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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I have serious concerns about the proposed Grand Targhee expansion and I am writing to ask that you do not allow the expansion request beyond Alternative 3, with the exception of NO restaurant on top of Fred's Mountain.

I live in Alta, WY, and will be directly affected by this, in many capacities. My family and I spend a lot of time hiking, biking, and backcountry skiing in the proposed expansion area, and an expansion would impact our access to these areas and limit our ability to enjoy these public lands freely, in the peaceful solitude of nature.

In addition, I would very much like to protect the habitat of so many of our region's precious wildlife species, including Grizzly Bears, Bighorn Sheep, Wolverines, Canada Lynx, and many owls and other birds. Expansion into their habitat will negatively affect these animals and would likely increase human-bear interactions, which is bad for both the bears and humans.

A restaurant on the top of Fred's Mountain will be an eye-sore from the valley, and it will create light pollution which will be a tragic effect for those of us living nearby. This will have a huge impact on our night skies. Please protect our dark skies - we don't want to lose them.

The negative impact of an expansion on the greater community will most likely be huge - the infrastructure in Teton Valley, Idaho will not be able to handle the increase in visitors and usage, and the county will not benefit from the increase in tax revenue that Grand Targhee would contribute, because it will go to WY, not ID. The availability of affordable housing in Teton Valley, ID is already strained, and this will likely worsen as workers and visitors will need even more places to live and stay.

I live off of Ski Hill Road, and as this is a narrow, mostly two-lane road, the traffic congestion is already bad. It is also quite dangerous for runners and bikers. I frequently run and bike up Ski Hill Rd to Grand Targhee, and it's a little scary how close cars get to me on this road. As there are no wide shoulders on the road, and there are no other paths away from car traffic to get up there on foot or bike, this is my only option. The proposed expansion will increase congestion and further worsen safety for those of us who live and recreate here. The increase in car traffic will also make it hard for emergency vehicles to access Grand Targhee.

Finally, I would like to point out that access to public lands to hike, bike, and backcountry ski is currently open to all, regardless of financial resources. Skiing at Grand Targhee is expensive, and lift ticket costs continue to increase, not to mention the high cost of ski gear. Taking away free access to the backcountry - to benefit mainly those with more financial resources - seems to run counter to the point of having public lands for recreation. I am so adamantly against removing the current availability for all people, no matter their financial situation, to recreate and enjoy our beautiful outdoor natural resources.

Please keep any Grand Targhee expansion in the current boundary, and do not allow a restaurant at the top of Fred's Mountain. Please retain our beautiful area for all to recreate in, regardless of wealth status. Thank you.