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Organization:

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Comments: Dear Forest Director,

I have read and digested the decision outlined in the FEIS and ROD. I appreciate the hard work that has gone into this but find the decision to allow expansion into South Bowl misguided for a variety of reasons. The future is less snow on south faces, something that is already felt by those of us who backcountry ski in the North Fork of Teton Creek, an area with similar features to the south bowl area. These areas will see limited snowpack, require snowmaking to operate in the near future, and are incredibly susceptible to avalanches, human caused and natural. I understand the resort's desire to expand options, but this area just isn't a smart move, and will leave a lasting scar on the wilderness experience felt within Teton Canyon and from the Park. JHMR has managed to be a large resort but not impact view corridors from within wilderness areas, something I commend the BTNF and JHMR for working hard to enact. I would encourage your team and GT team's to reevaluate and work a bit harder to figure out an expansion that follows this lead.

In citing Executive Order 14313, I can see how adding "entertainment value" to wilderness areas would appeal to the general public. However, this executive order may very well be repealed by the next administration, well before and development is to take place. Politics ideally don't play into how the Forest operates. I am certainly not in favor of expansion of resort facilities, and updating the mountain experience for the jet-set skier from New York and California, however I see that there is limited ability to stop resorts from doing this. Our country appeals to the highest bidder, this is the new gilded age. In regards to ski resorts, this means across the country they no longer are for the communities they serve, but the investor class from the coasts. However, I do think that the expansion into South Bowl is a step too far and shows a lack of understanding of the changing ecosystem, the wishes of the local community, and should be reconsidered.

Thank you,

Eli Ayres