

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 6/5/2025 3:27:49 PM

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Comments: I am writing to express my support for all the proposed projects in the EIS. As a longtime resident of the Tetons, a lifelong skier, a Victor homeowner and a 3-year employee of Grand Targhee, it is my belief that these projects will benefit all parties involved.

I will start by addressing my feedback as a skier; a moniker that describes me better than any other. I grew up in Colorado and took the bus to go skiing at resorts on the front range since the time I was in middle school. I have seen resorts change all over the state and I understand how lack of planning and forethought can impact a resort and the communities that surround them. It's understandable why many people perceive any type of change as a sign of impending doom for their beloved ski hills. I moved to the Tetons 10 years ago to seek out the quality skiing that had been lost at my home resorts.... and I found it again at Grand Targhee.

I view Targhee's EIS plans as an attempt to preserve the resort's character and quality in a region with inevitable growth and change in its' future.

Grand Targhee's plan for growing the resort and improving the supporting infrastructure is reasonable and forward thinking. The fact is that the greater Yellowstone region has been rapidly growing for the last 15+ years and that pace is accelerating. If Grand Targhee is not able to adapt to the inevitable growth of the region, the resort risks overcrowding in restaurants, lift lines, bathrooms and more. Without being afforded the opportunity to adapt, Targhee runs the risk of ending up like many of the resorts I fled in the first place; resorts that have lost their focus on the ski experience.

New on-mountain dining facilities will reduce base area congestion. New zones like Mono Trees will allow access to low elevation terrain that can keep skiers busy on the foggiest of days. South Bowl will give skiers lift access to some of the best views in the country. As a skier, I am in support of these projects.

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As a Victor homeowner and Teton Valley resident, I am also in support of these projects. I live in a neighborhood of young families and intend on starting my own family in the near future; raising the next generation of mountain-lovers. I often wonder what kind of Teton Valley they will grow up in.

It seems to me that the sentiment in this valley is that Grand Targhee changing in any way will lead to the valley losing its character. Meanwhile local government officials continue to approve cookie cutter subdivisions all over the valley with little to no pushback. To me, this haphazard development in the valley has a far bigger potential to change the region's character than any resort improvements at Grand Targhee.

My hope is that I raise children in an area that is forward thinking with their planning. One that focuses on facilitating parks, bike paths, a vibrant downtown area and access to amazing skiing. It often seems like some of the loudest voices in this region are more focused on making sure things stay the same rather than coming up with constructive plans for how to improve it. We all love the valley for what it is, but there needs to be more of a focus on what it could be.

Grand Targhee is making plans that are trying to forecast where the region (and the sport of skiing) might be in 10 years. My hope is that local Teton Valley government officials follow suit by adapting to a valley that will expand whether Targhee does or not. We need to be more focused on the windshield rather than the rearview mirror. More focused on making this valley into something great for everyone rather than returning it to what it once was.

Communities function best when they try to support their local businesses rather than fight them. Targhee cannot change the fact that they are in Wyoming or change how their tax dollars are divvied up. Targhee is one of the biggest employers in our area. Even though their tax dollars do not go to Idaho, it is undeniable that the resort provides significant economic value to Teton Valley businesses and residents. Think about all the local contractors that do business with Targhee. Think of the restaurants and shops in Driggs that are patroned by guests visiting Targhee. Think of the fact that Targhee is the largest donor to many of the nonprofits in the area. Think about how much the valley's home values have increased due to their proximity to Targhee.

Everywhere you go in any desirable mountain town, all you ever hear is "the fishing/skiing/traffic/prices used to be better." And that is probably true. The fishing and skiing and traffic are all better when there are fewer people on the road/river/resort. But guess what? People continue to move out west for the same reason many of us did; access to amazing landscapes and an array of activities. So we can spend time talking about how great it was when no one else lived here, or we can put our heads together and try to create a Teton Valley (and Targhee) that we will continue to love as the years go on.

You don't have to be in favor of these projects if you so choose. But let's try and figure out what we are FOR, rather than what we are against.

I am FOR these projects in the EIS. I am FOR thoughtful growth and development in Teton Valley. And I believe these two things should go hand in hand.