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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Environmental Impact Statement for Grand Targhee Expansion

Thank you for this opportunity to provide input to the scoping that should be evaluated in the EIS that will provide the basis for the decision to approve the request by Grand Targhee Resort to expand their facility onto our Public Lands.

My comments follow:

1. The Teton Valley does not have affordable housing for lower wage earners and seasonal employees. Your new staff required by this expansion will need affordable housing. Address housing impacts to our community driven by the resort's year-round expansion. Time has passed since the previous expansion proposal which has yet to be implemented. The valley has changed since this expansion was planned so please evaluate the cumulative impacts from the previously approved but not implemented expansion in addition the this proposed action.
2. If the plan assumes staff will commute from remote locations to Teton Valley, evaluate environmental from traffic, impacts from increased traffic through several small towns along highway 33, increase in accidents and demands on law enforcement and emergency services.
3. Resort skiing is declining. Backcountry skiing is increasing. Economic factors are making resort skiing nearly impossible for a middle-class family to afford. Evaluate the cost/benefit to the public, all sectors of the public, if they are asked to give up land which has current recreational value (free), with its awesome beauty for development into a place many will then not be able to afford to go? (socioeconomic impact)
4. Impact to Driggs emergency services roads and other infrastructure.
5. Parking - will land in Driggs need to be dedicated to a large Targhee parking lot with costly busses to transport guests up the hill summer and winter?
6. Traffic on ski hill road and impacts to neighborhoods from the noise from traffic.
7. Evaluate likely increase in animal car accidents from Driggs up Ski Hill Road to Targhee particularly in the winter.
8. Light pollution, and noise pollution from increased operation summer and winter.
9. Impacts to the public's enjoyment of the experience in Teton Canyon. How will the proposed project change the view from Teton Canyon including from the heavily used hiking trails? What noise will come from the resort summer and winter?
10. Evaluate impacts from construction activities both planned impacts upset conditions such as spills, accidents and other unplanned events.
11. Identify impacts to native species summer and winter.