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Title:

Comments: To Whom It May Concern,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on the Grand Targhee Resort (GTR) On-mountain Master Plan Proposal. I absolutely support all of the identified improvements as laid out in their plan. The ski area definitely needs several improvements-adding new terrain, increasing on-site dining options, upgrading current and new lifts, improving snowmaking, and adding summer recreation options. The approval of the Master plan will go a long way in modernizing the resort and providing an overall better "user experience", for both winter and summer seasons.

Further, as one of the largest employers in the region, Grand Targhee's future plans will have a direct and positive impact to the local economy. You would expect to increase job opportunities for the local community, while also increasing the tax base and providing needed resources for the counties in both Wyoming and Idaho. Indeed, local businesses throughout the Teton Valley each year would gain a larger and enriched customer base to draw from into the foreseeable future.

I am sure there will be "naysayers" that will point out numerous concerns and question the need for this, as they did a couple of years ago; however, don't be dissuaded. I can imagine there will be concern regarding, increased traffic, crowded parking lots, more lights on the hill (really?), long lift lines, and crowds everywhere. This is simply inaccurate, and at best, an unsubstantiated conspiracy theory. Further, given my direct observation of the recent addition of the Colter Ski lift, little of these concerns have materialized the past three years. I acknowledge there has been steady growth in the valley over the past 20+ years; yet, I can find little GTR recent expansions (upgrading Blackfoot, adding Colter lifts) that was a causal effect. I opine that both ID & WY Teton counties, need to consider significant investment in the local infrastructure to support the Valley's past, current and future growth. There should be no expectation that the resort expansion will create overwhelming crowds affecting the local community..."if you build it, they will come" is simply not a viable objection to this project.

Finally, I trust that the US Forest Service will continue to manage our treasured forests, keeping an eye on the numerous recreational uses and any impacts that may arise. This GTR plan has been well thought out and accounts for potential impacts to the surrounding environment. The Targhee Resort team has been a stalwart steward of the land they occupy to include land immediately surrounding them. They're an exemplar of what a partnership between the public and private sector should be, and other resorts to emulate.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to submit feedback. I hope that the project will be approved and move forward as soon as possible.

Respectfully,

Michael Freiburger