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Organization:

Title:

Comments: As a resident of Alta, Wyoming for 26 years, and Teton Valley for almost 35, and a local outfitter on the CTNF, I have a deep attachment to this region and its natural lands. I am also a season pass holder at GTR and am expressing my opinion here both as an outfitter and local citizen. I would like to see Targhee succeed but not at the expense of negatively impacting the surrounding environment. For those reasons, I support Alternative 3, where the resort can grow within their existing boundary and they can build restaurants, bars, hotels, etc on private land that they own at the base of the resort.

I do not support expanding out of the boundary as that will negatively affect backcountry terrain as well as view corridors. It would affect the experience at our Teton Canyon Yurt, where in spite of being near the Wilderness, views will be compromised as well as avalanche safety concerns.

I enjoy skiing at Targhee and do not feel the slopes are crowded. There is ample terrain to service beginners within the current boundary. There is no need to develop the Mono Trees or cut down Whitebark Pines to expand the resort. There is no need to expand the ski terrain as the resort's slopes are hardly ever crowded.

Targhee has 120 acres at the base area that they own and are permitted to develop. That is where the development should occur--on private land that they own. No restaurants on the top of the mountains that would ruin the view corridor from the Wilderness, from GTNP and from Teton Valley.

Most of their skiers are regional and they tailgait in the parking lot and brown bag their lunches. I know GTR is looking to attract a more "upscale" clientele that are willing to pay for upscale lodging, dining and spa services. This is not the crowd that skis there...however, if GTR wants to invest their money attracting those clients, that investment should be on their private land. Not public land.

Targhee has not changed the base area in spite of the land swap and gift of 120 acres 25 years ago. Targhee should develop those 120 acres and if and when the resort is crowded and there are not enough hotel rooms, dining areas, spas to meet demand and they need to expand, then the Forest Service should revisit at that time. Currently, the resort should only be allowed to expand on their private land. Alternative 3 is the best option.