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Organization:

Title:

Comments: See letter which was also attached and mailed.

June 20, 2025

Forest Supervisor c/o Jay Pence

Teton Basin District Ranger

1405 Hollipark Drive

Idaho Falls, ID 83401

Jay.pence@usda.gov

Re: Grand Targhee Expansion/Master Development Plan Projects

Dear Mr. Pence and The United States Forest Service:

We are residents of Alta, Wyoming, and are writing in strong opposition to any proposed Targhee expansion. We live in a small community on Lois Lane with direct views of Targhee (and the lifts) and the Tetons. All of us have lived in the Valley (full or part time) for decades.

I, Janet Lewis, first came to the Valley 60 years ago.

We, Stephanie and Jeff Furset, have been here since the 70's and have raised our children and grandchildren here.

Aside from the direct negative impact to us, and our views, we believe the proposed expansion would be devastating to the Valley and general population. As you are aware, this Valley was historically (before Targhee) a home to ranchers and farmers and their families.

With Targhee-and ownership changes at Targhee, as well as the passage of time, big changes have come to this Valley-some positive and many negative. The growth in population and unaffordability has for some been one of the saddest and most devastating changes. Children of families who settled here and have lived here for generations can barely, or no longer, afford to stay. They are forced to move from a place they grew up and loved-due to a lack of affordable housing and the high cost of living. (Most cannot afford to ski -as the Targhee ticket prices have also become out of reach. These prices will undoubtedly go up with any expansion.)

After reading the materials, we believe any further expansion of Targhee (in any form) will have an adverse and severe negative impact on the Valley and the people and wildlife who reside here.

The most basic question is who does the proposed expansion benefit and how does it serve the interests of the People of this beautiful Valley and the wildlife that shares the space. Also, does any proposed expansion serve the Mission, purpose or Motto of the Forest Service.

As quoted from the Forest Service, website,

"What does the Forest Service do?

*We help people share and enjoy the forest, while conserving the environment for generations to come. Some activities are compatible. Some are not.

*You, as a concerned citizen, can play a key role by expressing your views to Forest Service managers to help us strike a balance and make decisions in the best interest of the public lands and the public.

What is the Forest Service mission?

*The mission of the Forest Service is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations.

What is the Forest Service motto?

The Forest Service motto, "Caring for the Land and Serving People," captures the spirit of our mission, which we accomplish through five main activities:

*Protection and management of natural resources on lands we manage...."

As the Forest Service's website provides, its Mission and Motto is to preserve and protect lands for present and future generations. We believe the expansion of Targhee violates the language and spirit of the Forest Service Mission and Motto.

Although the expansion would most certainly benefit a very few -the owners/developers of Targhee and out of town skiers and investors, it would certainly not benefit the population of the Valley at large. And, as important, it would not protect the land for future generations.

In summary, we oppose the Expansion for the following reasons:

1.It is contrary to the Mission and Motto of the Forest Service and would destroy-not protect-the land for this or future generations. The Forest Service has an obligation to protect the Land and the environment and the general population that enjoys it and calls this Valley home.

2.There will be no direct benefit to those who live here and have for years called this home. If the benefit to the population is having a ski hill -they have this use already (although unaffordable for many). Does expanding the area or use increase that benefit? No.

3.The Community will bear the Costs of Expansion, in the form of traffic congestion, limited housing, community services that will be overburdened and costly (EMS, fire, medical, waste, etc) -with no additional (or very limited) benefit to residents. Acres of land will be privatized and recreation and access by the general public will be severely reduced. Again, the privatization will not benefit those who live here now and call this home.

4.Housing will become even more unaffordable (for the average wage earner). As it is, the Valley has become unaffordable for many-many whose families settled the area and who have lived here for decades, and in some case generations. Again, what is the benefit and how does any benefit outweigh the extreme damage.

5.Most importantly the Environmental Impact will be devastating and severe. Construction will damage the forest and watersheds of the land. Wildlife will be displaced -as their habitat is destroyed. The beauty of the landscape will forever be damaged and changed. (Ironically, Teton County Wyoming takes great measures to limit and protect the environment and wildlife, limiting acreage size etc. Yet this proposed expansion seems to disregard many such concerns or restrictions.) In short, the environment will forever be changed and destroyed and with little benefit to the Community or future generations.

We appreciate your review and consideration of our comments, and in closing, request that no further expansion be allowed.

Best regards,

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