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Comments: I am submitting this comment in support of the Alternative 2 (Proposed Action) at Grand Targhee Resort, as detailed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). This project represents not just development, but thoughtful, necessary planning for the long-term health and sustainability of both the resort and the surrounding community. It is forward-thinking, responsible, and grounded in a realistic understanding of the resort's current and future needs.

The DEIS process is a long one, and for good reason. It is designed to ensure careful, deliberate decision-making that considers environmental, social, and economic impacts. But because of its length and complexity, if we do not identify and advocate for our needs now, we risk being left behind later.

Too much of the current conversation focuses only on the present. This plan is about the next 10, 15, 20 years and beyond. Without strategic growth and adaptation, the resort risks falling behind both in safety and in guest experience. There are many comments about not needing the expanded terrain because Targhee's acreage is comparable in size to other resorts with many more skier visits. What those comments fail to mention are the lines and crowding that those resorts are already experiencing - they ignore that Targhee is trying to avoid this situation by proposing additional terrain. The DEIS is a well-structured step toward ensuring Grand Targhee remains a viable, safe, and well-managed destination.

As a resort employee, I regularly hear radio calls for rescues in the South Bowl. These are not rare incidents-they, unfortunately, are a seasonal norm. The proposal to improve access and safety in this area is based on real, lived experience by those who work and patrol the mountain daily. Critics who dismiss these concerns often lack the perspective of those of us on the ground. Prioritizing guest and employee safety should never be controversial. The roughly 200 acreage proposal in South Bowl is minimal compared to the acres available for backcountry skiers, it is also less than was originally proposed in a prior master plan; it was reduced to take into consideration the wildlife and environmental impact. The "human-powered skier" will still have a lot of non-ski resort acreage to explore in the Teton Canyon area. It's also worth stating that many of the backcountry skiers currently use Targhee lifts to access South Bowl terrain, they just would prefer to not share it with people who are not as well versed in backcountry skiing because it's incredible terrain with a beautiful view. Those who are not versed in backcountry are the ones who want to explore it and who we end up rescuing. Public lands are meant to be enjoyed by the public-not just the few who are highly skilled or equipped. Expanding access to the South Bowl would open new terrain to a broader range of skiers and riders, allowing more people to experience this public land safely and confidently.

Additionally, Grand Targhee is the only resort of its size in the region that does not offer mid- or summit-level dining. Other resorts-including Jackson Hole Mountain Resort, Snow King, and many across the country-offer such amenities not as extravagances, but as essential components of a complete guest experience. Facilities like the Summit at Snowbird, The Roundhouse at Sun Valley, and Eleven53 Café at Mammoth Mountain set a national standard. The proposed improvements at Targhee are in line with this norm and will help disperse visitor traffic and provide better access to services across the mountain.

There is also a troubling amount of misinformation in circulation. This expansion is not about commercialization for its own sake. The owner has made clear that he is not interested in selling the resort; his goal is to shape it into a place he-and many of us-will want to ski and enjoy for decades to come. This is not about profit-it's about long-term sustainability and stewardship. Targhee has long demonstrated its commitment to the land it occupies. Those of us who work here also recreate here. We are not looking to damage the environment-we're working to protect it through well-considered plans that guide responsible growth. The resort's environmental track record is

too often overlooked by critics, but it deserves recognition.

Finally, Grand Targhee is a significant economic driver for Teton County, Idaho. Many of its employees live in Idaho, where they pay taxes, raise families, and contribute meaningfully to the community. That the resort sits just over the Wyoming border is the result of decisions made long ago-not a reflection of disregard for Idaho's needs. If anything, it highlights the need for stronger support from Idaho's state government for its rural counties.

In summary, this proposal is about preserving what makes Grand Targhee special while preparing for the future in a responsible, community-minded way. The DEIS reflects that commitment. I strongly support its vision and urge decision-makers to do the same.