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First name: Mel

Last name: Paradis

Organization:

Title:

Comments: As a Teton Valley resident of 26 years, I am submitting this formal objection to the Grand Targhee Resort expansion and the six proposed Forest Plan amendments.

The Forest Service's mandate to support recreation on public lands should prioritize activities that are broadly accessible to the general public, rather than expanding commercial infrastructure for an increasingly exclusive user group. Downhill resort skiing is no longer an accessible sport for local working families; pass prices at Targhee have grown prohibitive, effectively pricing out much of the very community that surrounds the mountain.

Permanently re-designating 694 acres of public land in South Bowl and Mono Trees under Amendment 8 shifts management away from scenic and watershed protection to a single-use commercial permit. Additionally, the five project-specific amendments reduce habitat protections for sensitive raptors to accommodate resort infrastructure. Committing public terrain to high-cost resort development does not fulfill an independent public management need.

Expanding the Special Use Permit boundary will compound existing regional strains, including traffic, housing shortages, and degradation of adjacent wilderness and wildlife habitat, without delivering broad-based public benefit. Public land management should emphasize low-impact, multi-use recreation options that remain open and affordable to everyone.

I urge the Forest Service to withdraw the proposed Forest Plan amendments and select Alternative 3 (No SUP Expansion).

Sincerely,

Mel Paradis

Tetonia Resident