

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 6/1/2025 6:30:43 PM

First name: jennifer

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Forest Service Staff,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed south expansion of Grand Targhee Resort into the South Bowl area, as outlined in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. My primary concern is the significant threat this expansion poses to the wolverine, a species proposed for listing as endangered under the Endangered Species Act, and the critical habitat in the South Bowl area.

Recent reports in local news sources, including the Jackson Hole News & Guide, have highlighted the presence of wolverines in the proposed expansion area. A specific sighting in the South Bowl, as noted in the article "Grand Targhee Ski Resort Proposed Expansion" (January 31, 2024), underscores the importance of this area as a critical habitat for wolverines. This region provides essential winter range for not only wolverines but also other wildlife such as bighorn sheep, moose, mule deer, and elk, as well as habitat for federally listed species like grizzly bears, Canada lynx, and whitebark pine.

The proposed expansion, which includes new lifts, roads, and infrastructure, would fragment and degrade this vital habitat, threatening the survival of the wolverine population in the Teton Range. Wolverines require large, undisturbed areas to thrive, and the South Bowl's intact and quiet environment is crucial for their survival. The Winter Wildlands Alliance has also raised concerns about the impact of this expansion on wildlife, emphasizing that the development would disrupt the quiet habitat essential for species like the wolverine.

I urge the Forest Service to prioritize the protection of this critical habitat by adopting Alternative 3 from the Draft Environmental Impact Statement, with modifications to further reduce impacts on wildlife and natural resources. This alternative would allow improvements within the existing ski area boundary without expanding into sensitive areas like the South Bowl, striking a balance between recreation and conservation.

The preservation of our public lands and the wildlife that depend on them is of utmost importance. I respectfully request that you reject the south expansion proposal to safeguard the wolverine and other species that call the South Bowl home.

Thank you for considering my concerns. I look forward to your response and the opportunity to engage further in the public comment process.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Jensen