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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Hello-

I am writing out of concern about the proposed expansion of Grand Targhee Ski Area. As a dedicated skier, and someone who works in the ski industry, I am generally opposed to ski resort expansion.

There are thousands of acres of developed ski resorts in Idaho and Wyoming, and across the country. If one ski resort creates an expansion, other resorts like Targhee feel like they also need to expand to sustain their marketing. This generally does not improve the actual skier experience, and denigrates lands that are best suited for other activities.

I love traveling to ski Grand Targhee, but I appreciate it for what it is, and would likely not be more likely to ski there if it was somewhat larger. Grand Targhee has a difficult time keeping their existing terrain open, considering weather, staffing and other logistic difficulties, that an expansion would only compound these problems.

The crux of the matter, is that the areas that Targhee is attempting to expand in, South Bowl and Mono Trees is a crucial location for other important recreational pursuits, including backcountry skiing, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, camping, and backpacking. I believe an expansion of Grand Targhee would negatively impact those opportunities, in favor of corporate profit, without fundamentally improving the in-resort skiing experience.

If people want to ski South Bowls and Mono Trees, they certainly can. But they must learn some backcountry skills that are an increasingly important part of the ski industry. This is why I encourage you to consider Alternative 3 of the proposed action, and limit Grand Targhee to its current existing footprint.