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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I write to express (1) support for the additional lifts within the Grand Targhee's existing boundaries, and (2) opposition to the Resort's expansion beyond it's current boundaries.

Support: (1) New expanded facilities within current boundaries. The recent additions of Sacajawea and Colter lifts opened new high quality ski terrain that will benefit generations of skiers; the additional lifts and facilities proposed within the existing boundaries will also be great enhancements.

Oppose: (1) Expansion of resort boundary due to impacts on wildlife and vegetation. The two expansion zones couldn't be located in more sensitive wildlife areas. Two of the region's most vulnerable plants and animals will be negatively impacted--bighorns and whitebarks. Decades of research and now conservation measures are underway to protect both. The location of a singularly important, site specific habitat feature--a naturally occurring salt lick used by bighorns and other ungulates--would become less accessible. Whitebarks, our region's highest elevation tree species, provide wildlife habitat and functional benefits including extending late season snowpacks--our best reliable local water source--making these forest types a priority conservation species.

Oppose: (2) Expansion of resort boundary due to impacts on views. The views from within Grand Teton National Park, including from its World-renowned Teton Crest Trail, enjoyed by generations of horse-packers and hikers, will be impaired--a pristine natural horizon line from within a world-class national park is worth protecting.

Thank you for considering my comments and for your thorough deliberations.