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Organization:

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Comments: Hello, and thank you so very sincerely for all that you do! My family spends a lot of time at the Ghee in the Winter, we split board in our backcountry, and are spending time in one of our canyons(mostly Teton) most weekends of the Summer, when we aren't headed to explore a new area a short drive away. I have already previously written an entry, but wanted to touch on that, aside from the impact that Driggs cannot handle(I learned way more about this at one of the relative town meetings, but I also have a concern regarding the potential sale of our public lands, and the loss of our forest lands adding greatly to this loss of wildlife habitat, and public land for potential use.

There is also a concern that since I moved here, our snowfall has seemed to decrease. My first job was at Targhee when I moved here 20 years ago, and they held a meeting where global warming was discussed as a concern, and where will we be on 20 years was a thoughtfully asked presented question by the speaker. There are still large accumulations that occur, but it seems less consistently. If we develop out these areas, and our Winters keep becoming more and more affected over the years, was it all worth the cost to the environment? I do not want to see this expansion approved at this time, as we have a long way to go to fix issues relating to population growth, and repairs needed to our roadways first.

Additionally, I believe that this growth up there, increases the value of the business/property for sale to a corporation. People say that isn't the plan but can't guarantee that the out of bounds areas/our public lands will not eventually be in the hands of a corporation. This is also not okay to me.

Personally, I would be okay with seeing almost any growth happening, but only in bounds/not out of bounds. And if there is anything built on the mountain that there be no light pollution. Not really okay with light pollution happening up there, causing changes in our view of the night sky, which is one of the best things about living here, as well as more disruption to the environment up there. Definitely not okay with the cutting down of older trees in forest areas up there(Mono Trees, etc...) to add lifts and ski runs.

I would like to see this expansion plan denied and another presented that will be appropriate for our town (impact), forests from a conservation perspective, and the current state of what is actually and currently happening in our area and country - the struggle to hold onto and keep our public lands wild under public ownership and keep them as wild and natural as possible. This is what is wonderful about living here. We do not want it all to be given away or sold. We need to keep these areas preserved at all costs. We need our trees, and wildlife needs their habitat, and we love our dark night skies. We don't need more underpaid, impoverished workers taxing our already overtaxed resources to help the poor that are barely or just not able to help everyone, like the Food Bank, and the Community Resource Center, when rents would also likely greatly increase, just as the cost of the ski pass will, making purchasing a ski pass cost closer to Jackson's and rent being the same. There are a million reasons to wait and come up with a better plan. I would be for an expansion done right. This one is not and now is not the time.

Thank you so much for your time, and please let me know if there's anything I can ever do to volunteer and be of help.