

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 6/20/2025 4:17:37 PM

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Comments: As a local Teton Valley resident, I urge you to choose option 3 with no expansion beyond Grand Targhee's current boundaries. Expansion would have negative impacts to the environment, wildlife, and local community in many ways

The land of the proposed expansion is protected winter and summer habitat for bighorn sheep, moose, mule deer, elk as well as the federally listed grizzly, Canada lynx, and wolverines. Devastating this land would eliminate large swaths of important old-growth forest including the federally listed whitebark pine and greatly increase erosion to areas even beyond the new proposed boundary. More ski terrain would increase the need for water withdrawals for snowmaking. Our local aquifers are already stressed by current agricultural and residential use, affecting the environment, but also the community. How can we claim to be considerate of our environmental impacts to the spaces and wildlife that make our community so special and yet go forth with any option other than 3?

Option 3 is the only choice that shows community care for locals over tourists. Increasing the boundary into our valued recreation areas limit public access to our backcountry skiing, hiking, biking, camping, climbing, and hunting spaces. For what? To increase the capitalistic opportunities of a private few at the expense of the rest of the valley that call this place home, year round? Our recreational land is the reason so many of us live here and increasing the resort capacity will push and price many of us out...

We simply do not have the infrastructure in the valley to support increased year-round tourism. Affordable housing pressures would worsen, displacing local workers and residents. We have seen this in so many ski towns all over the country. Do we really want to have the same problems as our neighbors in Jackson? Do we want to turn into a community of part-time billionaires pushing out millionaires who then complain when long-time local small businesses are forced to close with no employees to stay running? What do these wealthy, remote workers contribute to our community beyond buying more ski passes?

The increased traffic on Ski Hill Road would not only be frustrating, but also increase safety concerns for all, particularly in winter months when road conditions are already hazardous. Expanding resort capacity would put unsustainable pressure on community services like emergency response, fire, and medical care, none of which are scaled for this level of growth. Waste management from increased visitation will also strain the capacity of local landfills and create new litter and pollution problems, further decreasing the quality of both our beautiful outdoor and residential lands.

To put it simply, the entire valley will be overwhelmed and we will lose important, long-time residents and wildlife. The quiet, rural character of the valley would be forever changed. Targhee's website states that, "Since the lifts started spinning we've embraced being laid back and keeping it simple." I would love to hear how, in any way, expanding will maintain that statement. What do we as a community really value?

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of the massive, irreversible proposed changes to our beloved home.