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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Greetings Supervisor Pierson,

I urge the U.S. Forest Service to uphold its mission to protect the natural resources on the land it manages. And I oppose the expansion of Grand Targhee beyond its existing boundaries.

Allowing Grand Targhee Ski Resort to expand beyond its existing boundaries destroys the integrity of an unparalleled natural environment that belongs to the public. As part of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, this area deserves our highest regard in defending it from degradation.

The detrimental effects to wildlife of an expansion are not recoverable. Maintaining continuous habitat for bighorn sheep, grizzly bears, goshawks and falcons is essential so that they are not forced into isolated parcels. The loss of whitebark pine is devastating to an ecosystem already in peril.

Any expansion into South Bowl and Mono Tree is harmful to users of Teton Canyon for hiking and skiing year-round. This is an area that everyone may use for free. But their experience would be negatively affected by the usage of the few who can afford to ski.

In looking to the future, I implore the U.S. Forest Service to continue to protect as much public land as possible for all to use, and not to allow private individuals to accrue benefit at the expense of the public good.

Thank you,

Debra Adams