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First name: Larry

Last name: Campsall

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the expansion plans at Targhee Resort.

My wife and I have owned a home in Driggs since 2007.

We live in Driggs for 4-5 months of the year to ski, mainly at Targhee.

For us a big attraction to this valley is the wilderness and wildlife.

We prefer to see the redevelopment plans at Targhee take place within the existing boundaries of the resort.

Extending the boundaries of the resort into Teton Canyon will mean the loss of critical habitat for wildlife in the area.

Local wildlife is already coming under stress from habitat loss and a warming climate. The declining local moose population is one example.

Also,

Scientific research data shows that the warming climate has already had a major negative effect on the ski industry including the Idaho and Wyoming ski resorts.

Snowfall amounts have steadily declined over the years as have the number of days in the ski season.

It's clear that the declining snowfall trend will continue & slowly accelerate with fewer good snow years and shorter ski seasons, more rainy days etc.

Skier visits sharply decline in low snow years and resorts lose money.

Extending Targhees boundary to a lower (warmer) elevation, and adding a lift in the Mono Trees Area seems financially risky.

Why put expensive ski lifts on low elevation and/or South facing slopes that may eventually end up having limited use?

Save the wilderness, focus the redevelopment & invest your infrastructure to the higher elevation slopes in the existing boundary.

We would like Targhee to continue to be a success.