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First name: Molly

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: June 20, 2025

RE: Proposed Grand Targhee Expansion and the 2025 Environmental Impact Statement Public Comment

TO: Jay Pence, Teton Basin District Ranger

Kim Pierson, Caribou-Targhee National Forest Service Supervisor

Mark Newcomb Chair, Wes Gardner Vice-Chair, Luther Propost, Len Carlman,

Natalia D. Macker; Teton County Wyoming Board of Commissioners

Brad Wolfe Chair, Dan Powers, Ron James; Teton County Idaho Board of Commissioners

I have been an Alta, Wyoming resident for 35 years and a resident in Teton Valley for 47 years. I taught at the Alta Elementary School and I retired after 25 years as the Kindergarten teacher. I supported and I have skied at Grand Targhee many times over the years.

However, I do not think a private business such as the Grand Targhee Resort is entitled to expand their Special Use Permit boundaries to benefit their growth. The Forest Service properties they want to develop are PUBLIC LANDS!

I agree with the published draft letter from the Wyoming County Commissioners. I support Option 3 with no development to the south or expanded SUP boundaries! The Mono Trees area, Teton Canyon, and The Mill Creek Trail areas are not within the existing SUP Grand Targhee Resort boundaries! Please let them remain undeveloped!

Our public lands are not there for private individuals to profit from by providing a bigger ski area for those individuals who can afford to have more Grand Targhee ski, mountain biking, dining, and food experiences. It is not the responsibility of GTR to expand just because more skiers want to come to our special Teton Valley. We have enough development and growth related needs right now. We CAN keep it small-sized, solve the current growth problems, and save this wonderful valley!

Please leave the Forest Service and Wilderness backcountry undeveloped. This will allow more access by the general public if they don't want to go to a resort. Keep the development out of Teton Canyon! If skiers go illegally out of bounds to the south; it is a Teton County Search and Rescue problem and not Grand Targhee's problem if an emergency occurs. There should be no GTR snow machine storage in Teton Canyon.

Many of the general public enjoy the Teton mountains knowing what they contain from a valley view. Wildlife, including the small Big Horn sheep population should not be disturbed by unintended consequences. We and our wildlife do not want to see lights, roads, buildings, well-water and septic on top of our Forest Service ridges. This also, may not be economically a good idea. Nobody will want to be at the top in a restaurant when it is often foggy: hence the resort nickname, "Grand Fog-ee." One of the worst possible development ideas is building a restaurant on top of Fred's Mountain or any other mountain. The whole valley would have to look at it! Why should any private entity be able to put in a well and septic system and lights on the top of a public lands mountain?

Unfortunately, Jackson tourists have already discovered our valley and many Jackson workers already live here or drive through from the Rexburg and the Idaho Falls areas with more affordable and available housing. The traffic is terrible at certain times and at rush hour, it is almost impossible to turn left onto Hwy. 33. This highway is the only continuous north-south paved road in the valley. It only has 2 lanes!!! It will be very terrible to increase this traffic! Would more north-south paved roads need to be built? Eventually?

The Forest Service lands that the GTR wants to develop border preserved Wilderness areas! The wildlife that will be displaced will move to where it isn't developed. Deer, elk, and moose occasionally come by my home in Alta. The potential build-out of Alta and the Teton Valley should not be driven by increasing backcountry development! It should be incremental and well-thought out!

The GTR development would have many unintended consequences for my neighbors, the traffic, Teton Valley residents, and the ANIMALS who now roam freely around us! The Grand Targhee Resort is located in Wyoming. The only way to get there is through Idaho. Lots of potential ideas to mitigate future problems are being talked about. The worker housing problem in Jackson has been talked about for years and has not been solved. Much of the Jackson work force lives in Teton Valley.

The infrastructure should not be figured out later. The increased population of skier-mountain bike tourists, worker housing, even more traffic, emergency services, fire protection, increased needs for law enforcement, and parking lots for shuttle services should be specifically solved before increased skier terrain and building occurs or is approved!

These burdens will fall to Idaho to solve unless specific planning occurs. Will taxes cover the infrastructure build out? Who would buy and absorb the costs of the needed parking lots? Many costs, inconveniences, and increased property taxes will cause some heartbreaking choices for those of us who have lived here a long time!

There is no land in Alta that wouldn't become an eyesore as a parking lot. Please consider keeping Teton Valley a place of realistic planned growth. Don't expand one part at the expense of everyone else!

Sincerely from,
Molly Robertson-Goodrich
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