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Comments: I am writing to express my viewpoints about Grand Targhee Resort's planned expansion beyond its current boundary. I am an avid skier and my family has skied all over the US, including at GTR. I understand both the enthusiasm for expanding skiable terrain and the need to grow to remain viable as a business. But I am also concerned about the impact the expansion would have on local communities, the landscape, wildlife, and access to public lands.

*If feel strongly that Teton Valley Idaho and the towns of Driggs and Victor must be considered and accounted for in expansion plans, both "in boundary" and on private land, because even "in boundary" expansion will have an impact on local resources. Residents of Teton County Idaho are concerned, and rightfully so, about the additional "infrastructure stress" expansion would place on the community since it provides services that make GTR accessible and safe while recognizing little income from additional visitor revenue. I feel before moving forward with even in-boundary expansion plans, GTR should outline how an expansion would benefit not only GTR and Wyoming, but Teton Valley Idaho as well - how revenue will be provided to maintain the roads, provide for additional fire & emergency management personnel, address waste and water support, and provide affordable housing for local workers, so that these services will not become a burden on the local community. I think it would go a long way to securing local support if expansion could first take place within boundaries and a plan for how to support the community could be transparently provided.

*The other reason a lot of people including myself are concerned about expansion is our fear that expansion, especially beyond boundaries, will change the atmosphere at GTR and the reason that so many of us love the resort - the special "local vibe" that it exudes and the fact that it is still small and manageable to those of us who enjoy its terrain. Many other resorts have expanded, lost their personalization and have become so overpriced that the ski experience is no longer what it used to be. I feel GTR has a chance to do something completely different - to protect a feeling that is quickly evaporating in our world, think about balance and upgrade and expand within its boundaries to create an enhanced, yet still charming and unique ski experience that supports the local communities. Think about the comprehensive ski experience. Support and expand on public transportation to and from the mountain so that traffic jams like in Utah are not created as an example. Some of this may already be happening. I just feel that bigger is not always better.

*And finally, expansion into private land will remove these lands from access to the public which was the purpose of deeming the land public to start and will remove critical habitat for the wildlife that lives there. It is a serious decision because once the landscape is changed - once these areas are impacted - there is no going back. Old-growth trees and habitats cannot be re-created and we can't change the landscape back to the way it was before. The Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem is a unique place and home to wild animals whose habitats are increasingly shrinking. It is an amazing place that we should protect and preserve.

For these reasons, I support Alternative 3, keeping Targhee inbounds, with the inclusion of a restaurant on Fred's Mountain. I would also like to see a specific plan for how expansion will benefit & support not only GTR and Wyoming, but Teton Valley Idaho communities as well.

Many thanks for considering my comments!