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First name: Anna

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Supervisor Pierson,

I lived in Teton Valley for the majority of my life. I was born in Driggs, I graduated from Teton High School. The beauty of the land cannot be understated, in no small part thanks to the incredible biodiversity of flora and fauna. That was what I loved about living there. Pristine, untouched wildlife in vast, quiet forests. Expanding Targhee Resort tarnishes that beauty. Not only that, but it will irreparably harm the aquifers in this area. As a collective, we as humans do not have access to much clean drinkable water. If only three percent of water is fresh, and only one percent is accessible, doing damage to the good aquifers we have would be like a shot in the foot of humanity itself. These are limited, precious resources, and to destroy them and the important work it does to sustain us and our incredibly delicate ecosystem, all for a couple extra lifts and runs, feels extremely selfish and unreasonable. And once they are ruined, they cannot be restored in a cost effective way. I believe it is unacceptable to do something so major, so permanent, and so unnecessary to our forests and public land at large. The trade-off is tipped so far out of the favor of those who live in the Valley that there is virtually no benefit to be reaped from this deal.

Not to mention Targhee Resort's less than shiny record of building things cheaply and ineffectively. The buildings lean, they're rotting, they're full of mold and poor choices. It concerns me that this is even being considered on that basis alone. Targhee cannot be trusted to make safe, clean lodging. This is also a huge loss to the community's recreational pass times. Most importantly, this valley's infrastructure would be woefully unprepared and unequipped to deal with what comes after an expansion like this. There are not enough roads, the roads themselves are not wide enough. There is one singular stoplight in all of Driggs, there will need to be more. These things cost money, and it comes from the community.

Thank you, and I would strongly urge the Forest Service to do what is expected of them, and protect these forests.

Thank you,

Anna Evans