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First name: Bob and Deborah

Last name: Malheiro

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Kim Pierson

Forest Supervisor

Caribou-Targhee National Forest

Re: Grand Targhee Resort draft Environmental Impact Statement and Alternatives

Dear Supervisor Pierson,

We have already read so many compelling reasons why this expansion, including all alternatives offered being Alt. 1 through 5 are not meeting many of the NEPA's and the Forest Service Plan from 1997.

Many experts in specific wildlife management, species biologists, forestry biologists, geobiology as it pertains to soil and rock have weighed in. All that we've read confirm that most any alternative is detrimental to the very special Teton Mountain range that we locals and tens of thousands of tourists are in complete awe of whether they ski, hike, bike, hunt, float or don't get out of their vehicles or just buy a house here to work remotely and just enjoy the views.

We only get one chance at preserving this marvelous country; and might we mention they are public lands; we best not get it wrong!

The DEIS does not adequately address many issues:

- Comprehensive traffic impact study to assess year-round congestion and safety implications.
- Comprehensive evaluations of community and public service demands with resort expansions.
- Detailed housing analysis to address local housing affordability and availability with increased Targhee employee demands.
- Analysis of short- and long-term water availability in the face of a warming planet and the very real issue of where all the waste is going and who's water is going to be affected.
- The DEIS's limited framing of alternatives does not offer potentially more efficient options.

Our valley and the surrounding region are experiencing another unprecedented Boom growth cycle. Only this time around the money coming here is real. No second mortgages, no pulling money from our homes for extra fun and games. With median home prices in Teton Valley at \$950,000 and the most active segment are homes over \$1,000,000, real money and cash are needed to afford this area. If much of GTR's expansion, even under Alt. #3, are approved, lift and season pass prices will push many people out of their affordable budget and make it more difficult for our current community and employees to live here.

Of much concern to us is our wildlife and ecosystem protection. The Forest Service under the ESA, NEPA and the 1997 Forest Service Plan is tasked with protecting endangered species of many animals and white bark pine, aspen groves and vital riparian zones in which all these need to survive. Many of these species are present and struggling within the current SUP. (See attached picture of Big Horn sheep in Teton Canyon).

Therefore, we support an alternative between #1 and #3.

We support base expansion which is sorely needed but not as large as purposed. Cut the commercial services in half to 75,000 sq. ft. Roll back housing units down to 100 as the base area land does not have the carrying capacity for such growth and parking.

Do not build a North Boundary lift. It will call for way too much grading and glading and reduce some beautiful aspen groves and natural springs. (see attached pictures). Again, water and sewage are a problem. Instead, possibly change Blackfoot to a high speed 4 or 6 pack and then more people will ski there because the lift isn't so

slow and stay there because they can see!

Definitely update Dreamcatcher to a 4 or 6 pack as needed.

We think the area that makes the most sense for on mountain services is somewhere between Sacajawea and Coulter. That way people would not have to come back to the base for food and beverage.

Possibly mountain services between Shoshone and Blackfoot would be convenient for guests and keep congestion from base area.

Do not support any Fred's Mountain Top restaurant!

Supervisor Pierson, thank you for the opportunity to express our thoughts about Targhee's expansion. The Ghee is a wonderful amenity, one that drew many of us here. We want the Ghee to be profitable but not at the enormous expense of our public land, wildlife, clean water, blue skies, dark skies and quality of life here in Teton Valley and surrounding areas.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob and Deborah Malheiro
Alta, Wyoming