

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 6/20/2025 11:20:55 PM

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Thank you for taking public comment on the Targhee expansion. I oppose this expansion for three reasons. First of all, I am concerned about the impact on wildlife with the expansion of the ski hill into the Jedediah Wilderness. The area is a major wildlife corridor. With the sprawl of growth in the valley, wildlife needs all the support it can get. Additionally this terrain would require a tremendous amount of snow making for it to be skiable for the early and late season. Snow making has environmental impacts as well.

The second reason I oppose this expansion is the national forest's mission is to preserve for future generations. This land is for all. Skiing has become a sport for the rich. Expanding into the wilderness provides opportunities for only a small population and takes away use for others.

I have been a resident of Teton County, Idaho for 25 years. In that time I have watched the growth on both sides of the Tetons. The third reason I oppose this expansion is the lack of infrastructure in Teton County, Idaho. I see what Jackson, Aspen, and Vail have become and fear even worse happening to Teton Valley. The tax money will go to Wyoming and Idaho does not have the money or other supports to put into building infrastructure to allow for more cars on the road, employee housing, etc.

Each year, my husband and I spend a large proportion of our discretionary money to buy season passes for our family. There is plenty of terrain for us to ski and board with our family even on the busiest days. We feel lucky to have this perfectly sized resort to enjoy, along with amazing wildlife to view while hiking and cross country skiing in Teton Canyon. I hope that others will continue to enjoy it, as is, as well.

Thank you for considering the opinions of locals.