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First name: Alison

Last name: Godlewski

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Thank you USFS for considering my comment on the Targhee Draft Environmental Impact Statement. As a Driggs resident, I have an immense vested interest in the future of Grand Targhee Resort. Any development has an impact on my life and that of other beings that I care about.

There are so many things I oppose about the Master Development Plan, but I'll start with the things that I support:

-A restaurant at the top of Sacajawea.

-I am not crazy about the Crazy Horse lift, but I concede this one lift as acceptable if Grand Targhee insists on expansion. I strongly urge that night skiing be excluded to preserve our dark night skies.

Oppose

-The current size of 2600 acres is huge! Grand Targhee already has plenty of terrain and I don't feel the impacts are justified to expand the terrain any further. Impacts include: road maintenance, law enforcement, water quality, search and rescue, fire and emergency services, increase waste to be disposed of, an even worse affordable housing situation because of increased cost of real estate, increased traffic, crowds and air pollution. Another concerning impact is the water used for increased snowmaking and the environmental impacts of snowmaking.

-South Bowl lift- the impact on Teton Canyon would be a travesty. The peace and tranquility in this wilderness area would be catastrophically impacted. Wildlife would be disturbed. The amount of water and energy needed for snowmaking on this south facing aspect would be nothing short of crying shame. As climate change happens, the snowmaking would increase astronomically. The number of days that skiing would even be viable would be negligible in future years. I can't see how this could even be worth the expense. Learn from Treble Cone resort in New Zealand. When I was there in 2015, they had a lift that never opened the entire winter. Locals reported that it hadn't run in years because it no longer snows at that elevation on that aspect.

-Mono Trees lift - I adamantly oppose cutting trees that we DESPERATELY need to sequester carbon and to provide habitat for wildlife. I'm sure you are well aware of the bighorn sheep, moose, elk, wolverines, mountain lions and birds that depend on this area. Our wildlife are already facing enormous challenges with climate change and land development. Please do not allow this area (or South Bowl or North Boundary) to be disturbed.

-North Boundary lift - I adamantly oppose this lift because of the impacts to the aspen grove. This area should be protected for the health of the precious aspen grove, habitat for wildlife, and the beauty and solitude it provides for human enjoyment. The importance of the serenity this area provides cannot be underestimated. It is sorely needed in today's frenetic world.

-Costs - I oppose footing the bill for the increased road maintenance, more law enforcement, waste management, water management, emergency services, etc.

-Mountain top restaurant - I adamantly oppose a restaurant at the top of Dreamcatcher because of the visual impact, and most importantly, the light pollution that will result and impact wildlife.

-Any development will threaten our dark night skies - more lights from night skiing, night groomers, commercial and lodging would have a negative impact on the health of our wildlife and our people.

Even if there is no expansion at all, I suggest a Park and Ride in Alta to alleviate traffic and parking issues.

Please do not turn over any more of our public lands to Grand Targhee Resort. Keep Grand Targhee Resort within its existing boundaries. Thank you for your consideration.