Data Submitted (UTC 11): 5/5/2025 10:52:53 PM

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: As a local who skied over 200 days the last two seasons at Grand Targhee and started skiing at Grand Targhee when it was Fred's mountain in 1969, I feel my input is very credible. I will comment on each item and where applicable offer alternatives to consider

I. Crazy Horse Lift - Enhances access to terrain south of Fred's without requiring a full lap back to the base. Combines TVT and PRT into a more seamless flow and provides backup access if Dreamcatcher goes down due to weather.

Comment: I do not understand the value of this lift, I do not know of anyone who is concerned about having to ski to the bottom of Dreamcatcher (DC) when they ski down TVT, Lost Groomers, Painted Pony, Patrol and Instructor Chutes, Happy Hunting Grounds, Crazy Horse or Wild Willie. Many ski below in the Powder Reserve so this chair you would not even be able to access this chair. The proposal states that this could serve as a back up when DC goes down due to weather. Since the lift will be going to similar elevation as DC, it will be exposed to the same weather as DC so would expect issues with running any new lift at times when weather is an issue on DC. But honestly, I have skied at many resorts in North America, USA and Canada and Austria and Switzerland and having lifts close down due to weather is just part of the normal operations of a ski area and for the average skier, they are not interested in skiing when the conditions are that bad so if another lift was available, very few with the exceptions of the diehards would even consider riding a lift under the same conditions that closed DC for weather. I cannot tell you how many times the line at the first of the day is long and then after the skiers, primarily nonlocal experience the conditions at the top, they are trying other lifts due to the weather at the top of DC. Final opinion: No need for this lift, adds no value

II. North Boundary Lift - Improves access to Targhee's northernmost terrain, featuring glades and aspen trees. Extending the bottom terminal allows full vertical skiing, better storm-day visibility, and an enhanced experience when Blackfoot or Dreamcatcher are impacted by weather. Unlocks new in-bounds terrain previously inaccessible due to traverse constraints, expanding the Blackfoot zone.

Comment: One item that was not in the proposal is how long is this lift and how much vertical does it cover? By putting in this North Boundary Lift and saying you will improve access to Targhee's northernmost terrain will actually be detrimental to those who ski Blackfoot and go through the extra effort on the traverse to the North to ski untracked powder. Right now, this area is a Powder Heaven that many do not ski because it seems that the non locals do not like to ride the slower Blackfoot lift and if they want to ski other than DC most will go to Sacajawea (SAQ) with the high speed lift in lieu of Blackfoot. This lift would just aid in skiing out terrain that today does not get skied as much and on top of that, the average skier does not ski glades and aspens as they are more into groomed runs. You also state this lift will help with visibility when Blackfoot and DC are impacted by weather. As I stated earlier I have skied more than 200 days in the last two seasons and I cannot recall Blackfoot being shut down on many occasions. There was a time this year when all lifts were shut down due to lightning but other than that I do not remember many. As far as fog goes, there is a reason it is called Grand Foghee and the just comes with skiing at Grand Targhee. Many days this year, fog with all the way down to the bottom for those who were on Shoshone had fog as well, you just can't get away from it.

Final opinion: No need for this lift

III. Palmer Platter - Proposed lighting for race training, supporting ski team development and fostering the next generation of winter athletes.

Comment: 100% in agreement with this Palmer Platter as it will add significant value to the race program.

LIFT UPGRADES

IV. Shoshone Upgrade - The lift is due for replacement, and the new detachable lift will provide key safety enhancements for children and beginners, including auto restraint bars for added security. The upgrade will also make loading easier and significantly improve ride time.

Comment: 100% in agreement with replacing the current fixed quad at Shoshone with a faster detachable lift. Are the key safety enhancements automatic bars that come down and lift up and if this is the case, that is an excellent improvement? This will definitely reduce lines at the Shoshone lift so certainly agree with all.

V. Dreamcatcher Upgrade - As we've seen with Colter, the new six-pack lifts offer enhanced wind resistance and improved operation in rime ice conditions. Chair storage will allow chairs to be removed overnight, reducing rime ice buildup and minimizing morning delays. Additional grading around the terminal will create more space for a smoother lift maze experience.

Comment: I agree that the DC lift upgrade but to just clarify, the Colter lift does not have as many wind hold or shut downs more due to the angle the lift goes up as when the wind blows from the typical South to Southwest, riding up Colter the wind is behind you and not to the side as it is with Colter. And to say that Colter has less rime issues is just not accurate as Colter had more delays than the other chairs combined due to rime ice this last season. So agree with the upgrades but the reasons provided are not 100% accurate as the real reason is DC is getting old and needs to be upgraded which I agree with totally.

BOUNDARY ADJUSMENTS

VI. Mono Trees Boundary Adjustment - This adjustment adds diverse terrain to the south side of the mountain, filling a gap between beginner terrain in the Shoshone zone and the rest of the resort. It introduces dark green to light blue terrain, providing improved beginner and intermediate skiing with gladed tree runs. Situated lower on the mountain, it also offers better visibility on challenging weather days, enhancing the overall experience for all skiers.

Comment: One item that was not in the proposal is how long is this lift and how much vertical does it cover? When I attended the open house I inquired about what the base of the lift for Mono Trees would be at and a gentleman there told me around 7200 feet and key to note is south facing so gets the direct which is ~800 feet below DC, Colter and Blackfoot and only 1000 feet above Driggs which would create an area that would heavily be relying on snowmaking at the beginning of the year and the end of the year. Snowmaking would require taking water from our streams that in low water years would impact our fish and wildlife and environmentally could be devastating. In order to understand how little snow Targhee gets at the elevation of 7200 feet. Since the Teton Canyon rode is closed during the season to vehicles, I took a picture coming down from Targhee at the top of the section where the road cuts back which is an elevation of 7000 feet and you will see that the ground is bare. This picture was taken on April 10th but for any that drove to Targhee this season, you would know that this area had very little snow on it all year thus snowmaking would be a must in the Mono Trees which takes away from the great snow that Targhee has to offer with the need for little snowmaking on Shoshone at the beginning and end of the season. The vibe of Targhee is the greatest snow and not skiing on runs that are almost always needing snowmaking.

Alternative: Part of the justification for Mono Trees is filling the gap between the beginner terrain on Shoshone and the rest of the resort. I agree Targhee has a gap since right now the place instructors will take their students after they are ready to ski more difficult terrain than Shoshone is Chief Joseph Bowl which honestly is quite a jump from Shoshone. Alternately, there are some easier blue runs off Saq and Colter but the problem is the Mill Creek Traverse from the Plaza to Saq and the run from Saq to the Plaza are both very difficult and intimidating

for beginner and low intermediate skiers and the snow can get very thin early season and very slow in the late season. In fact, for spring skiing it is very difficult to get back to DC from Saq as it requires a lot of pushing. An alternative that I am not sure is feasible, but I offer for consideration is a lift that goes from somewhere around the plaza over to Saq and is used to transport skiers and boarders throughout the season due to snow conditions or the individuals skiing and boarding level. You would be able to load on this lift in both directions which would open the mountain to blue runs on Colter and Saq. For those skiers and boarders that wanted to get back and forth between Saq and the Plaza, they would continue to use the current runs. This would be similar to the lift at the bottom of the Hobacks at Jackson and the one across the Christmas Bowls at Sun Valley with the exception that it would load both directions. Zermatt in Switzerland has many lifts that load both directions.

VII. South Bowl Boundary Adjustment - With its stunning views and ideal pitch, South Bowl offers incredible south-facing terrain, perfect for sunny spring skiing. Expanding this area would increase terrain diversity across different aspects and elevations, improving the resort's ability to adapt to varying weather conditions.

This adjustment also addresses safety concerns. The area is directly adjacent to a rope line, leading to frequent rescues of skiers who venture out unprepared. Bringing it inbounds would allow for avalanche mitigation, reducing risks for both skiers and patrollers. While this expansion enhances safety and terrain variety, it's important to note that the lift will not extend to the bottom of Teton Canyon, and there will be no inbounds connection to Teton Canyon.

Comment: One item that was not in the proposal is how long is this lift and how much vertical does it cover? There are already stunning views on a South Facing runs on Colter and to justify this for spring skiing is really not what Targhee is all about. Skiing on Colter on south facing runs in the spring gives you about 2 hours of skiing in a day as in the morning it will be solid ice and late in the day it is so soft and sticky you cannot even move. You are also justifying to adapt to varying weather conditions which when it is foggy which is the case on many days, this area would be foggy as it is wide open so it would not in my opinion going to very skiable on these stormy foggy days. Not to mention, South Bowl is known to be the most avalanche prone bowl in the entire area. In addition, this area has native Big Horn Sheep that this new lift would certainly impact from a wildlife perspective. The proposal states this will address safety concerns as it is currently adjacent to a rope line, leading to frequent rescues of skiers who venture out unprepared. Wherever the lift would be put in if approved, there would be a new boundary line so you can be assured that skiers and boarders will be leaving the ski area to ski in the out of bounds area so the ski patrol would then be required to rescue skiers and boarders in a new area. It will not alleviate any of this but just simply move where they decide to ski out of bounds.

Final Opinion: Leave South Bowl for the backcountry skiers and Big Horn Sheep and for the record, I am not a backcountry skier so this comment is not for personal reasons.

ON-MOUNTAIN RESTAURANTS

VIII. Grand Targhee Resort is one of the few ski areas without on-mountain dining, and guest feedback has made it clear-we need additional infrastructure to improve convenience and relieve pressure on the base area, which currently serves as a bottleneck. The new Dreamcatcher and Sacajawea restaurants will provide much-needed food, beverages, and restrooms at scenic locations with incredible views. These facilities will balance the resort's amenities, helping to distribute guests more evenly across the mountain while addressing the long-standing need for on-mountain bathrooms and F&B space. Designed with organic architecture, the structures will blend seamlessly into the natural surroundings, enhancing the mountain experience without disrupting the landscape.

Comment: While it is true that most ski resorts have on mountain restaurants and it would help alleviate the large crowds at the Plaza during busy times. However, it needs to be noted that with the weather of Targhee, incredible views are not always available. For example, this past ski season, you could see the Tetons twice in the month of March.

Alternative: I am not sure where the restaurants are being proposed on DC and Saq so in theory I agree that more facilities are needed but as an alternative, it would propose the Plaza could be expanded to have one or two more restaurants and expand the Trap Bar in lieu of on mountain restaurants

ADDITIONAL UPGRADES

IX. Terrain glading and grading: Additional glading and grading in key areas will provide an improved skier experience.

Comment: Agree 100% this would enhance skiing at Targhee

X. Summer Recreation: Adding more trails to our award winning trail network will provide additional lift-served and multi-use trails providing additional recreation opportunities for hiking, trail running and biking. The proposed Summer Activity Zone in the Shoshone area will provide additional engaging activities for families and visitors.

Comment: Agree this would be a great addition for summer recreation