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Organization:

Title:

Comments: To whom it may concern,

I am writing to voice my concerns regarding the proposed Grand Targhee expansion. While hard data and scientific information regarding the impacts of this proposal are lacking but extremely important, a great deal of my concerns regarding impact are not 'measurable in the short term' but are equally important as Teton Valley makes decisions regarding the future of the valley for ourselves, wildlife and habitat loss.

What are we loosing by continued growth and increased development? Do we need yet another large ski resort in the West that increasingly pushes out wildlife, and the working class? A great deal of public lands for everyone will be lost to a for-profit business and those that can afford to patronize the development with this proposal. There would be much to lose for the sake of unnecessary growth. The impacts on our community, resources and infrastructure would be significant and contribute to the rising costs that effect who can live, work and recreate here.

Additionally, it is deeply concerning that habitat loss for wildlife & the erosion of basic scenic beauty and solitude will occur with this proposal. With increased development in the valley, wildlife is continually pushed into a smaller range. This proposal directly impacts those areas where wildlife should be able to find habitat, not increased human conflicts or to be pushed further from their natural grounds. There has not been adequate environmental review with this proposal.

This large scale development proposal is unnecessary and has the components of a land-grab for profit only endeavor at the expense of wildlife, backcountry users including hikers, horseback riders and others seeking ever decreasing solitude. The lands requested to develop are public lands... they should stay that way for the benefit of the public, not a company seeking growth and increased profits. Additionally, there are already a great deal of large and expensive ski areas. Grand Targhee has offered a family friendly environment up to this point and this fits in with our rural character and community. The current proposal neglects this character while imposing a great deal of impact on Teton Valley's infrastructure, wildlife and community.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide public comment.