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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Public Comment on Grand Targhee Resort Expansion - Support for Alternative 3

Tanya Alexander, Tetonia, Idaho: Resident and Snowboarder for 30+ Years

I have lived in Teton Valley and skied at Grand Targhee for over 30 years. I love this mountain deeply-it's woven into the rhythm of my life. I fully support Grand Targhee's continued success, but I believe that success should come from improving what already exists, not from expanding into untouched areas.

I am writing to voice my strong support for Alternative 3. I believe the resort should focus on thoughtful infrastructure upgrades within its current boundaries rather than pursuing boundary expansions that would permanently alter backcountry access and valuable public lands.

My greatest concern is that the community I call home-on the Idaho side-is already bearing a disproportionate share of the impacts from Grand Targhee's growth. Traffic on Ski Hill Road is increasingly hazardous. Teton County, Idaho, is straining under the pressure of providing affordable workforce housing, road maintenance, emergency services, and rescue operations that directly support resort guests, without adequate compensation or resources from Wyoming-based operations. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) fails to fully account for these impacts in its community services and affordable housing assessments.

If the resort wishes to grow, it should do so responsibly by investing in parking, staff housing, and shuttle services on the Wyoming side to relieve the growing burden on Idaho's roads, housing stock, and emergency services. The DEIS also lacks a comprehensive, year-round traffic and safety study, which is essential to understanding and planning for these pressures.

Beyond the community impacts, I'm concerned about the irreversible damage to wildlife habitats and sensitive alpine ecosystems if the expansion proceeds. The South Bowl and Mono Trees areas provide critical habitat for species like grizzly bears, lynx, and wolverines-this is not something we can afford to lose. The DEIS is missing adequate wildlife data to responsibly approve boundary expansions.

I love Grand Targhee, and I want it to thrive-but we must keep it in bounds. I urge you to adopt Alternative 3, with careful consideration of water use, viewshed protection, and traffic mitigation. This approach balances growth with the preservation of the mountain and the well-being of our community.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Sincerely,

Tanya Alexander

Tetonia, Idaho 83452