

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 6/3/2025 4:23:18 PM

First name: Linda

Last name: Unland

Organization:

Title:

Comments: To: The US Forest Service, Caribou Targhee

Subject: DEIS Comment Letter

I am in favor of Alternative 1 and strongly advocate that Grand Targhee is not granted by the Forest Service the opportunity to expand the existing facility either within or beyond their SUP boundaries.

Here are my concerns that I respectfully ask you to weigh critically and carefully:

1.Extensive Impacts of any expansion fall on Teton Valley, ID

*There is NO financial benefit to Teton County, ID and only increased costs for Road Maintenance, EMS, Hospital, traffic, waste, noise and auto pollution, etc.

*The EIS offers NO Cost Sharing options. The tax burden will fall 100% on the residents of Teton Valley as these increased costs are realized.

2.Employee Housing

*Every alternative in the study identifies increased employee projections with the need for increased housing. Affordable/employee housing solutions are NOT addressed in the EIS.

*Teton Valley is already lacking sufficient affordable housing.

*The burden from GTR's increased employee housing needs, again, falls on Teton County, ID.

3.Community Character

*There is no place like Teton Valley. Though those at GTR may consider it a "resort" community, it is so much more. You will learn through residents' letters how vital, cohesive, committed and passionate we all are about our sense of place and home and what we value.

*Geordie Gillet's proposed expansion is an insult to the core values this community holds dear - and for his personal profit only. He is a member of this community and knows it well. Shame on him and the Forest Service if our community and surrounding mountains, forests, wildlife and wilderness are not protected and, instead, decimated for capital gain.

4.Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem

*As one of the largest intact temperate ecosystems in the world it is both our gift and our responsibility to protect this landscape from fragmentation. The Forest Service plays a large role in its protection. GTR is part of this ecosystem that we collectively need to conserve and preserve -- and not exploit.

*The EIS does not address the importance of the GYE.

5.Water

*The EIS Hydrology study indicates negligible impact from new wells, restaurants, snow making, etc. on the primary and secondary watersheds, with the exception of possible "sedimentation."

*Residents of Alta have already experienced sedimentation issues.

*Dry Creek runs through our property year-round. We covet this waterway, as it an important habitat for wildlife, connects with Teton Creek and provides critical water to the community.

*As an Environmental Educator, I don't believe there will be no adverse effect on our waterways and aquifer in Teton Valley.

*This MUST be addressed further by Grand Targhee and the Forest Service by detailed hydrology and geohydrology analyses.

6.Wildlife

*The existing SUP has already displaced wildlife, habitat, connectivity and migration pathways. How could we even consider further expansion, which will unquestionably disrupt/displace all of the wildlife that is present? Construction alone will prove irreversibly detrimental to the Bighorn Sheep winter habitat; mule deer migration in Teton Canyon; lynx, showshoe hare, grizzly and wolverine habitat. Also: The Great Gray, Boreal and Flammulated owls. American Goshawks and Peregrine Falcons, 3- Toed Woodpeckers, Frogs, Insects, Rodents. The list is nearly endless of those who will be impacted by further construction and continued recreation.

*It is ALL of our responsibility to protect these species.

7.White Bark Pine

*These are a "Keystone Species" in accordance with the Endangered Species Act of 1973. Expanding further north into the existing SUP and also the South Bowl would impact/eliminate approximately 78 acres of White Bark Pine trees due to glading, grading and tree clearing. Glading alone would remove 40% of these trees.

*Then there would be residual impacts to other resources as a result - ie. watershed hydrology; slower forest succession; decrease in grizzly food sources; complete disturbance of the symbiotic relationship between Clark's Nutcrackers and White Bark Pines.

8.Snowmaking

*Additional wells will be needed to accommodate a 57 acre coverage area, as this will be fueled by groundwater.

*Artificial snow delays the timing of plant growth. It also affects wildlife food sources and soil composition.

*Will this prove tenable per climate change projections?

*Therefore, is the expenditure necessary?

9.No Vail, Park City, Aspen, etc.

*I have personally experienced ski resort expansion in Vail, CO, specifically.

*We moved there, having experienced the early years of Vail.

*We left there to become full-time residents of Teton Valley.

*We have owned our property in Driggs since 1989 and eventually realized that this community was our "home."

*We have lived many places over the years and were drawn to the Tetons and the beauty of this Valley immediately. What we discovered the true essence to be is the Community that can't be measured, nor underestimated.

*Further expansion of GTR is not right for our community - and not responsible to the wildlife, the environment, conservation and quality of life in Teton Valley.

Simply, this is a business proposition that has long-lasting and detrimental consequences, except for the owners of GTR. Expansion is a private want, not a public need. Let's keep GTR the special place that it is!

Linda Unland
Driggs, ID