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Comments: I am 80 years old and have skied Grand Targhee in the winter with a Season Pass Since 1990 and hiked the trails of Teton Canyon (Alaska Basin, Mill Creek and North Teton Trail), Darby, North Lee, South Lee, Beard's Wheatfield in the rest of the year. Other hikers, horse trail riders and wildlife on back country trails in fields of wild flowers and high mountain streams are all that I see. During the winter, Alpine Touring skiers and Back Country skiers are prevalent in this canyon. All this is done with love of and respect for the wilderness that this area is. Taking any of these adventures away from outdoor enthusiasts and replacing it with Grand Targhee's wishful expansion is totally unfair to humans, mother nature and wildlife alike. Like Mill Creek, the trails will be rutted out by GT bikers leaving GT and descending through the existing hiking trails in the summer to Teton Canyon. The same issues relate to the proposed new road to the new proposed Basin lift.

During the ski season as I ride the lifts at GT, there is no wait line at the lift, riding up any of the lifts I may see a dozen skiers and lots of untracked powder but, when I turn around and look back there is a line of cars waiting to get into the parking lot which is full. The only place at GT that gets crowded is the Trapp Bar during the afternoon. GT has significantly less skiers per acre/season than Jackson Hole (250,000 on 2600 acres vs 715,000 on 2500 acres). These numbers plus a limited number of lifts provides skiers with lots of untracked powder which is one of GT's main draws. If GT wants more skiers, it simply needs to expand its on-mountain parking, locker availability and places to eat and stay but not on top of a peak where Night Skies, water and waste are all critical issues, lacking responsibility for adequate and safe water in Teton Valley and eventually affecting the Columbia River Basin serving the Northwest. Placing snowmaking equipment in the Teton Mountains is nuts (GT averages 500 inches per year). Placing more lifts where there is currently powder skiing may change its reputation but not improve its current reputation as a Powder Haven. There are at least 3 spots within the current boundaries that new lifts could increase the number of groomed trails if that is really what GT wants vs open terrain skiing. However, this would change the character of its skiers.

The only access to GT is via Teton Valley, ID with its towns of Victor, Driggs and Teton. Teton County will struggle with increase growth and very limited tax sources by virtue of how Idaho State government handles collected county taxes. More and faster traffic through Alta's School Zone will surely occur as well as increase faster traffic on Ski Hill Road, a major place for wildlife crossing. Fire, Search & Rescue, EMS and Emergency Room Trauma Services will come from Driggs, ID requiring increased facilities, vehicles, equipment and trained service people without receiving WY tax dollars needed to expand those services. Lack of affordable housing for workers is already a problem.

The requested expansion areas are critical to wildlife, forests and vegetation while being respectfully shared and enjoyed by humans experiencing a different type of outdoor adventure than what GT wishes to provide during both summer and winter. In addition, avalanche control will be intrusive, loud and difficult while disturbing natural beauty and affecting hibernating animals.

For 40 years several of my best buddies and I have taken a Spring Ski Trip to the majority of ski areas in the western states including Utah, New Mexico, Nevada, Oregon, Montana, Wyoming, Idaho and Canada. For the reasons stated above, GT has been our favorite where we return to almost every year partly because I live in Driggs but mostly it is the area that everyone wants to ski AS IT IS! Maverick Mountain and Showdown are also our favorites which tells you about the atmosphere we love to ski in. Please don't let GT ruin an incredible wilderness adventure area. It has plenty of beautiful skiing terrain which it can populate more with better parking although it would change what GT is as will increasing the number of lifts.

Thank you

Bob