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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Bridger-Teton USF's management,

I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the proposed JHMR development regarding the ski area. The ski mountain is naturally a steep mountain and it is important to acknowledge that parts it are not appropriate for all levels of skiers. Because of the steepness, in lower snow years parts of the mountain (the Alta shutes, the Hobacks, the Cirque, Ten Sleep Bowl) are particularly dangerous and providing better access and a lure to these areas to less proficient skiers is a mistake. This will increase the slides for life and the collision incidents.

Last year I (an expert plus skier) was hit by 3 skiers on intermediate terrain who could not control their speed and this will only increase by attracting intermediate skiers to steeper terrain they think is within their ability level and which is in fact not. It is terrifying to watch the speed and total lack of control of some skiers on the groomed part of the Cirque and the groomed section of Laramie bowl. I grew up skiing in the east where conditions are often icy but eastern skiers learn to handle the ice (a necessity if you ski in the east) and a big factor is that the mountains are far far less steep so you don't have these slide for life conditions.

Since intermediate skiers should not be in expert terrain, there is no need for the Sublette chair to be a six person lift. With the improved speed and the decrease in down time the new Sublette lift as a four person lift would be more than adequate.

Regarding Upper Sundance, the present slope perhaps requires that skiers ski more cautiously than they would need to under the proposed modification.

Skiers at JHMR are required to sign waivers of liability and the Wyoming Ski Safety Act (Statute 1-1-123.3) provides that skiers assume the inherent risks of skiing. While I appreciate JHMR's desire to increase numbers of intermediate skiers by offering them increased terrain options, doing so by attracting the wrong skiers to the wrong places will increase injuries and places skiers of all abilities at risk. While it remains to be seen if the mountain would be legally responsible in these situations, there certainly is a high moral responsibility.

Thank you for your consideration,
Annalee Abelson