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Comments: Dear Forest Supervisor Kim Pierson,

Thank you for this opportunity to provide comments regarding the Grand Targhee Resort (GTR) Master Development Plan Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). Earlier today I submitted a comment representing an NGO, this evening I submit comments as a citizen. As a passionate supporter of Wilderness, a backcountry skier, and a Teton Valley resident I am concerned with many of the project components outlined in the alternatives presented. Below are my concerns:

- Clear up confusion regarding the true Purpose and Need Statement of the DEIS - The Purpose and Need Statement shared on page S-1 is strong and clear. Do not confuse this process by including another section with the same title that is nothing more than the desires of GTR. Eliminate Section 1.3 and all the confusion it is causing this planning process.

- Remove project components that would require the 1997 Forest Plan be amended - Forest Planning is a long and arduous process. Do not disenfranchise the public on the importance of a Forest Plan by agreeing to amend it at the request of a private interest. Instead stick to your Purpose and Need Statement and uphold the Forest Plan.

- Eliminate South Bowl expansion due to impacts to the Jedediah Smith Wilderness and a myriad of wildlife species (e.g. big horn sheep and peregrine falcon)- I know there is not a rule saying there needs to be a buffer zone around Wilderness, but when a project like this has components that would significantly conflict with clear management directives included within the Forest Plan and the Wyoming Wilderness Act of 1984, it is time to think twice. Ensuring opportunities for Solitude with the JSW and wildlife habitat across the forest are your responsibilities, not expanding into South Bowl is integral to the future of both.

- Cautious support of Alternative 3 with caveats - Alternative 3 stands to provide GTR with future opportunities to grow and thrive, while also being a good neighbor to the surrounding community, wilderness and wildlife. I use the word cautious support, because it does come with 4 caveats:

1. Remove the Fred's Mountain Top Guest Facility.
2. Remove the North Boundary lift altogether and preserve Rick's Basin as it is today, integral wildlife habitat and the best network of cross country mountain bike and hiking trails around. The aspen groves in this area are so special need to be left as they are. Please.
3. Remove project components that would require the removal of white bark pines. I understand there are ways to allegedly offset the removal of a white bark in order to move a project forward, but nothing will offset the loss of old growth established white bark. Not in today's world. These trees are keystone species and it is critical to leave them where they are.
4. If an additional alternative 4 component requires the Forest Plan to be amended, please remove it from this alternative. Use the Forest Plan to guide this project, don't use this project to guide the Forest Plan.

I understand the ski resort's desire to remain viable, and appreciate that GTR is truly an asset within the Teton Valley and greater ski community. I believe that a plan can be developed that both respects the people, wildlands and wildlife surrounding the resort, and that meets the objectives of the resort itself. Thank you again for your consideration of my comments and concerns. I look forward to staying engaged as this project moves forward.