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Comments: Dear Folks at the Forest Service,

In response to Grand Targhee Expansion DEIS my comments and concerns are below.

NO NEED FOR EXPANSION OF SKI AREA BOUNDARIES

Lift Lines are rarely encountered, and are less than what people typically expect

More Runs could be groomed within the current boundaries

More lifts could be placed within current boundaries

The need for more powder terrain is unrealistic. Snow conditions are up to the weather

IMPACTS TO THE TETON CANYON VIEW SHED ARE UNACCEPTABLE

DEIS is woefully deficient with regard to view shed.

DEIS dose not mention that MOST people viewing the west side of the Tetons will see this spectacular mountain range ONLY ONCE . What was their impression? Did they see the Grand Teton or a ski area? This landscape should never be altered.

This is TETON VALLEY NOT TARGHEE VALLEY. The very namesake of our valley originated from the view of these mountains. The sanctity of the mountains should never be altered by a business or one user group.

MONO TREES is situated in front of the Grand Teton as viewed from Hyw 33, north of Driggs all the way out to Harrop's hill. Ski runs, lift lines, lift towers and glistening cables will degrade this wonderful view.

The 1997 TARGHEE FOREST PLAN states that this view shed should be preserved.

TETON CANYON WINTER TRAILS WILL BE IMPACKED

The US Forest Service, Teton County, Wyoming, and Teton Valley Trails and Pathways maintain groomed winter trails in Teton Canyon. This area is the most HEAVILY USED winter use area on the Teton Basin district.

The aerial photos presented in the DEIS of So. Bowl and Mono Trees fail to show proximity to the Teton Canyon Road. This road is groomed for cross country skiing, snow biking, and pedestrian use and is the most popular trail in Teton Valley. Highly regarded for its pristine character and views. Visitors love the quiet vibe that they find while in the canyon. The pristine landscape and awesome experience is only disturbed by snowmobiles picking up skiers that drop out of bounds from Grand Targhee. This disturbance will only worsened as skiers ski out of bounds below the So. Bowl lift. Targhee has requested a snowmobile shed at the bottom of the slope, as they already anticipate this use.

The ski area operations, themselves, will impact the serenity of the canyon. Noise intrusion such as avalanche control bombing, cat grooming, boombox music playing at the bottom lift terminal, and human voices will fill the head of the canyon. If they need to control avalanche exposure, they can do it without building a lift and expanding the boundary. The impact of this lift is a high price to pay for just one more run that Targhee doesn't need.

FINANCIAL BURDEN BURDEN ON TETON COUNTY, IDAHO

The ELEPHANT in the room is, Wyoming should not be able to impose financial burdens on Idaho for infrastructure needs and services. If these expansions and improvements actually produced increased market share, as Grand Targhee desires, the cost to Teton County, Idaho taxpayers and quality of life will be substantial. Listed below are some of the expenses Idaho residents will bear.

ROAD IMPROVEMENTS to handle increased traffic on Ski Hill Rd. and 2500 N. will be needed. These major access roads have multiple side road intersections and driveways. Widening the road with pullouts will be necessary to accommodate safety concerns. Wildlife also inhabit the riparian area along Teton Creek and the Ski Hill Road. Some sort of fencing or barrier should be part of the upgrade to protect cars and traffic from animals on the road. Road maintenance will have to be stepped up, as more traffic relates to more maintenance and faster degradation.

TETON VALLEY HOSPITAL will see an increase in indigent care. Teton County, Idaho will pick up unpaid bills left by uninsured Targhee skiers and employees. HELICOPTER medical flights and AMBULANCE runs from the ski area to the hospital are common, and the costs are substantial. This also gets passed on to county if not paid by insurance or the individual.

FIRE FIGHTING PERSONNEL and EQUIPMENT AND EMS are currently located in Driggs. Adding the cost of a Wyoming resort to their duties should not fall on Idaho taxpayers.

SHERIFF and Highway Patrol costs will increase, as will the costs to prosecute in Idaho courts. Adding what will be another small town to Teton Valley is going to add traffic and crime incidents.

THE ELEPHANT is, Teton County, Idaho has NO WAY TO PAY for these additional costs due to Idaho State law limiting tax increases. Wyoming has NO WAY TO PAY for infrastructure needs in Idaho. Targhee expansion should not happen until this situation is resolved. The Forest Service and Department of Agriculture can not impose a financial burden from one state onto another. This should be a game stopper for Grand Targhee expansion.

GRAND TARGHEE IS BIG ENOUGH

There are plenty of opportunities to expand revenue within the current boundaries.

Today, lift ticket prices are exorbitant. Lower prices will produce more skier revenue and business opportunities at the base facility. Option#1 and Option#3

Build more and upgrade lifts within the current boundary to increase up hill capacity.
Option#3

Groom more runs within the current boundaries to expand skiable terrain. Expanding lift serviced area to increase powder skiing is not feasible or practical.
Option#1 and #3.

Expansion of amenities and Parking at the base area should be required to accommodate current and future lift and area capacity. Option#1 and #3

STAY OUT OF TETON CANYON. It's a very special place, to be preserved for people that enjoy and love the place, as it is. Option #1 and #3

