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Organization:

Title:

Comments: As a frequent user of recreational trails around Targhee, I do NOT approve of alternatives 2, 3, 4, or 5. Expanding the ski resort only benefits the upper class-- mainly out-of-towners. Expanding the resort would only further raise already skyrocketing rent and housing prices for the actual community members of Driggs and Alta. Furthermore, community members of Driggs and Alta would be further impacted by the increase of traffic on Ski Hill Road due to increased traffic on the road and exposure to noise and light pollution, particularly for homeowners on or near Ski Hill Road. Additionally, this increased traffic poses a risk to the numerous bikers and runners who recreate along Ski Hill road. Higher rates of tourists means drivers are less likely to know/follow the speed limit along Ski Hill road, resulting in speeding. This is particularly dangerous for runners and bikers considering the shoulder on Ski Hill road is barely wide enough to begin with.

Increased visitor traffic to Targhee is unlikely to trickle down to the greater Driggs/Alta economy. If visitors can stay on the mountain for all their lodging and restaurant needs, they are unlikely to venture into town and spend money at hard working, small local businesses. The only group who benefits from this are the rich ski tourists and the resort, meanwhile the community members are faced with increased traffic, safety risks, additional noise and light pollution, and higher rent costs. This expansion does not benefit the community members of Driggs and Alta whatsoever, and will only hurt the community.

On a natural resources note-- Grizzlies are one of America's greatest animals, and this expansion would reduce their already-shrinking habitat. If bears are forced to move due to the expansion, they will head towards other trails, increasing the likelihood of hikers/runners/bikers experiencing bear encounters on trail. Crucial habitats would also shrink for the Canadian Lynx, owls, bighorn sheep, and dozens-- or HUNDREDS!-- of other species of flora and fauna that rely on this area for their well-being.

Based on my above comments, I only support Alternative 1.