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First name: Stephen

Last name: Houmes

Organization:

Title:

Comments: October 11, 2020

Dear Mel Bolling, c/o Jay Pence:

Re: Grand Targhee Master Development Plan

My wife and extended family have been long-time patrons of Grand Targhee Resort and live in Teton Valley. We cherish Grand Targhee and understand many of the desires for Grand Targhee to remain viable and competitive amidst a seemingly ever-growing outdoor market for winter skiing and summer biking. That said, we also have significant reservations regarding the proposals listed in the Development plan. Here are a few of our thoughts and considerations as long-time patrons and residents of Teton Valley. We offer alternative solutions, if possible.

1. We strongly OPPOSE the construction of any guest-related structure at the top of Fred's mountain.
 - a. A building at the top of Fred's Mountain will ruin the natural skyline. Once a structure is constructed, it will be nearly impossible to remove.
 - b. A building will ruin the night sky and only add to light pollution. Dark night skies are only being lost, and Teton Valley will lose the star skyline from the mountain horizon. This is a precious resource to the community and guests.
 - c. A building will be a visible scar on the mountain horizon from the eastern mountains, Wilderness Area, and the National Park.
 - d. Guests will and should be able to buy meals, drinks, and lounge at the base of the mountain. I suggest, if you must, offer improved restaurant and lounge services at the BASE AREA of the mountain.
 - e. If you wish to improve the winter viewing of the Grand Teton, I suggest you improve upon the observation deck WITHOUT any lighting. Make the observation deck accessible during winter and summer. Make the observation deck aesthetically pleasing with the natural skyline. Keep the viewing a natural experience. Just because competitors offer "Top of the Mountain Experience," take pride in offering a "Natural and Pristine Wilderness Experience."
2. We OPPOSE a mid-mountain Shoshone Restaurant/guest services
 - a. See opposition to Fred's mountain restaurant experience
 - b. If a mid-mountain is requested at the top of Shoshone lift, would request ALL lighting be OFF by 5pm to respect dark skies.
3. We strongly OPPOSE the South Bowl expansion.
 - a. This will only encroach upon the National Forest property as it borders the Wilderness Boundary and is a drainage system directly into Teton Canyon.
 - b. I suggest you expand the skiing terrain that is already within ski area boundaries. If expansion is a must (North Boundary; Peaked Mountain). Expansion to South Bowl can always be reevaluated many years from now depending on need. If development is a must, develop what is within boundary first without expansion. There is significant terrain already within boundaries accessible on Peaked West Face.
4. We strongly OPPOSE the lighting of Palmer Raceway for after hours skiing
 - a. Night skiing will minimally improve the skiing experience while drastically ruining the dark night sky with increased light pollution
 - b. Grand Targhee is cold during the daytime, many patrons will likely not sustain the night skiing operations.
 - c. Grand Targhee Resort should focus on developing its daytime race programs
5. We only modestly APPROVE of the lift access expansion.
 - a. While we personally do not approve of the need for more lifts, we tentatively approve terrain and expansion within current ski area boundaries.

6. We modestly APPROVE of snowmaking.

a. We suggest Grand Targhee Resort maximize its current in-boundary ski area experience.

Thank you for your consideration regarding our comments and suggestions!

We will support Grand Targhee Resort in its efforts as long as Grand Targhee respects the considerations of its community.