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First name: Alice

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Ranger Jay Pence, Idaho Falls

Thank you for taking comments regarding the proposed Grand Targhee expansion. I am against the proposal for the following reasons: concern for wildlife and loss of habitat, and concern for the people living in Teton County, Idaho. I can see the resort from my Idaho home, and the terrain is big, bigger than Jackson Hole Mountain resort on the other side of the Tetons. Plenty big without expanding and impacting the wildlife migratory corridor anymore than it already does. In my opinion, two huge ski areas and a national park that attracts close to 4 million visitors a year are pretty good use of our "land of many uses" and maybe we should prioritize wildlife while climate change, drought, and wildfires, wreak havoc on habitat. My second concern is the impact of the expansion on Teton County Idaho. Currently an explosion of growth is being fueled by developers and AirBNB speculators hoping that the proposal will be approved. Teachers, firefighters, nurses, and their families, can neither find nor afford housing as it is. Area businesses can't find workers, and the addition of restaurants and amenities at the resort will only exacerbate the need for service sector workers. The resort sits at the end of a 2 Lane highway that winds through Teton Valley and Alta, Wyoming, at 25 to 35 mph. Power days guarantee, bumper-to-bumper traffic up the hill, often at a standstill, clogging a main artery into the city of Driggs. Tax revenue that would normally be used to mitigate costs to the community are sent to Wyoming, not to Teton County, Idaho, or Driggs. Our county hospital, police, fire, and EMTs are called on to ensure the safety of all the heads in beds in our valley, as well as those at the resort. County revenue is stretched to the breaking point, and we cannot maintain levels of service to our communities with the additional burden of resort expansion coverage. The cost/burden of more revenue for multi millionaire owners of a huge three season resort should not be born by the taxpayers in the valley.

Please forgive my lack of brevity. And please do not let the expansion move forward, for the good of the forest, the wildlife, and the people.

Sincerely,

Alice Finley