

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 6/20/2025 10:42:11 PM

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am writing to express my profound opposition to the proposed boundary expansion of Grand Targhee Resort, specifically Alternatives 2, 4, and 5, which would extend the Special Use Permit (SUP) into undeveloped public lands such as South Bowl and Mono Trees. While I understand the resort's desire for viability, this expansion would inflict unacceptable ecological, social, and economic burdens on our community and the cherished Caribou-Targhee National Forest.

My concerns are multifaceted and deeply felt:

Loss of Public Backcountry Access and Character: These undeveloped areas offer irreplaceable opportunities for quiet, dispersed recreation that defines the Teton Range experience for many locals and visitors. Privatizing more public land for commercial ski terrain would permanently diminish the solitude and unique wild character of our mountains.

Exacerbation of Community Crises and Local Tax Burdens: Grand Targhee Resort is located in Wyoming, yet its primary access and many of its impacts are felt in Teton County, Idaho. This means that significant tax revenues from an expanded resort would largely benefit Wyoming, while the burdens of increased traffic, overstressed public services (like emergency services, waste management, and infrastructure), and a worsening affordable housing crisis would disproportionately fall on Idaho residents. The expansion would further fuel unsustainable growth, driving up property values and effectively turning our valley into an exclusive playground for wealthy second-home and vacation property owners, pushing out the year-round residents and essential workers who are the backbone of our community.

Unnecessary Public Land Privatization: Grand Targhee has not demonstrated an adequate need to privatize more public lands for profit. The proposed scale is excessive and the detriments far outweigh any perceived public good.

I urge the Forest Service to reject any alternative that includes expanding the Special Use Permit boundary onto undeveloped public lands. Instead, I strongly advocate for Alternative 3, which responsibly allows for modernization and improvements within the existing ski area boundary. This alternative offers a viable path for the resort to upgrade its facilities, enhance existing terrain, and improve the guest experience without compromising our invaluable public lands, critical wildlife, or the livability of our local communities. Any such in-bounds development must still prioritize environmental stewardship, including protection of whitebark pine and careful glading practices.

Thank you for your careful consideration of these urgent concerns and for prioritizing the long-term health of our public lands and local communities over private commercial gain.

Sincerely,