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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Supervisor Pierson,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Grand Targhee Resort Master Development Plan Projects Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). I am a resident of Teton Valley in Alta. Our daily life includes being out in the national forest and wilderness of the Tetons including GTR managed lands. Our friendships and commerce are tied closely to Teton Valley and Idaho. Alta is often ignored by Teton County, WY so contrary to popular thought, Alta residents are far more supportive of Teton Valley, ID than their own county. These are some of our observations and recommendations regarding GTR expansion/improvement plans.

#### SUP Expansion - NO (Option #3)

- \* GTR should NOT be allowed to expand their leased or owned land footprint. GTR has access to plenty of terrain to remain a viable resort that is sized appropriately for the area. The Tetons are being "loved to death" and DO NOT need another destination resort. One (e.g. JHMR) is enough.

- \* Keep an eye on the recent Federal land sale provision added to the Big Beautiful Bill in the Senate. If the map of potential land sales is accurate then I see that all of the USFS land that GTR currently leases as well as the western slope of Beard's Mtn and lands north of that could be for sale. I would not be surprised if GTR had input on that provision with the intent of buying that land so they can expand north. This should not be allowed.

- \* Any argument that GTR needs to expand to survive should be met with skepticism. GTR proved they could not only survive COVID but thrive afterwards to install a new lift, construct multi-million dollar luxury cabins and fund further expansion.

- \* GTR should focus on doing a better job managing the current terrain and facilities. Current parking is inadequate, in part, because GTR made the conscious decision to eliminate existing parking in order to build their luxury cabins. They need more parking, not less. This is an indication that GTR puts expansion ahead of core skier experience in their decision making. A troubling sign.

- \* We believe that GTR has their sites set on expanding north into South Leigh Canyon especially if they get a big dollar investor/buyer.

- \* South Leigh Canyon is a popular public recreation area all year round including backcountry access on Beard's Mountain and beyond. It is also winter range area and should not be pressured further from GTR.

- \* GTR tried to slip in an "emergency" northern egress via FS088 and South Leigh Canyon Road at the last minute as fire mitigation for their 2023 luxury cabin proposal. Everyone knows an "emergency" egress if allowed would soon turn into a full fledged northern resort egress. It would also give GTR justification to expand terrain north to Beard's Mtn and beyond. This proposal was discovered last minute by Teton Valley residents and fortunately denied by the BoCC during the hearing. Also it should be noted that SLC road is privately owned from the USFS border to Stateline Rd. GTR pressure to expand north could trigger the permanent shut down of public access to South Leigh Canyon.

#### Acceptable Changes To Existing SUP

- \* YES to improve existing base restaurants, bars and accommodations. This is sorely needed just to accommodate current demand. GTR took their eye off this ball to instead build out their luxury cabins.

- \* YES to Poma lift for ski racers.

- \* YES to replace Shoshone lift.

- \* YES to replace Dreamcatcher at end of life BUT with a traditional chair lift. NO chondola or gondola or tram or covered lift which is necessary to build a restaurant on top of Freds Mtn.

- \* YES to a modest restaurant at the BOTTOM of Colter is reasonable given the lift's distance from the current base.

- \* YES to lighted skiing will allow local families that work/school all day to enjoy some weekday skiing and allow

local ski teams after school training hours. This would also be a new revenue stream for GTR that is within reason. Lights should be out at a reasonable hour (e.g. 7-8PM) in support of dark skies.

- \* YES to tubing area. They used to have one so why not. A fun option for people that don't/can't ski.

- \* YES to zipline so long as it's down around the base and not visible from the valley or wilderness areas.

- \* PLEASE require that GTR paint all lifts including the Colter lift with a non-reflective, wilderness harmonizing color. Aside from the environmental detracting during the day, it really sucks in the evening in Teton Valley when the setting sun shines on it and lights it up like a beacon. If GTR management still lived in Teton Valley we believe it would be painted already.

All other changes to SUP not listed above should be DECLINED

- \* NO to any facilities (e.g. restaurants, guest accommodations) on peaks or ridge lines that are visible from Teton Valley, South Leigh Canyon, Teton Canyon or JS wilderness.

- \* There is no good reason, given how short the top to bottom runs are at GTR, to justify putting a restaurant at the top of any GTR lift other than increasing profits at the expense of wilderness and valley site lines.

- \* The primary reason for the restaurant is to increase revenues through non-skiing services (weddings, parties, events, dinner) that will go well into the night creating noise and light that will be seen/heard from all directions by people and wildlife. It will increase pressure on Ski Hill Rd during night hours.

- \* Given the growing problem with out of control skier injuries and deaths on US resorts including GTR and JHMR it takes a special kind of greed to propose putting a restaurant that will no doubt serve their primary money maker (e.g. alcohol) at the top of ski resort runs.

- \* NO to any facilities in Rick's Basin except for a small unstaffed warming hut/pit bathroom to support Nordic activities.

- \* NO to restaurant above Shoshone or Sacajawea. Absolutely ridiculous given the short run to the base. Instead see above YES to a facility at the bottom of Colter which should be able to serve both chairs.

- \* NO to South Bowl and Mono Trees. This allows GTR to creep further south into Teton Canyon adversely impacting wildlife, peace and quiet of existing human powered activities in the canyon and adversely impacts popular backcountry terrain.

- \* NO to North Boundary lift. We have skied it all for years and there is little terrain worth developing on the north end of the SUP that is not already accessible from the Blackfoot lift unless one is intending to expand north into SLC. Rick's basin is also an important quiet area and wildlife buffer and should not have a lift base built there which will inevitably bring in restaurants and accommodations.

Thank You,  
Kevin Byrne  
Nina Pignatello