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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Carribou-Targhee National Forest

Grand Targhee Master Plan

Public Comment

Jay Pence and Mel Bolling

Teton Basin District Ranger

P.O. Box 777

Driggs, ID , 83401

USA

Dear Jay Pence and Mel Bolling;

I am opposed to Grand Targhee's proposed expansion into Teton Canyon.

I oppose privatizing Carribou-Targhee National Forest.

This is not a "boundary adjustment" it is a major expansion into sensitive habitat. A massive incursion into the domain of the Northern Goshawk, Bighorn Sheep and countless other sensitive species.

The public skis here now without destructive environmental impacts.

This proposal will effectively close the area to the public and eliminate critical habitat.

The demonstrated Winter use in this area is lift assisted backcountry skiing. The demonstrated need is for the use to continue.

There is no demonstrated need for bulldozer's, backhoes and bucketloaders gouging the landscape and chainsaws felling forest homes to carve out critical wildlife habitat for sun crusted, moguls and "on mountain" dining in avalanche runouts, closed to the public.

If realized; the "south bowls" lifts will be seen from the Grand Teton and loudly heard from the Jedediah Smith Wilderness. Grand Teton National National Park should also object to this aberration under D.O. # 41.

Where are Targhee Bighorn Sheep supposed to winter? The cliffy south face of Teton Canyon is priceless habitat. I have seen Grizzly Bear, Bighorn Sheep, Moose, Long Eared Owl, Northern Goshawk, Sharp Shinned Hawk, migrating Warblers, Wolverine, Pine Marten and many other species on the South slopes of Peaked and Mary's Nipple. Families of black bear are gorging on chokecherry right now. NEPA and an EIS will confirm this proposed environmental disaster.

I recommend Grand Targhee stays within it boundaries. "The North boundary" is a good aspect for a new lift.

How about a lift on Mary's? Mill Creek is already heavily impacted with roads and damage.

Skiing is changing. South facing, lift skiing is not widely accepted. (In Nothern Hemisphere) Don't unnecessarily give away this irreplaceable habitat for a percentage of crusty groomer's lift tickets. This Public land is too important. Please withdraw consideration of Grand Taghee's proposal in Teton Canyon.

Sincerely,

Gregory G Collins

photo: June 2019 under the prop[osed "south bowl connector" lift