

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 6/20/2025 11:47:53 PM

First name: Mary Lisa

Last name: Lombardi

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Grand Targhee Resort expansion. I am a resident of Driggs, living on Little Avenue before it becomes Ski Hill Road. I support Alternative One or Alternative Three. Grand Targhee Resort currently has just over 2600 skiable acres. Comparatively, Jackson Hole Mountain Resort (JHMR) has 2500 skiable acres. JHMR hosts over 500,000 annual skier visits, whereas Grand Targhee has 200,000 annual skier visits. Seemingly Targhee Resort can significantly increase its operations within its existing boundaries.

My main concerns are the proposal to add South Bowl and Mono Trees to the Resort's area. These are public lands that are currently open to all. If Grand Targhee's special use permit is approved, it will limit winter access to these public lands to people who have purchased a lift ticket. A result of prioritizing one stakeholder's interest over the interests of the broader public is making access to these public lands an income-based opportunity. South Bowl provides critical winter habitat for moose, elk, bighorn sheep, wolverines, bears, and many other species. It is also an important birthing area and enables wildlife's ability to move between appropriate habitats as the seasons change.

The old growth forests of Mono Trees are also of vital importance for wintering wildlife. They provide shelter and are sources of food. Additionally, these trees provide nesting habitat for many sensitive bird species.

Mechanized downhill skiing to Teton Canyon will mean more roads, the sights and sounds of chairlifts, and avalanche control. Teton Canyon has been a treasured place for generations of people and wildlife. The scenic beauty, the quiet, the sense of adventure are valued by families, sports enthusiasts, the young and the old.

Teton County Idaho does not receive property taxes, sales taxes, or other revenues from the resort operations. However, we will receive most of the impacts when the Resort expands its capacity.

The increase in skiers, cyclists, and other Targhee visitors will necessitate the hiring of additional employees, adding to our housing needs. Valley businesses already suffer from a lack of employees. Housing is unaffordable right now for many locals due to the influx of people. Traffic congestion will also increase, as well as the needs and costs for road maintenance and replacement.

More construction and more people equal more trash coming into the County Transfer Station. Resort expansion will further strain our limited water supply to service the increase of visitors, the additional snow-making need, and the rise in construction. We also anticipate an increased demand for our county ambulances and other emergency services. The list goes on.

Mountaintop dining is not a necessity. South Bowl and Mono Trees are irreplaceable habitat for our wildlife. Once it's gone, it's gone. Please maintain Grand Targhee Resort's current boundaries.

Thank you