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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the scoping of the EIS for the Grand Targhee Master Development Plan. As a long time resident of Teton Valley and a eight year employee at GTR, I will begin by stating that I am opposed to the expansion for many valid reasons.

As we all need to remember GTR is located in Wyoming, not Idaho, but we the residents of Teton Valley, Idaho especially Driggs and Tetonville are the ones that will have all the many negatives forced upon us.

Very concerning (critical) issues: all of Number 1 importance

1. Scarring: Our forest and mountain side: How many beautiful, healthy trees will be cut down?

1. Pollution: We all have witnessed how much smoke lingers over the valley. 450 condos/ houses, (everybody wants a fire place when they go to a ski resort) how many outdoor fire pits as well? How much pollution from big trucks (diesel or gas), large SUV's, motor homes, many delivery trucks, semi's etc. Everyday the parking lot at targhee is full of large vehicles. Traffic will definitely increase. Many a winter day going to work in the morning traffic can be backed up a mile plus. Are you willing to eliminate more forest for more parking? Pave over more natural space in town for more parking lots? My observation over the years is that the vast majority of the skiers coming to Targhee do not want to ride a bus!!

1. Traffic: We don't want our town to be over congested with traffic or commercialism. Next thing we know we will be infested with fast food joints, multi floor large hotels. (look at Jackson), stores that the people who live here don't want, more air traffic, more crime, more drugs. Will Wyoming law enforcement be more readily available? Driggs will become an overbuilt byway.

1. Visual impact: what makes our valley so beautiful are the open space, the natural foothills and the backdrop of the Teton Range. What will happen to that? Our whole valley's visual landscape will be changed. Day and night!

1. Lighting Impact: Our mountainside will be lit up at night like a city. What will happen to our Dark Skies throughout the valley, Teton Canyon, Jedediah Smith Wilderness? The fact that we still have such amazing visible dark night skies is priceless and must be protected from light pollution.

1. Wildlife: What will be the impact on our precious wildlife and their habitat - Moose, Bear, Elk, cougars, Great Horned Owl, Eagles, Big Horn Sheep, foxes, wolverines and many others. These animals will be in more danger with more traffic, more people, more pollution, I have seen many a moose and bear on the way to Targhee. Last year there was a moose hit(1/2 up the mountain) and left to die on the side of the road. Several times I have witnessed moose on the road going up the hill and cars flying by them showing no regard. Last year while on the bus in the morning there was a moose standing in the road about 2 miles from the top, The bus stopped and 4 cars behind us stopped. 2 cars decided to pass us all and nearly hit the moose, never slowed down, just kept on going. Both had out of state license plates. I have seen cattle nearly escaping being hit as well. We can't keep pushing our wildlife out of their habitat.

1. NEED: What is an estimate of number of days the south bowl area would actually be open? Seemingly last year alone more days were fogged out. How many days last year was cat skiing canceled due to bad weather/snow conditions? How many days did skiers ask for refunds because of visibility. (you would be surprised how many did last year) Perhaps a report from the last 2 years of the number of good ski days (visibility) versus the number of bad ski days would be in order. Just how many big ski resorts does anyone need in a 40 mile radius? Who has the right to decide what happens? Are we so out of touch and caught up in our world today that we can't protect our precious resources from big business money grabbers. The residents of Teton Valley won't be the ones who benefit. What will happen to our small town rural charm and quality of life?

In my years at Targhee I have talked with many many skiers from all over the world. By far the most heard comment is how great it is to come to a small, personable place that wasn't so big, over-crowded and expensive. More data is needed to evaluate GTR stated purpose and need. Before we start scarring our forest I suggest a professional survey be conducted for a year or two asking what people would rather experience. Targhee has a lot to offer "AS IS!" perhaps making what is already there better would be a far greater alternative.