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Comments: PFAS Contamination from Ski Area

Concessionaires on public lands are tenants, not owners of public land. As such, the owners of public land, the public, should have a greater say in how the lands are used and managed. A single-use activity like resort skiing often monopolizes the use of public land. Resort skiing for many is an exclusive, out-of-reach sport and only represents a fraction of the user groups and public benefits that stem from a place like Teton Canyon.

Many forms of recreation are compatible with wildlife and water quality. Unfortunately, ski resorts have significant impacts on the environment as they are spreading PFAS into the water and soil of our headwaters:

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2772416624000858>

<https://www.earth.com/news/skiers-are-spreading-pfas-forever-chemicals-around-the-worlds-mountains/>

Before allowing additional privileges, expanding special use permits, etc., the managing agency must look into the contamination of PFAS stemming from resort skiing. The contamination sources will likely be from ski waxes, apparel, and snow-making. Ski areas around the world are being shown to have high levels of PFAS, and without adequate testing at Grand Targhee, how will you know the extent of contamination and the future impacts of allowing more snow-making and skiing?

To properly mitigate environmental impacts, assess the impacts to water, wildlife, plants, and humans, and to provide viable alternatives, you must consider the impacts of PFAS in your EIS process.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Steven Gnam

public land owner