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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Grand Targhee 2018 Master Development Plan Projects draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). I am opposed to Grand Targhee Resort (GTR) expanding beyond its current boundaries. I support Grand Targhee ski resort's growth and development, but not at the expense of its surrounding wildlands.

The DEIS analyzes a broad range of alternatives, including Alternative 3 that would authorize new development within Targhee's existing footprint, while not permitting the resort to expand. I see Alternative 3, with modifications, as a win-win for all interests. It allows the ski area to update its facilities and expand its lift-served terrain and offerings, while continuing to protect adjacent public lands that are important for wildlife and dispersed recreation.

As a skier, I fully support Targhee's mission to grow, but I feel that it needs to be done within its boundaries. Especially because Targhee has a lot more developmental potential on the permit it currently holds. It should develop on that plan fully before expanding into new territory

Thank you for your time and for your consideration on such an important matter.

Sincerely,

Tait Bjornsen

I believe that Targhee should not be able to expand its boundaries for many reasons, but my primary concern is about the wildlife in the area. The DEIS specifically states that the expansion would be moving in on a rare mineral lick, utilized by a declining Bighorn sheep population. The community of Jackson and users of GTNP specifically go out of their way to keep this population intact, by changing routes in the winter to abide by the voluntary closures in the Park. I feel that the Targhee expansion is completely contradictory to the work that has already been done to try to preserve these animals. The DEIS also states of these expansions distributing many other wildlife habitats such as bears, birds, etc. these expansions are contrary to preservation, and what the Forest Service stands for.

I also feel that Alternative 3 should not include the restaurant on top of Fred's mountain, and instead should be put lower on the mountain and out of views. I grew up in Jackson, and remember the first time climbing the Grand Teton with my parents at the age of 14. I want to have that same view be there for my kids, and all that come after. Protecting that viewshed is extremely important, and is a huge draw for companies such as Exum and others who mountain guide in the Tetons.