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Comments: My comments on the proposed action and alternatives for Grand Targhee expansion follow. I'm not going to repeat everything that was included in my earlier response to scoping, but will highlight a couple of major concerns.

I am tired of reading purpose and need statements that are not in keeping with the National Environmental Policy Act and USFS directives related to it. The P&N statement used for Grand Targhee is the same cookie-cutter list that was used for the recent Snow King and JHMR NEPA documents. It has little to do with answering the question of why the proposal is needed and why is it needed now, in order to correct a problem. If the P&N statement articulated what is actually wanting with the existing condition, my guess is that the proposed action would look quite different.

I think enough national forest land has already been placed within the permit area, and I oppose expanding its boundaries. A primary concern is the destruction of whitebark pines that would occur, especially since so many of this threatened tree species have already died in the Tetons due to mountain pine beetle. Preserving a stand of whitebarks takes precedence over allowing a commercial business on national forest land to increase its footprint by 78 acres when it's a perfectly adequate ski area as is.

I'm not a fan of large "guest facilities" like restaurants on top of mountains where they mar the view from other areas, including the Jedediah Smith Wilderness. These belong at the base area, where people can use them without having to ride a lift. And the mitigation measures often promised seem to remain on paper, if what's been built at the top of Snow King is an example. Not only does it intrude visually but it has destroyed native vegetation and introduced a new source of artificial light at the top of the mountain.

That's enough from me. I hope the final alternative that is selected will reflect some of the public comment received.

Thank you,
Susan Marsh