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Comments: Grand Targhee Master Development Plan Projects

I understand that all relevant issues raised during the scoping period are to be included for study, analysis and subsequent incorporation into the Draft EIS.

You will receive/have received a significant number of comments from the public, I'm certain. Therefore, I will limit my comments to two areas: impacts on wildlife and impacts on the landscape, specifically roads.

One of the most critical aspects of the GT Master Development Plan Projects will be the effect of recreation - both daytime and night - on wildlife. I believe it is crucial to thoroughly analyze the specific impact on wildlife native to the projects' scope, in particular ungulates, ground dwelling birds, as well as the ursine and feline species. Mitigating measures must include specific consideration/accommodation for migration patterns and routes, seasonal nesting and denning, forage, and general "disturbance" of habitat. Our native wildlife is a primary attraction for visitors to the region [and residents, I might add].

Every landscape has a limited ability to absorb and/or accommodate human impacts. Recreational opportunities will result in an enormous increase in the amount of traffic - road and trail - on this mountainous terrain. Existing highways and main thoroughfares are not designed for a significant increase in use ~ and the mountain range and surrounding areas must be carefully studied/analyzed to determine whether mitigation measures can be incorporated that would effectively protect the landscape, waterways, riparian regions from the impact of additional roadways and thoroughfares.

Thank you for considering my comments. I look forward to the Draft EIS.