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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Grand Targhee 2018 Master Development Plan Projects #291095

I am deeply saddened that the USFS is considering amendments to their policies in order to accommodate an individual / corporation over the objection of the people who use the public lands in Teton county WY and ID. Almost everything that was requested by GT has been approved without regard to the impact on the wildlife, the endangered white pines, and the impact to Teton County Idaho.

The expansion not only disrupts wildlife like big horn sheep, grizzlies, lynx, elk, Goshawk, Flummulated owl, Boreal owl, Peregrine falcon, and endangered white pines, it will disrupt the quiet and sacredness of Teton Canyon. The expansion is not needed to accommodate skiers at GT. There are already more skiable acres than Jackson Hole Resort. The terrain that will be opened is not safe for most skiers. The price for lift tickets will become impossible for middle income families. It is already extremely difficult. The county lacks the infrastructure to accommodate flights, EMS, search and rescue, roads, sewer, water etc for this expansion.

Public lands need to remain public for the general good and for future generations. Once it is gone, it will never return. As an example, we used to be able to ski Peaked Peak by hiking on our public lands, but since Targhee expanded to Peaked, the public can no longer access this sacred area. We have skied Targhee for decades. We live and recreate in Teton County. We pay taxes here. We feel we have been abandoned by the USFS when it comes to protecting public lands.

There is plenty of room for improvements within the current boundaries of the special use permit. We do not object to what has been approved but there needs to be a limit. There is not a "need" to expand into south Teton or the Mono trees or to build a restaurant at the top of the mountain which would affect night skies and views for the people who live here. We are very hopeful you will not amend your policies in order to meet one company's request while disregarding the will of the community and superseding the needs of the environment and wildlife for the benefit of one company. It feels like we are socializing the risk and the downsides of expansion and capitalizing the profits. Not for the needs of the many but for the greed of a few.

The most disturbing aspect is that the USFS has policies in place to protect this beautiful area for the public and future generations, the wildlife, and the endangered white pines. In order to grant GT's request, you need to change your policies. Please do not revise your policies in order to accommodate a for profit company while disregarding the best interest of the public and the environment.

Thank you for reading my comments and I hope there will be some guardrails left in place to protect the public lands and the environment for future enjoyment.

Respectfully,
Rolonda Bjornson