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Comments: Amphibian populations are declining worldwide, and amphibians are experiencing high extinction rates due to habitat loss, chytrid fungus, pollutants, pesticides, invasive species, and climate change. Amphibians are the most threatened class of vertebrates.

The Grand Targhee Master Plan Development Projects offers opportunities for amphibian conservation. Amphibian Refuge recommends conducting population monitoring surveys for Columbia Spotted Frogs in suitable waterbody habitat and for Western Toads in suitable wetland habitat. Disturbance activities should be kept out of occupied Columbia Spotted Frog and Western Toad habitats.

Greenhouse gas emissions from development projects will indirectly affect amphibians. We recommend installing solar panels, battery storage units, and electric vehicle charging stations to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from development projects.

The US Forest Service should minimize staff reductions to ensure that sufficient staff is available for effective natural resource conservation and fire fighting activities.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

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