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Title:

Comments: To Whom it may concern,

These comments are submitted during the Scoping period for the Grand Targhee expansion in the Caribou-Targhee National Forest. Thank you for the opportunity to comment, and for thoroughly using the E.I.S. and the NEPA process.

In the big picture of things, does this expansion E.I.S. take into consideration the fact that climate change is accelerating, and all the new lifts, restaurants, warming huts, and snowmaking and their development will contribute greatly to increased emissions and impact on the planet? And really, how necessary is all this? The Tetons are part of the largest intact wild area in the lower 48, the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. Is it worth it to trash another little piece of it to please some humans in the short term? We already have a large ski area on the east side of the Tetons that attracts the long distance traveller; Targhee's appeal is its size and value to families and more local skiers.

I object to a couple of language uses that falsely represent the proposed actions. First, Grand Targhee lists the south side expansion a "boundary adjustment". This is a MAJOR EXPANSION with 3 new lifts and hundreds of new acres into a new aspect and drainage. The EIS should reflect this. The term "Boundary Adjustment" minimizes this expansion and should not be used.

Another phrase is "Demonstrated Need". How is need demonstrated, and by whom? What about the needs of the Forest inhabitants-its trees, animals, birds, insects? Compared to other ski areas lift wait times at Targhee have always been minimal, and I see no need for a full buildout of all these proposals. The summer mountain biking trails are fairly extensive and the use will fit the size of the area for a long time. I don't see any "demonstrated need" for expansion.

Below please find a list of things to examine in a draft EIS for the South Bowl & Mono trees lifts & road/trail development:

- Visual impacts to the highly important Teton Canyon road, campground, dispersed camping, rock climbing and hiking. This canyon is the major access point for forest recreation users on the west side of the Tetons.
- Visual impacts to the Wilderness Areas that surround and proceed into the Tetons from the Teton Canyon road heads. Please note that this proposed lift area can be seen from the Devil's Stairs and beyond, more than 5 miles away (see attached image).
- Visual impacts to Grand Teton National Park, a mere 5 miles to the east, and a crown jewel of our National Park system.
- Noise impacts to Teton Canyon and the surrounding Wilderness areas from cat skiing, lifts, people.
- Wildlife considerations-how will this disrupt animal movements? I have seen bighorn sheep in the south fork of Teton Canyon a mile from the road head; I find it highly likely they could use the proposed ski slopes for forage or migration. How will this affect other migratory species? How will it affect Grizzly Bears, which frequent Teton Canyon among other places in the Tetons? Impacts on Endangered Species and other species of concern will need to be studied and taken into consideration.
- More impact to Teton Canyon in winter-i.e. more users skiing down to the bottom of the canyon, then using snow machines to get out. The Teton Canyon winter cross country trails are already seeing greatly increased use-could this impact experiences negatively? And what about more search and rescue calls for those getting lost/injured in the wilds of the lower south faces?
- Air pollution: what will impacts be to the Class 1 air-shed of Grand Teton National Park's Wilderness? Is this acceptable? How much?

-Considerations of a South Aspect ski operation-in the face of climate change, and common sense, it seems like ski development on south facing slopes, which have far less snow, will be less than desirable.

-Appropriateness of expanding along the Wilderness Boundary to the ridge east of the current SUP boundary.

Does it make the Tetons, already narrow east to west, even smaller and is the impact worth it? Is it the best place for expansion, a mere 5 miles from one of the nation's most iconic National Parks?

Things to include in a draft EIS for the Fred's Mountain top guest facility, the Sacagawea restaurant, and the Lighting Ridge warming cabin:

-Visual impacts to the valley, to Grand Teton National Park, and the Caribou-Targhee wilderness areas. Also night lighting impacts-will there be lights on all night, and how far away can the light be seen?

-Noise impacts to the same areas.

-Impacts from more water use and waste away from the base area and in some cases right along the Wilderness Boundary.

-Impacts from visitors and their trash, erosion etc.