

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 6/9/2025 2:24:18 AM

First name: Melissa

Last name: Wilson

Organization:

Title:

Comments: To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to formally object to the proposed expansion of the Grand Targhee Resort. I have lived in Teton Valley my entire life and grew up skiing the slopes of the Ghee. While I understand the desire to grow recreational opportunities in the region, the outlined expansion raises serious concerns that I believe outweigh any potential benefits.

First and foremost, the proposal will have a negative impact on wildlife. Expanding the resort into currently undeveloped territory will fragment critical habitats and migratory corridors, placing further stress on already vulnerable species.

Second, the expansion is likely to lead to a surge in traffic congestion along rural roads that are not designed to handle high volumes. Increased vehicle use will not only affect local residents' quality of life but also raise safety concerns and increase emissions in a sensitive mountain environment.

There is also a looming concern about increased taxation. Historically, resort expansions often shift the financial burden to local communities, whether through infrastructure upgrades, emergency services, or road maintenance. Land taxation is already of concern for middle-class residents.

Furthermore, the expansion threatens to significantly increase light pollution in an area known for its dark skies and natural beauty. Some of my most treasured memories are gazing at the night sky up Teton Canyon in my youth. I have always dreamed of taking my future children to my favorite spot to teach them the constellations and feel connected to our Creator. The introduction of additional lighting infrastructure will disrupt both the visual serenity of the region and the circadian rhythms of local wildlife.

Perhaps most troubling is the precedent this sets for converting public land to private use. Public lands are held in trust for all Americans, not as a means to generate profit for private interests. On a more personal note, one of the proposed areas of development is where my husband proposed. Each year, we return to that beautiful spot and enjoy the peace and beauty of the land. Handing over these lands for commercial expansion undermines the very principles of public stewardship and access.

For these reasons, I urge decision-makers to reject the proposed Targhee expansion and instead seek solutions that prioritize environmental conservation, public access, and community well-being.

Sincerely,

Melissa Wilson