

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 7/31/2023 8:16:25 PM

First name: Bobby

Last name: Griffith

Organization:

Title:

Comments: First, I would like to thank the USFS for reaching out to the public and genuinely seeking comments from the land owners themselves. So often projects get approved at the ski area with minimal outreach to the public, so please continue the open and honest comment periods for all future development.

In regards to the specific improvements requested by JHMR, I would like to focus on just a couple things. First, I strongly support the development of new multi-use hiking/biking trails. Current management allows the public to access what trails are currently in place free of charge, encouraging active recreation and exercise. I believe this is good for the community, and good for the forest to support more human-powered recreation. As a summer employee at JHMR, I can attest that the current hiking/biking trails get a lot of use and enjoyment, and continuing to expand that program would be great. I also support all kinds of summer trail development, including downhill specific bike trails.

I would like to object to two items specifically discussed in the document, and based on the other comments I have been reading, the public sentiment about these projects is overwhelming.

Please do not allow any development/construction/changes to take place in the North Hoback Woods or Alta Chutes areas. These are relatively natural areas, allowing wildlife habitat in undisturbed forest, as well as recreation on raw terrain. Skiers flock to these areas BECAUSE of their challenging nature, not despite it. I understand trying to increase the accessibility of intermediate ski terrain, but this is an experts-only area, and despite what JHMR wants people to think, experts still come in droves to test themselves on the legendary terrain of JHMR and the BTNF. In addition, the Alta chutes will always be very steep, even if they are made wider and smoother. Attracting unskilled skiers to this terrain would be dangerous, and disingenuous to the intermediate skiing public, leading to violent falls and "slide for life" conditions. Keeping this area experts-only is the best way to keep the public safe. Please do not allow JHMR to forever change this small piece of the untrammeled Tetons.

In summary, I strongly support any and all new summer trail development, and strongly oppose the projects in the Alta Chutes and North Hoback Woods.

Thank you for your stewardship of our public lands!