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Organization:

Title:

Comments:

I hereby object to any amendments to the 1997 Forest Plan. There has been very little public information about amending this document.

I have been skiing into Teton Canyon for over 20+ years. This area is very fickle with snow conditions. As soon as the sun hits the slope, the snow becomes wet and sticky. The surrounding cliffs heat up, and all the slopes start to wet slide. This warm, sticky snow is absolutely awful to ski on. I have skied with folks in these conditions, and they have never returned to ski there.

Backcountry skiing into Teton Canyon when the conditions are right is one of the most beautiful tours in the Tetons. The views are incredible. My favorite things about skiing in this area are the silence and no evidence of development (except the rope line that was erected on Peaked when the Coulter lift was built). We have heard bombs detonated on Southeast Bowl so patrol can ski to the A chutes safely. They are extremely loud. It rips through the silence. This destroys the solitude and silence of this beautiful area. For years and years, we would ski down to the flat area called the Patio. From the Patio, you stand and have 360-degree views in Teton Canyon. From the Patio, we would ski to the bottom of Teton Canyon and tow out with snowmobiles. Since the Coulter lift was built, we have stopped skiing to the cross-country track and towing out with sleds. We now can skin back up and connect into the bottom of the Coulter lift.

Amending the 1997 Forest Plan to allow GTR to expand their SUP boundary will displace the current backcountry snowboarders/skiers from this area. There is no information about how the public will be allowed to access this area in the future. Will I need to hire a guide to snowboard in an area that I have been able to access because it is public land? I will have a very hard time paying for a service that I am more qualified at. There is no timeline for the proposed lift? Will I have to wait for the GTR Ski Patrol to mitigate it for avalanches before I am allowed to snowboard there? My husband and I will be displaced after over 2 decades of snowboarding in this area. This will force us to ski further away from the ski resort. We will also start using our snowmobiles in the canyon again because the ski lines that are further away from the proposed boundary will push us farther up canyon.

What about all the old-growth trees that will be cut down? There is no information provided for impact to trees in the area. What about the road that will be blasted to be built? What about the South Bowl gut that will be filled in for the road? Where are the reports on how much earth will be required to fill in that gut? It is DEEP!!!

I am deeply saddened by this proposal. This area is so dear to my heart because I have had so many of the best days of my life moments here. I have witnessed other folks have the same exact feelings. This area deserves to remain the way it is right now. Undeveloped, silent, protected from roads, chairlifts, pit toilets, and gladed runs. South Bowl is perfect the way it is right now; don't allow it to be destroyed for one man's profits. GTR wants you to believe they are not privatizing our public lands. This is privatizing our public lands. There are too many unanswered questions. This area needs to be protected for our future generations to look at and enjoy it the same way we did. I want my daughter's children to be able to experience Teton Canyon without development. Like so many people have experienced it. Teton Canyon is the heart of our valley. People built their homes to look up that canyon at the Tetons. They did it because it is beautiful.

Do not amend the 1997 Forest Plan, and remove any SUP boundary adjustments from the ROD. GTR is big enough. Be the Lorax.