

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 5/5/2025 9:55:08 PM

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Comments: I am writing to comment on the Draft EIS for the Grand Targhee 2018 Master Development Plan project. As someone who has skied at Grand Targhee for over two decades (approx. 5-6 days per winter) and done over a dozen trips in the Jedediah Smith Wilderness, I am firmly opposed to the proposed action and do not want to see the resort expand beyond its current permit boundaries.

Thus I support Alternative 3 in the DEIS which allows the ski area to update its facilities and expand its lift-served terrain and offerings, while continuing to protect adjacent public lands that are important for wildlife, wilderness solitude values, and dispersed recreation.

Among the many reasons that I'm opposed to any expansion of Targhee's resort boundaries are concerns about wildlife habitat loss and disturbance (esp. bighorn sheep and wolverine), visual and noise impacts to recreationists in Jedediah Smith Wilderness and Grand Teton NP backcountry, and expanded snowmaking requirements with expanded boundary (with water availability impacts to downstream town and agriculture). The Draft EIS fails to fully analyzed the cumulative impacts on wildlife, Wilderness user experience, and downstream water availability which needs to be fixed in the Final EIS.

Grand Targhee has a path to upgrading its facilities and accommodating increased skier days without needing to expand into Mono Trees or South Bowl. There can be more lifts and improved lifts (and snowmaking and runs) without having to essentially privatize additional area to the south and having impacts to users far further afield in Teton Canyon, the Wilderness, etc.

It's time for the Forest Service to stand up, resist corporate capture, and chart a course here that is a compromise where Geordie Gillett gets some but not all of what he's seeking. This includes more base area development, improvements within current permit area, a new restaurant near -- but not on very top -- of Freds Mountain. But it also means a decision against any expansion of the permit boundary to the South and development of Mono Trees or South Bowl, PERIOD.

Please send me the Final EIS when available and make me aware of my opportunities to review that and potentially file an objection before the ROD is issued.

Sincerely,

Peter Aengst