

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 6/20/2025 10:37:59 PM

First name: Rob

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am an avid snowboarder, hiker, mountain biker and backcountry explorer. I enjoy all aspects of the winter and summer experiences in Teton Valley, Idaho, GTNP and Yellowstone. My own property in Tetonia has seen mountain lions, black bears, grizzly bears, moose, coyote, fox, raccoons and porcupines. I love the local wildlife and the wilderness.

All aspects of the Grand Targhee expansion plan are worthy of being approved. Grand Targhee will never be "the next Park City". During the majority of the winter, the upper mountain is shrouded in thick cloud cover. The nickname of the resort is "Grand Foggy". This is not the case at any popular resort. Not a chance it will ever be as popular as major resorts included Jackson Hole.

The Mono Trees area would be a fantastic addition to the resort. This area is already accessible to the resort and heavily traversed. It only requires a short walk up to the Sacajawea Lift. Fog does not affect this area as often as the top due to the much lower elevation. For this reason the addition would increase accessible terrain on the frequent cloudy days.

My property in Tetonia is crawling with black bears and the other wildlife mentioned above. They are in the neighborhood despite fences, clearings and human activity. The idea that putting in a lift and adding gladed trails will hinder black bears is preposterous. Yes, they will avoid the area during construction. They will be back the next summer. Black bears can be spotted on Grand Targhee during the summer within the inbound areas despite human activity.

I am in favor of the South Bowl expansion. It will not ruin viewlines or disrupt activity in the Teton Canyon. If noise is such an issue, why are snowmobiles allowed in the canyon. Do they not disturb wildlife?

The only aspect of the plan that I do not like is the addition of a restaurant on the top of Fred's Mountain. It will be quiet visible from the valley and will add to "light pollution" year-round.

Thank you for your consideration.