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Organization:

Title:

Comments: As a resident of Teton county, Idaho and loyal customer of Grand Targhee, I have numerous concerns regarding the proposed Grand Targhee expansion. While I have not had time yet to review the EIS, I will confine comments for now to the concerns I have regarding the changes to the facility and impacts on residents in Idaho.

Facility concerns:

1. I think the proposed platter lift to serve the race area is an excellent idea. This would make it easier for racers in training and competition to directly access the race course without interfering with recreational skiers.
2. The proposed north boundary lift does not increase the vertical drop all that much and would increase traffic in what is really a very small acreage. The area the lift would serve is currently ungroomed and highly valued by more advanced users. I think a more efficient option both environmentally and economically given the relatively small amount of terrain in this area would be to simply upgrade the Blackfoot lift to a detachable version.
3. I am in favor of the proposed upgrades to the Shoshone and Dreamcatcher lifts.
4. The proposed Crazy Horse lift seems like a reasonable proposal.
5. I am not in favor of the Mono trees lift and boundary adjustment. The relatively low altitude and West/SW aspect would mean it would only be desirable for skiing for a relatively short time. Snow cover in that area right now is marginal at best.
6. I am not in favor of the South boundary adjustment and lift. This largely south facing area does not hold snow well in the spring. Also it is highly subject to freeze/thaw cycles throughout the winter which can make for more dangerous ski conditions especially for less experienced clients. I find the rationale that this lift would improve safety is spurious at best. Also the lift would service a relatively small (about 800 feet) vertical drop.
7. I think adding one on mountain restaurant is a good option. given the size of the resort and the number of users, I think this is sufficient. I do not see any need for two restaurants in addition to the current base facilities.

Teton county Idaho concerns:

1. Wyoming would get all the tax revenue from the expansion . The impacts in terms of traffic and other aspects of infrastructure on ski hill road and downtown Driggs would not be compensated by the resort.
2. Many analyses have shown that an expansion to the resort would be a net loss for Idaho.
3. The impacts of the expansion could be adverse for those residents of the county that do not use the resort. (congestion, higher property taxes, more expensive housing, groceries, etc.).

Finally, having been through many expansions at other areas (Crystal Mountain, Stevens Pass, Whistler, Park City) the proposed expansion would only increase the cost of tickets, lessons, etc. for the local community. The resort now is still very "approachable" for locals and others without a lot of money to spend, although even that is becoming more difficult as time goes by. I do not think anyone that is a current customer of Grand Targhee (local or otherwise) want to see the resort become another Jackson hole, Park City or Whistler where locals are priced out and pushed aside in the quest for more profit. Most current customers of Grand Targhee appreciate the smaller and relatively affordable aspects of the resort. A major expansion of the resort would jeopardize all that.

Thanks for the opportunity to give some feedback on this matter. I look forward to further discussions.