

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 6/11/2025 2:57:19 AM

First name: Bryan

Last name: Godlewski

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Hello USFS,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed Grand Targhee expansion. The Tetons are and amazing part of our incredible earth. I believe we need to protect the land and protect our community. I am a resident of Driggs. I passionately oppose much of the proposed expansion. I don't think we should let our public lands be under private control. This will only benefit a few people. I have lived in ski towns for the past 30 years. I know that most ski resorts want to grow and expand. So, they do. Often, years later, the surrounding communities blow up and change drastically. The people that lived in these communities often look around and decide to leave. Look at Park City, Jackson, Aspen, Vail, etc. It's easy to see a future where the 1 traffic light going into Driggs from Ski Hill Rd backs up for a huge distance after the resort closes. That's exactly what happened in Park City.

I believe that the proposed expansion will have an extremely detrimental effect on our community. It's evident that we do not have the resources to support continued expansion. Examples of this: road maintenance, law enforcement, search and rescue, water quality, fire and emergency, affordable housing. What's the plan for parking up at Targhee. Where are people going to park for a park in ride. It seems like it would be smart to plan all of this before granting any type of expansion.

I personally don't think that there is a public need for the expansion. I would be more understanding if there were huge lines and Targhee was packed. However, that is very seldom the case. I don't think that some small lines on powder days for a couple of hours means we need to give away control of our public lands. I often go up solo and try to chat with other skiers on the lifts. Very often, I end up riding the lifts for hours without ever being on a chair with anyone else. I think Grand Targhee should have to build the already approved chairlifts within it's boundaries before we as a community even have a conversation about expanding into more of our public lands.

South bowl is something that I feel particularly passionate about. Teton Canyon is amazing! It's a national treasure! I think we should protect it! With a lift comes a patrol shack, avalanche control work, road, maintenance shack, toilets, etc. It's a considerable amount of impact for an area that is vital to wildlife and so close to Grand Teton National Park. Can we leave some places wild and quiet? It doesn't make sense to me that back country skiers are asked to stay off of the ridgeline to help our threatened sheep, but GT wants to install a chairlift and all of the infrastructure.

I oppose a restaurant at the top of the Dream Catcher lift. No one wants to climb the Grand Teton and look over and see a huge restaurant up there. It will be highly visible from much of the valley and many of the high peaks in the National Park. It is important for humans to leave some places wild. Why give up our sense of wild in the park and surrounding areas so that some people can eat a cheeseburger in the mountains. I firmly believe that IF a restaurant must go in, that it should be placed below the ridgeline where it will affect the community and visitors significantly less. I also think there should be very strict restrictions on lighting. Our dark sky is precious!

In conclusion I don't think that our community and environment should pay the costs of this proposed expansion. I don't think that there is a public need. As I stated above the impacts are just too great and the benefits are too small. Please do not give control of our public lands away.

Regards,

Bryan

