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Comments: I am writing to express my opposition to Grand Targhee Resort's proposed expansion into the Mono Trees and South Bowl areas. These expansions would threaten sensitive wildlife and effectively privatize these treasured public lands for private use and profit while creating irreversible impacts to the viewsheds surrounding the resort in Wilderness, National Forest, and National Park areas.

I support Alternative 3, keeping Targhee within its current boundaries, without the addition of a restaurant on Freds Mountain. I believe that there is ample opportunity for Grand Targhee Resort to expand its offerings and enhance skier/visitor experience without the privatization of precious public lands in the Teton Range.

Allowing further expansion into public land would be antithetical to the Forest Service's stated motto: "caring for the land and serving people," with a goal of "advocating a conservation ethic in promoting the health, productivity, diversity, and beauty of forests and associated lands." ("What We Believe" page, [fs.usda.gov](https://www.fs.usda.gov))

South Bowl's cliffs, open snowfields, and whitebark pine forests provide crucial habitat for wolverine and the struggling Teton Range bighorn sheep herd. I have personally encountered bighorn sheep in South Bowl and in the already-impacted area at the base of the Colter Lift on multiple occasions.

Building an additional chairlift and ski runs in this area would push these sensitive species off prime, high-elevation habitat. The open slopes and cliffs in South Bowl are popular with backcountry skiers, so allowing resort expansion would give private industry control over these public lands and eliminate historical human-powered skier access.

Backcountry recreationists have already worked extensively with biologists and conservation organizations to respect voluntary closures in South Bowl that benefit the species with which we coexist. To allow the resort to expand into this already-contentious area stands in contrast to previous public engagement and management of this area.

Additionally, Targhee has stated that the rope line in South Bowl has been a challenge to manage. Expansion into South Bowl would position skiers directly above the cliff band known as The Apostles - expert terrain that requires careful navigation. Expanding into South Bowl would create a huge increase in potential for members of the public to put themselves in significant danger with this cliff band while also endangering Grand Targhee's emergency personnel, along with members of our volunteer Search & Rescue teams.

Mono Trees contains 600 acres of undeveloped forest and old-growth trees that are important for grizzly bears, moose, deer, and many nesting raptor species. American goshawks, flammulated owls, and boreal owls that live in this proposed expansion area would be disturbed and displaced if the Caribou-Targhee National Forest allows the resort to develop there.

Furthermore, the potential loss of a significant number of whitebark pines to resort development is alarming and short-sighted. Our priority as stewards of these lands lies in protecting that which cannot speak for itself - including these trees, which play a critical role in supporting biodiversity and ecosystem stability in the Tetons.

I recognize the resort's need to grow as a business, and I am not opposed to most of the developments inside the existing boundary. However, I oppose the mountaintop restaurant on Fred's Mountain and the North Boundary lift, as they would tarnish the viewshed and wilderness quality of nearby public land on the Caribou-Targhee and in Grand Teton National Park. As a high-elevation resort, Targhee sits in a unique position with

limited room to expand, but its private endeavors and ambitions should not come at a direct cost to the public.

I urge you to support Alternative 3 in Grand Targhee's proposal, with the critical changes noted above: no new high-elevation structures that harm scenic and ecological values.

Please choose to protect wildlife, public access, and the integrity of our public lands now and for generations to come.

"If future generations are to remember us with gratitude rather than contempt, we must leave them a glimpse of the world as it was in the beginning, not just after we got through with it." - Lyndon B. Johnson