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Title:

Comments: To Whom It May Concern,

As a long-time skier at Targhee and now becoming a Teton Valley resident, I care deeply about the future of Grand Targhee Resort (GTR) and the character of our valley. I strongly oppose any expansion of GTR beyond its current Special Use Area (SUA). While upgrades and improvements within the existing boundaries are fine and expected, expanding into pristine areas like South Bowl, Mono Trees, and Rick's Basin is unnecessary and harmful.

Teton Valley has already seen steady and sustainable growth:

Winter visitation to GTR has increased by 6% annually between 2016 and 2021.

Summer visits have grown 9% annually.

The recent Colter Lift and planned Dreamcatcher upgrade already boost uphill capacity significantly.

There is no compelling need to sprawl further into public lands.

Meanwhile, the costs of expansion fall disproportionately on local residents and wildlife:

Increased traffic, road damage, housing shortages, and strain on water and emergency services.

Threatened wildlife habitats, noise pollution, and degradation of treasured recreational trails.

Displacement of locals as housing becomes unaffordable and neighborhoods transform into short-term rentals.

The DEIS fails to justify this scale of development, especially when climate change forecasts predict reduced snowfall and shorter seasons. Adding ski terrain and facilities where snowpack is unreliable simply doesn't make sense.

Let's be clear: the only true beneficiaries of a major expansion are private resort owners and real estate developers. Locals and public lands will pay the price, while profits flow elsewhere. These developers are already thriving and will continue to do so even if the resort stays within its current footprint.

Let's preserve what makes this valley special-not pave over it in the name of short-term gain for the few.

Thanks for taking the time to read this... Steve Taylor