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Comments: I live and recreate in the Teton Valley (Idaho) and wish to provide the following comments regarding the DEIS recently released addressing the proposed expansion of Grand Targhee resort:

I strongly support Alternative 3. The Forest Service appears to place a high priority on supporting for-profit activity on public land and displacing non-paying Forest users and the expansion of activities within the existing SUP will accomplish that goal, particularly with respect to winter recreation. The area within the existing resort boundary is effectively destroyed for dispersed non-commercial activity already and adding more commercial activity would meet demand for a portion of the public and provide more opportunities for resort profits.

To expand the resort boundary to allow more of an amusement park-like atmosphere that further eliminates or degrades wild, quiet, dispersed recreation is not appropriate. Backcountry skiing and snowboarding is growing much faster than resort riding and there is already a dearth of easily accessed backcountry terrain on the Idaho side of the range. By further handing over public land for private for-profit activity, the Forest Service would ruin what seems to be a current reasonable balance between the desires of resort and dispersed recreationists.

Presumably the intent of expanding the SUP is to facilitate the imitation of the Wyoming side of the range, paving the way, literally, to a greatly expanded resort presence. While certainly this will result in money to be made by developers, it will add to current valley problems such as rapidly rising housing costs, air and water quality issues, reduced farmland and open space, growing traffic, and wildlife conflicts and habitat loss. Tax revenue from the resort will accrue to Teton County Wyoming and the social and monetary impacts will stay in Teton County, Idaho. Grand Targhee would go from being an affordable community asset to another over-blown western resort town with great income disparity, inadequate worker housing, and a corporate culture based less on quality of life and more on quarterly earnings dependent on commoditizing the local population.

Most Teton County, Idaho residents did not come here for the resort/amusement park atmosphere. Please - respect our community and don't facilitate a move towards making the Teton Valley another Park City/Aspen/Jackson clone by handing Grand Targhee the keys to massive expansion.