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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I've been a proud resident of Teton Valley and a dedicated Grand Targhee pass holder for over three decades. This mountain isn't just a place; it's a vital part of my life and holds immense personal value. I absolutely wish for Grand Targhee's continued success and prosperity, yet I firmly believe that this success should be rooted in enhancing the existing experience rather than extending into pristine, undeveloped areas.

I am writing to express my unequivocal support for Alternative 3. It is my conviction that the resort's focus should be on thoughtful, internal infrastructure upgrades and operational improvements within its current footprint. Expanding the boundaries would irrevocably alter precious backcountry access and irreplaceable public lands.

My deepest concern stems from the fact that the community I call home - here on the Idaho side - is already shouldering a disproportionate burden from Grand Targhee's ongoing growth. Traffic on Ski Hill Road has become increasingly hazardous, posing a significant safety risk. Teton County, Idaho, is grappling with immense pressure to provide affordable workforce housing, maintain roads, and deliver essential emergency and rescue services that directly support resort guests. Crucially, we receive inadequate compensation or resources from operations based in Wyoming to offset these impacts. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) regrettably falls short in fully assessing these critical impacts on community services and affordable housing.

If the resort is indeed committed to growth, that growth must be pursued responsibly. This means prioritizing investment in amenities like parking solutions, dedicated staff housing, and efficient shuttle services on the Wyoming side. This strategic investment would directly alleviate the escalating strain on Idaho's roads, limited housing stock, and overstretched emergency responders. Furthermore, the DEIS's lack of a comprehensive, year-round traffic and safety study is a glaring omission, vital for truly understanding and planning for these growing pressures.

Beyond the community impacts, I am profoundly worried about the irreversible damage to invaluable wildlife habitats and sensitive alpine ecosystems should expansion proceed. Areas like South Bowl and Mono Trees are critical habitats for iconic species such as grizzly bears, lynx, and wolverines - their loss is simply not something we can afford. The current DEIS lacks sufficient wildlife data to responsibly justify any boundary expansions.

I cherish Grand Targhee and wholeheartedly want it to flourish, but we must ensure it remains within sensible bounds. I strongly urge you to adopt Alternative 3, coupled with diligent attention to water use, viewshed protection, and robust traffic mitigation strategies. This approach represents the true balance: allowing the resort to grow thoughtfully while safeguarding the very essence of the mountain and the well-being of our surrounding community.

Thank you for your careful consideration of my comments.

Sincerely,