

June 9, 2025 (Updated)

US Forest Service
1405 Hollipark Drive
Idaho Falls, ID 83401

RE: Concerns Regarding the Proposed Expansion of Grand Targhee Ski Resort

Dear Forest Service Representatives,

I am writing to express my concerns regarding the proposed expansion plan for Grand Targhee Ski Resort. My family owns 40 acres on E 2500 N, the main road used to access the ski resort when traveling from the northwest. We are also skiers and hikers and were attracted to the Teton Valley for the natural beauty and ecological richness of the forestlands surrounding Targhee. We are concerned by the potential impacts this project could have on the region's water resources, traffic levels, and the wellbeing of its trees and wildlife.

The expansion plan raises significant concerns about the strain on local water resources. The increased development and infrastructure required for a larger ski resort will increase water consumption, particularly for new snowmaking. We are also members of the Grand Teton Pipeline Association which gathers its water from the stream and canals where the proposed expansion will occur. We use this water to irrigate our grazing land for cattle.

Moreover, the potential for runoff from construction will create sediment into our canals and nearby streams posing a threat to aquatic ecosystems that are vital to the forest's health. I urge the Forest Service to conduct a thorough analysis of the project's water demands and its impact on water quality and availability for both the environment and surrounding communities.

Another critical issue is the anticipated rise in traffic volume that will accompany the resort's expansion. The current infrastructure in the area is already struggling to accommodate existing traffic levels. The intersection at Hwy 33 & E 2500 N will require a signal. In addition, E 2500 N is currently two lanes and difficult to widen because of the existing irrigation canals which run on both sides of the road.

The forest surrounding Grand Targhee is home to a diverse array of trees and wildlife species, many of which are sensitive to habitat disturbances. Expanding the resort involves clearing forested areas, thereby reducing critical habitats and increasing the likelihood of human-wildlife conflicts. Moreover, the fragmentation of forests could disrupt migration patterns and the ecological balance of the region. I urge the Forest Service to prioritize

preserving the forest, protecting biodiversity, and implementing measures to minimize ecological disruption.

In light of these concerns, I respectfully request that the Forest Service support Alternative 3 with no Special Use Permit expansion, with the removal of the Restaurant/Bar from the top of Fred's Mountain.

Sincerely,

Vincent Butler

Vincent Butler
P.O. Box 442
Driggs, ID 83422
bbsfhoopster@gmail.com