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First name: Wood

Last name: Palmer

Organization:

Title:

Comments: My name is Wood Palmer and I am a longtime resident of Teton County, WY. I am an avid outdoorsman and a consistent season pass holder at Grand Targhee Resort. With this being said, I am writing to express my opposition to the expansion of Grand Targhee Resort.

The community of Teton County, Idaho cannot afford the financial burden of the proposed developments. Profit generated by allowing GTR to expand beyond the Special Use Permit would be retained by Wyoming while the costs for roads and housing would fall upon the citizens of Teton County, ID. In addition to this, public lands would be lost to an exclusive private industry. Skiing, an activity that can be inaccessible due to the cost of equipment and resort fees, is not an activity that every Teton Valley resident can participate in. By taking away public lands, areas where everyone can recreate will be reduced while increasing land with restricted access.

This expansion would also diminish the natural beauty of Teton Valley. The proposed mountain top restaurant would be highly visible from multiple scenic viewpoints; whether from a boat on the Teton River or scaling the Grand, it would be an intrusion to our famous skyline. Beyond aesthetics, it would contribute to increased light pollution.

I am in favor of Alternative 1-no development-or Alternative 3 with modifications to exclude any buildings along the ridgeline. Public lands should remain in the hands of the public, not given away for profit.