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Organization:

Title:

Comments: My family has lived in Teton Valley for more than 30 years. We have a respect for nature, wildlife, scenic views, open spaces, and outdoor recreation. We live in close proximity to Grand Targhee, and it's beautiful wild open space.

What the Grand Targhee Resort is proposing for expansion does NOT fit with Ideals of a small mountain town.

People who recreate at Grand Targhee appreciate it's raw beauty, wildlife corridors, Teton views, and solitude. Grand Targhee Resort currently offers skiing, biking, and hiking that are perfect for locals and visitors alike. Expansion is not desired by the locals or the visiting tourists because of the detriment this type of growth would have on this mountain environment.

The Grand Targhee Expansion plan would have quite a negative impact on the health survivability of local people, tourists, and wildlife.

The following would cause permanent and unnecessary destruction:

1. Traffic: There is already too much traffic flying down Ski Hill Road, and Hastings Lane. Expansion of Grand Targhee Resort would entail even more traffic that courses through quiet neighborhoods and wildlife corridors, harmfully disturbing the peace of both. The increased traffic would be a safety risk to all traveling on those roads. Our quiet county roads are not equipped to handle increased resort traffic.
2. Parking: Grand Targhee Resort currently has extreme overflow parking as it is. There is not room for other parking areas to be instituted without wanton destruction of wooded areas, wildlife corridors, and trails.
3. Light Pollution: Grand Targhee Resort has been reasonably cooperative with keeping light pollution to a minimum. Increased resort size, traffic, and people would certainly require much more lighting which would negatively impact neighborhoods, and dark night skies that locals, visitors, and wildlife require.
4. Atmosphere: Grand Targhee Resort is a comfortable place for families to gather and recreate. It is wonderful to see locals and some visitors partake of the mountain beauty, wildlife, and outdoor activities. Adding substantially to the resort would largely detract from this appeal by creating a crowded scene with lines of people and an uncomfortable space to be.
5. Systems Overtax: Expansion of Grand Targhee Resort would be a detriment to our basic city and county systems such as health care, sewer/water, power, and supplies/groceries/hardware. Having thousands of people pass through to line up at the resort would be overwhelming to our current infrastructure.
6. Wildlife Migration: Deer, elk, moose, antelope, bear, squirrels, marmot, rabbits, hawks, eagles, and more all make the Ski Hill Road corridor their homes. It is not appropriate for Grand Targhee to expand into areas such as Teton Canyon, or other wildlife corridors. Animals would be uprooted, and their habitats ruined.
7. Trail Destruction: The Grand Targhee Resort, with current lifts and trails has plenty of variety of scope and space for a reasonable and current population. Some of the most recent trails and changes that have occurred there have been complete land rape. Ditch Witch and Trail Blazers have cut trails that are over-wide and have destroyed more trees and brush than necessary. People enjoy narrow single track hiking, biking, skiing, and horseback riding trails. It is completely undesired, unnecessary, and inappropriate to destroy nature as the expansion plan has outlined. Grand Targhee Resort management should appropriately consider their destruction of nature. It is NOT progress. It is irreversible damage.

Thank You for the opportunity to present in this Public Comment arena. It is important that Grand Targhee Resort be appreciated for all that it currently is, which is wonderful. And to leave the expansion plan type protocols to other states and communities who actually desire to have it.