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Title:

Comments: I am writing this letter in opposition to the expansion of Grand Targhee. I have lived in Teton Valley all my life. I love this valley and the many opportunities it offers. I have skied at Grand Targhee since I was a kid and love skiing there. However, I am against Targhee expanding for many reasons. First of all, I love the untouched views of the mountains, both from the valley and from up in the Tetons while hiking and climbing, and do not want to see that taken away and see the development and straight lines of trees cut out along the ski runs. When I saw the pictures of what the proposed expansion will look like from various vantage points, my heart sunk to see the view so changed and unnatural. I also don't want to see more buildings, such as restaurants, higher on the mountain, and especially the additional lights this will put on the mountain in the evenings and at night. One of the most special things about our valley is the beautiful night skies and ability to see the stars and the milky way, and adding lights from buildings, night skiing, more snow cats, etc., higher up on the mountains will significantly detract from this. Additionally, while skiing is a great outdoor activity, there are also many other activities that the residents of the valley enjoy in the mountains surrounding Targhee, such as hiking, mountain biking, etc., and the expansion of Targhee into the proposed areas will detract from or remove opportunities in those areas for other types of recreation enjoyed by many. Additionally, some of the areas proposed for expansion are into areas currently closed in the winter to humans for wildlife habitat, therefore expansion into these areas will definitely impact many types of wildlife that we should protect. This will be true not just in the winter, but also in the summer as wildlife habitat will be altered by tree removal, construction, increased human presence, etc. Of special concern to me is the damage to our big horn sheep population, as detailed in the letter sent to the Forest Service regarding this expansion from the Wyoming Game and Fish. The proposed expansion, especially into the South Bowl area, will destroy some important winter range, along with access to an important natural mineral lick, for this sensitive population. Another reason I am against expansion is that past construction at Targhee has impacted the water of the Alta Community Pipeline, such as sedimentation in the water when construction began on the Sacajawea lift on Peaked Mountain in 2001. Therefore, further expansion at Targhee will likely result in all community members using this water source having to make the expensive change of drilling wells. This is only one of many negative impacts that expansion would have on our community. Furthermore, I believe that allowing Targhee to expand further into public land will open the door to that land eventually being part of a land swap or other means to become private land, as Targhee has done before, and therefore removing the current opportunities for all to enjoy those beautiful sections of our public land. For these and many other reasons, I am against any expansion of Grand Targhee resort, especially beyond its current boundaries.