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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I'm writing to express my opposition to any development proposal on Forest Service lands that includes an expansion of the Grand Targhee ski area that would substantially enlarge its present boundaries. I say this as someone who has skied Targhee since the early 1970s, just three years its opening, I believe. And I say it even though Targhee was, and remains, one of my very favorite places to ski.

I'm sure you will have reams of evidence and commentary submitted by many experts in fields such as wildlife management and protection, ecology, rural development other areas. Except perhaps on an emotional level, I'm not one of them. But I do want to highlight an issue that, unfortunately, must now be on our minds. Decisions are currently being made, and will continue to be made, in Washington, and by people who are ignorant of, or simply don't care about, the value of wild lands and wildlife (except to the extent that they can be turned to profit by the very few). That being so, the time that your agency, and the dedicated people who work for it, have for carrying out one of your core missions -- the wise use of and preservation the magnificent natural resources we have been bequeathed by our forefathers -- is going to be very short.

So, do what you can, while you still can. If you have to go, go out with your guns blazing. Strike a blow in the name of Gifford Pinochet, Teddy Roosevelt, David Brower, Rachel Carson, and the innumerable others who share their vision of a vibrant and cohesive natural world. Don't allow the expansion of Grand Targhee beyond its current footprint.

Thank you for your service.

Tom Wies