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First name: Dana

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: To the Caribou-Targhee National Forest Service

My name is Dana Joslyn, and my husband and I live in Teton, Idaho. We have been in the Valley for 20 years, and one of the biggest draws for us has been skiing at Grand Targhee resort. We love the whole atmosphere of the resort, love that it is small and family friendly. The proposed changes to the resort, if indeed all of the plans are approved, will completely alter, in a negative way, the wonderful character of Grand Targhee. Of course we want the resort to be successful, as that is how a business keeps on going, but I believe it can remain successful without this enormous build out.

There are a number of concerns that I have, that I would like to see addressed in the EIS.

I think my greatest concern is the proposed addition to the resort of the south facing slope up Teton canyon. We cross country ski there often and there is a large moose population in that area. Putting in lifts and ski terrain there will negatively impact the abundant wildlife. It would also take away that area for back country skiers, making it only accessible by buying a ski pass from Grand Targhee. This seems wrong in many ways. Skiing at resorts has become very expensive, and many people who love to ski just can't afford it. Back country skiing in our national forests allows anyone the chance to ski our beautiful canyon, not just those with the money to buy a pass.

I am concerned about the additional traffic and parking issues that the proposed expansion would create. All of the traffic to the resort has to go through Driggs, Idaho, and impact those who live and work there. As it is, we often have to wait through several lights at the main intersection leading to Targhee. This would only increase exponentially if the expansion goes through.

Another big concern is where all of the new employees, which would be added with an expansion, would live.

There is already a huge shortage of affordable housing in the Victor/Driggs/Teton area. Most of the resort employees are just getting by on low paying jobs there. Where will they find affordable places to live?

We have a straight on view of the mountains that the resort encompasses. We can see the reflection of the top of Dreamcatcher from our home, not a problem. But if they build a restaurant at the top, and another one at the top of Peaked, that will be a different story! I would be sad to have to look at buildings on those beautiful mountains.

The dark sky we enjoy in the Valley is one of our biggest assets. The expansion would undoubtedly alter this in a negative way. I think we need to think about everyone and everything that would be affected should this expansion go through. Everyone in our Valley should have the quality of life we enjoy now, and not have it altered so that a few people can make a big profit. It just would not be right. And I think it is obvious that this expansion is for the intention of making the resort more saleable to a large ski conglomerate such as Vail or Alterra. Living part time in Salt Lake City, Utah, I can tell you what a negative impact the selling of Park City Resort to Vail and Deer Valley resort to Alterra has been to the town of Park City, and those who ski at the two resorts. Traffic and parking have become horrendous. Lift ticket prices have skyrocketed, so that now only the rich are able to afford them. It would be absolutely heartbreaking to see this same thing happen to our beautiful, livable Valley.

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter and consider my concerns.

Sincerely, Dana Joslyn