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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Decision Makers,

I am writing to voice my opposition to the major expansion proposed by Grand Targhee Resort. I am concerned about this expansion's impacts on many levels but if I had to choose only one reason it would be consequences to wildlife. This area is not only a human playground, more importantly it is home to several species. Wolverines and lynx are two of the more rare and threatened species that have been documented to frequent this territory. I am not a professional in this so I do not know what studies to cite but I do believe there is research to this effect. Please take these findings into account.

There is also a big horn sheep population that would be negatively impacted. Currently mountain goats are being killed within Grand Teton National Park to theoretically help the big horn sheep there. To allow human recreation to harm the Teton Canyon sheep is illogical, and both economically and morally wrong in my opinion. Human pressures coupled with climate change are taking an enormous toll on the health of wildlife.

The portion of the proposed expansion that is on public lands should be protected as the important wildlife habitat that it is. Regarding the areas for human recreation use the least harmful human-powered sport(s) are all that should be allowed. Teton Canyon is already overcrowded leading to human, dog, and wildlife conflicts rather than the peaceful excursion it offered in the past.

Additionally, I have heard people espouse the potential creation of jobs as a reason to grant the resort's expansion requests. I am writing as a business owner (and home owner) when I say that many current Teton Valley businesses have had trouble finding employees. In fact, several businesses have had to alter their hours and sometimes close due to a lack of staff. The Valley does not need more service sector (ski resort, zip line, restaurant, etc.) jobs.

Please consider impacts to wildlife, local residents and existing Valley businesses when making your decision regarding the ski resort.

Respectfully,

Mary Lisa Lombardi