

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/11/2020 9:54:25 PM

First name: Jim & Sandy

Last name: Wilson

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Mel Boling

? Jay Pence

Teton Basin Ranger District

I write this as a concerned citizen of Alta and one that is very much opposed to the expansion of Grand Targhee Resort. The proposed expansion will have many negative impacts on our local environment and our way of life if approved.

Water: Drinking water contamination to the Alta Culinary water system has already been seen from the bike trails currently in use on the ridge areas adjoining Teton Canyon on the North Side. Teton Creek is the main drainage from Teton Canyon and more roads, lifts, bike trails will cause pollution into Miles and Mill Creeks and thus also have a negative affect on Teton Creek and Teton River. This will also affect the spring providing water to the City of Driggs. What is proposed for those areas are also south facing slopes which are the 1st to bare off in the spring and therefore offer the least amount of skiing, but the biggest impact from roads and bikers. There are similar reasons for not encroaching on South Leigh Canyon and the watershed in that area.

Vistas: We need to keep our scenic vistas unmarred. Teton Canyon is the busiest canyon already along the western Teton Mountain range and should be maintained.

Wildlife: The north side of Teton Canyon has already been deemed a winter range for many of our animals that are trying to survive our winters. The animals being impacted will be deer, elk, moose, wolverines, bears, and bighorn sheep.

Back Country conflicts: Continued unencumbered and un-harassed use by hikers and horse riders into historically accessible back-country trails. Many of these also give access to the wilderness areas and should not be impacted.

Parking: Currently there is not enough parking at the resort to handle the crowds, so that problem should be addressed and solved before any more terrain is used to draw bigger crowds.

Targhee should complete what is already approved on the mountain and see what impact that is having on the environment around before being given more permission to do more. Build what they have permission for, make sure there are no harmful affects.

Conflict: The consultant for Grand Targhee should not be involved in doing the EIS as it would be a conflict of interest. I'm sure the SE Group is a very capable EIS consultant, but they simply should not be allowed to evaluate their own work. Grand Targhee hired SE Group to prepare its MDP, then apparently GTR recommended that the Forest Service hire SE Group to write the EIS, and SE Group was subsequently hired by the Forest Service for that task.

Grazing rights: There are already grazing rights approved in the area of expansion and adding roads and trails would have a negative affect on the cows grazing in that area.

Sewage: What impact would the expansion have on Teton Canyon, Alta and the valley below with the increases sewage that come from such an expansion. We have already seen a negative impact on the water in Alta.

Expansion: GTR is asking for a number of new lifts and for an extension of the ski area boundary to open up additional ski terrain. How can the need more skiable terrain be shown, when GTR has not yet developed the 600 acres of skiable terrain on Peaked Mountain within the current boundary and has not installed the already approved high speed quad on Peaked? Studies of the impact to the resort of opening up skiing on Peaked Peak to the general public through the installation of the approved high speed quad, needs to be included as part of this EIS. A reasonable person could conclude that GTR should develop what they already have approval for, before any expansion of the ski area boundary or more ski lifts are considered.

Traffic: This should be a big reason to not expand Targhee. There is only 1 road that goes in and out of the Resort Area. What will be the impact of the increased traffic? A thorough traffic and speed analysis of the

impacts to wildlife and non-motorized users from this proposal needs to be done as part of this EIS. Concerns that need to be studied: Many people heading to Targhee speed through Alta and all the way up to the resort. Targhee's guests, being some of the biggest offenders. Teton County Wyoming does not have the resources for regular traffic patrols on Ski Hill Road. The Sheriff's office has done the best he can to have traffic patrols, like having deputies patrol it during summer festivals and authorizing overtime for additional patrols, but that is simply not enough to slow down all the speeders. I can attest that many if not most people drive over the speed limit, with some driving very, very fast. Speeding vehicles, which is basically all vehicles on the forest section, also endangers wildlife-there are deer, birds, squirrels, marmots and other animals killed on the road every year. More traffic will cause more wildlife fatalities.

Affordable Housing: There is already a shortage of affordable housing in the Alta area and Teton Valley as a whole. Where are the people needed to work at Targhee going to live?

I believe there should be NO expansion of Targhee beyond what has already been approved and UNBUILT by Targhee. We really don't know the full impact of what they already can be doing. Let's not go further until we know the impact of that.

Jim & Sandy Wilson
Alta, Wyoming