list, please contact Rachel Franchina, project lead, at [rachel.franchina@usda.gov](mailto:rachel.franchina@usda.gov) or leave a message at (208) 354-2312.

Your comments are requested by 10/16/2020.

## Application Error

An error occurred while processing your request - Error executing child request for handler 'System.Web.Mvc.HttpHandlerUtil+ServerExecuteHttpHandlerWrapper'.

For more information about CARA, please visit the [support page](#).

You may also report this error to the CARA Admin at the following page:  
[eMNEPA Support](#)

Please include a brief description of repeatable actions which have generated this error.

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CARA Support team

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**Inner Exception:** System.Web.HttpUnhandledException (0x80004005): Exception of type 'System.Web.HttpUnhandledException' was thrown. ---> System.ArgumentNullException: Value cannot be null. Parameter name: source at System.Linq.OrderedEnumerable`2..ctor(IEnumerable`1 source, Func`2 keySelector, IComparer`1 comparer, Boolean descending) at Aquilent.Cara.Domain.Project.get\_Documents() at Aquilent.Cara.Domain.Phase.get\_Documents() at Aquilent.Cara.WebApp.Models.PublicCommentInputViewModel.get\_DmdDocumentViewModel() at ASP.views\_public\_commentinput\_aspx.\_\_RenderContent2(HtmlTextWriter \_\_w, Control parameterContainer) in d:\inetpub\USDA-CARA\WebApps\CARA\wwwroot\Views\Public\CommentInput.aspx:line 62 at System.Web.UI.Control.RenderChildrenInternal(HtmlTextWriter writer, ICollection children) at System.Web.UI.Control.RenderControlInternal(HtmlTextWriter writer, ControlAdapter adapter) at ASP.views\_shared\_nepa\_master.\_\_Render\_\_control1(HtmlTextWriter \_\_w, Control parameterContainer) in d:\inetpub\USDA-CARA\WebApps\CARA\wwwroot\Views\Shared\Nepa.Master:line 29 at System.Web.UI.Control.RenderChildrenInternal(HtmlTextWriter writer, ICollection children) at System.Web.UI.Control.RenderControlInternal(HtmlTextWriter writer, ControlAdapter adapter) at System.Web.UI.Control.RenderChildrenInternal(HtmlTextWriter writer, ICollection children) at System.Web.Mvc.ViewPage.Render(HtmlTextWriter writer) at System.Web.UI.Control.RenderControlInternal(HtmlTextWriter writer, ControlAdapter adapter) at System.Web.UI.Page.ProcessRequestMain(Boolean includeStagesBeforeAsyncPoint, Boolean includeStagesAfterAsyncPoint) at System.Web.UI.Page.HandleError(Exception e) at System.Web.UI.Page.ProcessRequestMain(Boolean includeStagesBeforeAsyncPoint, Boolean includeStagesAfterAsyncPoint) at System.Web.UI.Page.ProcessRequest(Boolean includeStagesBeforeAsyncPoint, Boolean includeStagesAfterAsyncPoint) at System.Web.UI.Page.ProcessRequest() at System.Web.UI.Page.ProcessRequest(HttpContext context) at