

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 5/14/2025 2:34:39 AM

First name: Matthew

Last name: Lloyd

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Forrest Service,

Please accept this email as my formal comment regarding the proposed expansion of Grand Targhee Resort. I am writing to express my opposition to the expansion into the South Bowl and Mono Trees areas and advocate for maintaining the resort's current designated boundaries. My concerns are based on the potential negative impacts in the following key areas:

- * Wildlife Impacts
- * Human Impacts
- * Safety (specifically regarding road congestion and emergency services access)
- * Community Impacts (effects on local services and cost of living)

Regarding wildlife impacts, I believe that expanding the resort so close to the current designated Wilderness boundary is inappropriate and conflicts with the core principles of the Wilderness Act. The Act clearly defines wilderness as an area largely untouched by human development, serving as a refuge where natural processes prevail.

The proposed expansion into South Bowl and Mono Trees will undoubtedly harm local wildlife, including sensitive and endangered species such as wolverines and bighorn sheep. As an avid backcountry skier who spends approximately 50 days each winter beyond Grand Targhee's current limits, I have personally observed these animals in the proposed expansion areas. Within the last three years, I have seen and photographed wolverine tracks and bighorn sheep in South Bowl (please see attached photos). This area is also home to black and grizzly bears, wolves, and numerous other crucial animal species that depend on this landscape for their survival.

Beyond the ecological consequences, the expansion will also negatively affect individuals seeking the unique experience of venturing into the surrounding Wilderness for respite in areas free from human impact. On days when avalanche mitigation is conducted within the current resort boundaries, the sounds of explosives can be heard over two miles east along Peaked Ridge, well within the Wilderness area. Expanding into South Bowl would extend this audible impact even further, reaching the Wigwams and Table Mountain. The introduction of additional roads, lifts, grooming equipment, and lighting in such close proximity to designated Wilderness will undeniably detract from the experience of those seeking to escape visual and audible signs of human activity.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Sincerely,

Matt Lloyd