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Organization:

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Comments: I strongly oppose the removal of or impact to any whitebark pine trees at Jackson Hole Mountain Resort. Whitebark pines are considered a keystone species and have been designated as "threatened" by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The adjacent Grand Teton National Park has committed to a significant and critical restoration project in coordination with other federal agencies and conservation organizations. The Park's whitebark pine stands are an essential component of natural ecosystem function. The whitebark pines at JHMR are part of this larger ecosystem. It is absolutely essential that we do all we can to protect the trees that remain. There must be a way to improve the Sublette chair, ski runs and install utility lines without impacting these 100's-1000-yr old trees. They take years and years to mature, and it's difficult to grow seedlings. Once damaged or removed, they are extremely difficult, if not impossible, to replace. I believe it would be irresponsible to put human convenience before the future of not only the trees, but also the wildlife and ecosystem they support. We should be a role model for other resorts and businesses in being environmentally responsible, especially in a place as extraordinary as Jackson Hole. Please take this into consideration when making your final decision. Thank you for your time and the opportunity to object.