

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 4/19/2025 12:41:37 PM

First name: Dusty

Last name: King

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Re: Opposition to Grand Targhee Resort 2018 Master Development Plan Projects #58258**

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing as a concerned member of the Teton Valley community to express my strong opposition to the proposed Grand Targhee Resort 2018 Master Development Plan (MDP) Projects #58258.

As a resident of Teton County, Idaho for the better part of the last thirty years, I love Teton Valley and can't imagine living anywhere else. I have raised my son here, have been active in numerous community organizations, and have explored the surrounding National Forests on foot and bike. Over the years, I've watched the character of our trails and access evolve-sometimes for the better, often for the worse. This proposed expansion scares me on so many levels.

Environmental Concerns:

The planned expansions into previously undisturbed terrain, including sensitive wildlife habitats and alpine ecosystems, threaten the ecological balance of the Caribou-Targhee National Forest. Increased development, lift installations, and supporting infrastructure will fragment habitats, disrupt wildlife corridors, and place unnecessary stress on native flora and fauna. The Teton bighorn sheep herd-a critical component of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem-is especially vulnerable and could be irreparably harmed.

Public Land and Wildlife Access:

Backcountry skiers will lose access to cherished terrain, and the general public risks losing access to lands that should remain open to everyone. This expansion represents the privatization of public land for the benefit of a single business-at the cost of local residents, wildlife, and future generations.

Infrastructure and Community Impact:

This development would overwhelm already strained infrastructure. Teton Valley is grappling with failing roads, an overburdened wastewater treatment plant, crowded schools, and limited law enforcement resources. Increasing resort capacity will lead to heavier traffic along Ski Hill Road and through Driggs, adding further pressure to our rural systems and wildlife. Additionally, housing prices will continue to climb, pushing out workers and families who form the backbone of our community.

Loss of Community Character:

Teton Valley has long been known for its small-town, community-oriented character. This expansion would shift us toward large-scale commercialization more typical of corporate ski resorts, eroding the qualities that make our home so unique and beloved.

In light of these serious and far-reaching concerns, I urge the U.S. Forest Service to deny approval for Projects #58258. Sustainable development must prioritize environmental stewardship, community well-being, and long-term resilience-not short-term profit.

Please stand with our community, our wildlife, and our public lands. Help protect the integrity of this remarkable place we all call home.

Sincerely,

Dusty King