

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 5/16/2025 8:36:39 PM

First name: Nicholas

Last name: Byrd

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Public Comment on Grand Targhee Expansion Proposal

Opposition to Large-Scale Expansion

I respectfully oppose the proposed large-scale expansion of Grand Targhee Resort due to its disproportionate environmental impact and the unnecessary encroachment into sensitive forest areas. There are far more responsible, efficient, and sustainable ways to accommodate skier growth and improve guest experience without overdeveloping public lands.

Environmental and Public Access Concerns

The proposed expansion would significantly disrupt wildlife habitat, reduce public access to cherished backcountry terrain, and undermine the natural integrity of the Caribou-Targhee National Forest. These lands are ecologically sensitive and offer irreplaceable recreational, aesthetic, and environmental value. The cost of losing them to development is far too great.

Focus on Responsible Improvements Within Existing Boundaries

Rather than expanding into undisturbed areas, the resort should invest in optimizing its current footprint. There are numerous practical and sustainable improvements that would enhance skier experience without extending infrastructure into new terrain:

- *- Upgrade Existing Lifts: Improving capacity and speed of current lifts would reduce bottlenecks and efficiently spread skiers across the mountain.

- *- Install a T-Bar or Short Lift Between Sacajawea and Dreamcatcher: This would open up underutilized terrain and balance skier distribution without further development into untouched areas.

- *- Improve On-Mountain Dining Modestly: A small-scale restaurant or warming hut in Colter Canyon would provide amenities for guests while preserving the wild, low-impact character of the resort.

Specific Alternatives: Rick's Basin and Colter Canyon Optimization

Instead of new large-scale terrain expansion, thoughtful enhancements in Rick's Basin and Colter Canyon would provide meaningful benefits:

- *- Rick's Basin: With its rolling terrain and proximity to the existing resort footprint, Rick's Basin presents a low-impact opportunity for increasing skiable acreage. Careful trail development here could maintain the basin's character while improving skier variety and flow.

- *- Colter Canyon: Rather than extending infrastructure deep into this area, the addition of a single mid-mountain facility-such as a small, energy-efficient restaurant or warming station-would meet guest needs for years to come without compromising the area's tranquility or ecological function.

These focused enhancements strike a balance between operational growth and ecological responsibility. They represent a smarter, more sustainable path forward for the resort and the surrounding Teton Valley community.

Thank you

Nick