

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/11/2020 11:17:47 PM

First name: Warren

Last name: Pennick

Organization:

Title:

Comments: While I understand the drive for the financial viability of Grand Targhee Resort and the financial ripple effects that recreational tourism brings to Teton Valley, I believe there to be aspects Grand Targhee's Master Development Plan that would be more detrimental than beneficial.

As someone who has experienced what hiking and camping in the area's mountains and canyons has to offer, I can say that the soul-stirring feeling of being in bold and dramatic place without the sights and sounds of regular human existence is a valuable resource and should be defended. If I was walking, horseback riding, hiking and camping in Teton Canyon or hiking and camping on the Alaska Basin Trail or the Devil's Stairs Trail in Teton Canyon, my experience would be significantly compromised by seeing the proposed human development in the South Bowl and Mono Trees areas, both in the daytime and in the night time. One cannot reap the full benefits of a wilderness experience when you're reminded of human development just on the other side of the wilderness boundary.

As a resident of Alta, I know that development of any kind upslope from our community can very quickly have an impact on the clean water resources we have relied on for decades, and will continue to rely on into the future. Many residents get their water from underground aquifers, but some are served by springs in these mountains. Impacts to these precious resources from biological and sedimentary contamination must be avoided. Proposed development should acknowledge this risk and specifically address how it will prevent impacts to underground or surface water resources with the help of third-party geological studies.

Residents of Teton Valley and visitors from places all over the globe appreciate and hold dear our expansive and soul-stirring dark skies at night. It's a resource that often goes underappreciated until it has disappeared. Once light pollution has taken hold, it's nearly impossible to reverse. Additional light pollution from added grooming activity increased hospitality infrastructure and increased vehicular traffic will add to a progressively diminished experience of our dark skies at night.

As a final point I'd like to add that it has come to my attention that there may be a conflict of interest when it comes to the consultant for the Grand Targhee Master Development Plan also having a hand in the Environmental Impact Statement for the project. These two aspects of the process should be independent of each other so the Environmental Impact Statement can be assuredly unbiased and thorough.

Please consider my concerns as constructive and heartfelt. I have less objection to terrain improvements and infrastructure improvements within existing Grand Targhee boundaries as long as it is done in a way that would mitigate increased visual impacts in both daytime and night time and be planned in such a way as to preserve the pristine nature of water resources for residents downslope. Thank you for your consideration.