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Subject: Public Comment on the Proposed Expansion of Grand Targhee Mountain Resort

I live in Driggs and enjoy snowboarding and mountain biking at Grand Targhee. But I also like the small town feel of Driggs, the scenic beauty and openness of Teton Valley, and the variety of other outdoor recreation opportunities that can be pursued in the Targhee Caribou National Forest and the Jedidiah Smith Wilderness. I feel that Targhee's expansion alternatives have a lot of conflict with these other interests.

I've read other letters already submitted and share the numerous concerns that have been raised. What follows is a list of issues of importance to me:

- The loss of small-town character when a nearby ski area increases in size
- Increased traffic and the associated congestion, noise, and air pollution
- Increased strain on infrastructure such as roads, solid waste handling, waste treatment, medical response, and fire safety
- Likely tax increases to Teton Co., Idaho residents (Targhee's location in Wyoming and Driggs' location in Idaho is a serious obstacle to revenue sharing to cover infrastructure costs.)
- Loss of scenic beauty as seen from both Teton Valley and surrounding public lands
- Loss or degradation of other recreational activities on public lands such as Teton Canyon, the nearby national forest, and the Jedidiah Smith Wilderness
- Further damage to the local water supply (Alta is already seeing problems.)
- The removal of Whitebark Pines. Surly this should only be allowed in special, rare circumstances.
- Habitat degradation of a number of threatened mammal and bird species
- Development within the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem should be minimized-the GYE is unique and irreplaceable

I feel there isn't a need for another bigger ski resort in this region. We already have Jackson Mountain Resort and Big Sky. I question the long-term sustainability of ski resorts. Baby Boomers won't be skiing much longer. Can the younger generations continue to afford the ever increasing costs of skiing at destination resorts? And what if winter temperatures continue to increase, ski seasons become shorter, and snowmaking is no longer feasible? Many ski areas have ceased operations for various reasons in my lifetime. Targhee's expansion plans to remain economically viable seem like a high risk endeavor.

I'm opposed to expansion, so I'm against alternatives 2, 4, and 5 as described in the DEIS. I can support a few of the changes proposed in alternative 3, but overall, this alternative would encourage increased visitation and promotes the trend towards becoming a larger destination resort, which I think will end badly.

Given the available choices, I support alternative 1. However, alternative 1 isn't an ideal choice for me. Targhee should be able to make some of the proposed improvements within the current ski area boundaries. I approve of improvements to the base amenities and added amenities for the Sacajawea and Colter lift areas. I'm very much opposed to the mountain-top restaurant on Fred's Mountain and large-scale cutting of trees. Targhee will

hopefully continue working on traffic mitigation and find a better solution to parking.

I would like to see Targhee do well in the future, but only with minimal further expansion. Thank you for allowing me to provide my comments.