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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Based on the DEIS report, expanding the Grand Targhee resort beyond its current boundary would have detrimental effects on wildlife, the environment, and our community. I support Alternative 1 or alternative 3 with without the restaurant on Fred's Mountain.

When I heard about the proposed Targhee expansion my first instinct was that it is not needed and could have very negative effects for Teton County, Idaho. I have since attended the public forum in Driggs City Building and watched 2 community meetings on line. As I read the DEIS and listened to input from experts, my initial impression was reinforced.

My husband and I live in Idaho Falls. We have a small second home in Driggs. We love coming to Driggs and skiing at Targhee as well as taking advantage of the XC ski trails throughout the valley, including Teton Canyon.

Concerns about Targhee expansion beyond it's current boundaries:

Overburdening of Teton County, Idaho. As I am sure you are aware Teton County, Idaho would be overburdened by more growth at Grand Targhee as taxes paid by the resort go to Wyoming. I read the digital Teton Valley News and have noted the strain Teton County Idaho is under as growth comes to the county. Issues faced are lack of affordable housing, funding for road maintenance, law enforcement is stretched, and our wastewater plant update. More growth to our county would further overburden our community services (EMS, fire, medical, law enforcement). As I listened to the Teton County commissioners in the town hall meeting, they explained there are not current funding mechanisms to meet the county's needs.

The DEIS was missing a full traffic and safety study for year round use. Already we have noticed the traffic on Little street get busier and busier, backing up from the stop light further and further through the years. Sometimes drivers will have to wait through more than one traffic light change to get onto State Highway 33.

I question whether there is a need for expansion of Targhee's boundaries. I ski on both weekdays and weekends and rarely encounter significant if any lift lines. I often ride up the lift with visitors to our area who say they enjoy the "home town hill" and prefer it to larger ski resorts.

Expansion of Targhee's boundaries into South Bowl or Mono Trees would fragment or destroy wildlife habitat.

Formation new lifts, ski runs, or a restaurant on Fred's Mountain would negatively impact the Teton views from Teton Valley and Teton Canyon.

Please opt for Alternative 1 or a modified Alternative 3.