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Title:

Comments:

To whom it may concern ~

Thank you for letting the general public have a voice in this process. I have lived in teton valley for almost 20 years and have a family here. I have skied at Targhee for about 22 years, and love it for what it is - a laid back local mountain with the best kids fun zone I have ever seen!

I am writing to OPPOSE the Grand Targhee Expansion. After thinking about this for the last few years I have not found a NEED for this expansion. My vote is for Alternative One - with a few items added.

Grand Targhee's 120 Acres Can Resolve the Resorts Issues

Anytime I have ever heard a complaint about Grand Targhee (which is not a lot) it's not about the terrain or lifts, but amenities in the base area. This includes the lack of parking, tight restaurants, smelly bathrooms and older hotels. I can see how Targhee does need to improve upon their current facilities, but all of these needed enhancements lay on private land and have nothing to do with Public Forest Service Land or the DEIS.

Expansion Beyond the Current SUP

There is no need to expand the terrain of Grand Targhee into South Bowl or Mono Trees.

S.Bowl and the Mono trees are homes to many animals, birds, trees and other plants. As humans encroach on wild areas everywhere we need to preserve what we can and we don't need to destroy more land so humans can recreate. The entire south bowl area is so beautiful and pristine that it would be heartbreaking to see it destroyed.

S. Bowl - it is south facing. The snow conditions change FAST on that south facing slope. I have skied it before with great snow and then have gone for another lap a few hours later and the snow is horrible. There are many powder days that Targhee can't get Mary's open or even Colters on time. What I wonder is, if there is expansion into south bowl, then will the snow quality be good by the time they can actually safely open it? It seems like expanding into a south facing slope would just be a huge waste of a pristine and wild area for, if we are lucky, a few good turns every snow cycle.

The south east boundary along Peaked ridge (east side of Rolling thunder) needs to have better containment measures for the general skiing public. In order to deter the non-prepared backcountry user from illegally going out of bounds, they should replace their current little piece of rope with a fence that you cannot go under or over.

New Lifts

I don't really feel that the addition of news lifts within the SUP are necessary. I know old lifts will need to be replaced and I support this on their current foot print for the safety of the public, but there is no need to add more lifts in areas that don't currently have any.

A chondola to replace DC does seem like overkill to me - there is hardly ever a line long enough to warrant such a big lift be added to the mountain.

It would be a shame to see the North boundary lift be built and the beautiful old growth aspen grove in that area

to be thinned and removed to make runs. I have seen a lot of wildlife in this area including bull moose and bear.

Glading

There should not be the removal of healthy trees within the SUP, especially white bark pine trees. The removal of some dead trees should be permitted for the safety of guests, but not all because dead trees do provide homes to many animals and birds.

On Mountain Facilities

I oppose the building of the mountain top restaurant on top of Freds. I do not want to see a huge building or its lights in the view shed of the Grand Tetons.

I can see how having one on-mountain restaurant would have its benefits and I would not oppose the construction of such a building in an area that you cannot see it from the valley. A smaller building somewhere low on Peaked Mountain or Lightning Ridge would relieve the bathroom needs for the Sac and Colter lifts.

A bathroom on Shoshone would be really nice - not having to do tree potty breaks for the little ones would be a luxury. That being said something as simple as a pit toilet or adding a bathroom near the sprung structure near lot 3 would be a positive addition to the area.

Water

Driving through Park City the one thing that caught my eye (other than the miles and miles of new condos and endless construction) were the reservoirs. Teton Valley does not have this infrastructure, so I wonder how much more water for snow making, hotels and housing can be taken from our already stressed system?

Teton Valley Idaho

Teton County, ID does not have the infrastructure (road, sewer, emergency services), nor the tax base to build the infrastructure, that is required to support the demands of increased tourism. The fact that Teton Valley Idaho would be impacted most by this expansion and not see any direct tax revenue from Grand Targhee makes my opposition to expansion even stronger.