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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am 80yo, skied GT since 1990 and have had a home in Driggs since 1992. Currently ski GT 3-4x/week. During the off-season, I spend my activity time hiking the wilderness trails surrounding Teton Valley. Teton Canyon is our most frequent hiking area. The South Bowl hike up to the top of Colter is steep but filled with wild flowers and wild life. No place else compares. Mill Creek Trail which reaches the base of the Colter lift has been compromised and gutted by bikers from GT. For me there are many reasons why GT should not be allowed to expand beyond it's current borders:

- wildlife: all those listed in the Environmental Impact Statement are there and should have priority over skiers
- there are a wide variety of "wilderness activities" that go on all year long that will lose their wilderness environment if this expansion occurs
- Snake River water rights are becoming a major issue encompassing WY, ID & OR which GT will have to deal with and play a responsible role.
- Daily skier capacity is limited by road access and parking capacity. Even when the parking lots are full and there is a line of cars waiting to get into the parking area, there are no lift lines and you can ride up a lift and only see less than a dozen skiers.
- GT needs to increase its service capacity (food, lodging, parking, changing area, lockers) before increasing the number of skiers.
- Last I knew, Teton Valley is in the top 10 night skies in the US. Mountain top restaurants may change this designation not to mention the inherent inefficiencies of building and servicing a restaurant's on the top of a mountain that only has chairlift access.
- Increasing lifts will decrease Powder Skiing for which GT is famous for.
- The road to GT is the only access available and burdens Teton Valley with road service, maintenance and repair which it cannot afford.
- GT workers cannot afford to live in Teton Valley without housing provided by GT.

In my opinion, a lift from the base to the top of "Mary's Nipple" would open a large area of terrain (Saddle and area below cliffs) while the proposed lift north of Chief Joseph would also open more area at a lower altitude allowing for skiing on a "Grand Foggy" day.