

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 6/20/2025 5:22:36 PM

First name: Jonathan

Last name: Constabel

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am writing to oppose the expansion and further development of of Grand Targhee Resort beyond, and within, it's current boundary, and to support Alternative 1 in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). Any further expansion, development, removal of forest habitat for trail creation, and construction would be detrimental to our wildlife, our watershed, our wilderness, and our community as a whole.

Increased activity and tree cutting would destroy known American Goshawk territories, which are a state-sensitive species and bio-indicator of ecosystem health. Grizzly Bears, Black Bears, Bighorn Sheep, Wolverines, Great Gray Owls, Moose, and other charismatic species would be pushed out of their home ranges, reducing wildlife tourism on the mountain, and eliminating the draw for visitors during all seasons. I have worked with Great Gray Owls and American Goshawks for the past six years at the Teton Raptor Center and with the Bridger-Teton National Forest, and have seen first-hand how harmful any expansion and development is to these species.

In addition to wildlife displacement, the sheer amount of water required for this project, between construction needs and new snow-making, would cripple local agriculture and communities. All of the proposed construction for new and updated facilities would create an immense amount of polluted runoff that would go directly into our drinking and irrigation water for Teton Valley, harming individual residents and our agricultural economy. I have farmed here in the valley at Canewater Farms, and am concerned about how the quality and quantity of irrigation water would be impacted throughout the heat of the summer, affecting local farms' abilities to produce food for residents. The DEIS is missing a water sustainability analysis that accounts for current and future climate conditions, and the impacts of water usage during and after development.

One of the major draws to Grand Targhee and Teton Valley, Idaho is our wilderness and public lands. Expansion and development on the mountain would destroy the wilderness feel of the area by damaging the soundscape, viewscape, and potentially pushing it's boundaries further towards the Jedediah Smith Wilderness, eliminating the reason most people come to ski and recreate here. Expansion would also lead to the privatization of an additional 866 acres of land, removing public access for an area that is immensely popular for backcountry skiing (much of it lift-accessed), hiking, and other recreation. Grand Targhee already has more ski-able acreage than Jackson Hole Mountain Resort, which supports far more visitors per year, therefore expansion is unnecessary to sustain Grand Targhee economically, and would be a detriment to the image and visitation of the mountain. I have been working and recreating in the Grand Targhee backcountry for the past eight years, and would not have the ability to do so anymore if any expansion is approved.

In addition to working and recreating here in the Tetons, I am also a full-time resident who has lived in the area for eight years, and lives on Ski Hill Road in Driggs. The DEIS is directly missing a traffic and safety study for increased congestion along Ski Hill Road year-round. Affordable housing is already near non-existent in the valley, and the increase in staffing needs, and potential increase in Airbnbs and short-term vacation rentals, would further push out residents. My entire life and community are here in Driggs, and I wouldn't be able to afford to continue living here if the expansion and development were to occur. The DEIS also doesn't account for the greater strain on community services. Firefighters, medical personnel, waste management personnel, and emergency medical services would be overburdened, leading to a dangerous decrease in community support that would put local residents in danger every day.

Alternative 1 is the only appropriate option for the benefit and safety of our wildlife, our watershed, our wilderness, and our community. Grand Targhee has the privilege of operating on our public lands here in the valley, and any expansion and/or development would be a violation of trust and responsibility to Teton Valley,

Idaho residents. The DEIS is missing a full traffic and safety study for year-round impact; a water sustainability assessment for current and future climate conditions; a thorough analysis of impacts on recreation displacement on public lands; a complete assessment of impacts to community services and affordable housing opportunities; and is deficient and blatantly missing data related to currently active nesting territories and wildlife habitat for state sensitive species and populations. I urge the Forest Service to strongly consider the data, and lack thereof, and to support Alternative 1. Thank you for your time, and for standing up for our community.