

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/11/2020 11:00:00 AM

First name: Don

Last name: Weber

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am writing to you about the GT Master Development Plan. I have many concerns about the expansion:

1. Impact to wild animals, specifically the wolverine which uses the Tetons for its habitat. Not enough is known about the range of the wolverine in the Tetons, and further human development in the Teton's would probably impact the Wolverine in a negative way. We need to study this. What will further road and lift development do to the existing wolverine population? Wildlife diversity in the Tetons is essential in maintaining a check and balance that currently exists. The Grizzly bear will also be impacted by further development and this needs to be studied. As I mentioned, wildlife diversity is imperative for quality habitat that currently exists. What will development do to the existing population of Northern Goshawks and Peregrine Falcons? This area is used by many species of migrating birds, this needs to be studied for impact by the development.

2. Dark Sky Reserve: The impact of future development will negatively impact the Dark Sky Reserve in the Tetons and Teton Valley. What effect will extra light have on nocturnal ecosystems in the Tetons? What affect will extra light have on the needs of wildlife? This needs to be studied. Dark Sky Reserves have positive impacts for many of us when viewing the night sky; this needs to be maintained.

3. Noise pollution: the impact of ski lifts, extra roads, avalanche control, and people will negatively affect the Tetons. When I backcountry ski the Teton Canyon, the solitude of the area is obvious. With development, the experience of Teton Canyon will not be the same. Some of the areas proposed for development I have personally used for backcountry skiing; does the development of this area mean I will not be able to backcountry ski this area?

4. Road development: has the impact to highway 33 been studied? Will expansion of this road be needed? Who will pay for this? Should the developers be required to put aside a bond for future road development?

5. Housing: the current situation for rental and buying options are not good in Teton Valley. Should the developers be required to build housing for future employees?

6. Water pollution: has the impact of development been studied on water quality for Teton Valley. The location of Grand Targhee development will most likely negatively affect the water quality for our valley. The watersheds of Teton Creek and the ground water need to be studied.

7. Carbon Footprint: The building of infrastructure and installation of ski lifts will advance climate change. With CO2 levels at 414ppm and rising, we need to figure out out to reverse the trend rather than increasing CO2. How will GT offset the negative effects of climate change with development?

8. Parking at the resort: there is already a problem with parking. In this day and age of Covid, will we all be bussed up the mountain? Who will pay for the buses and transport of people?