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Comments: Grand Targhee Master Development Plan ProjectsFinal Environment Impact StatementEIS No. 202600664COMMENT# 1Statement -Overall presentation and scope of this EIS expansion plan within "Alternatives" to be chosen from is limiting the selection of "beneficial" improvements.OBJECTIONS: Within the various "Alternatives" there are numerous expansion ideas presented from building ski lifts in new locations with new access roads, replacement of existing ski lifts, building new guest facilities in various locations (including restaurants), expanding the GTR SUP, implementation of avalaunchers, adding new snowmaking equipment, adding a snowmobile rescue catch, adding a snow tubing facility, construction of Nordic snowshoe and fat bike trails, adding additional mtn bike trails, and adding various other summer activity venues (to name a few). Having to choose between "Alternatives" that have a various collection of these proposed enhancements is ludicrous. Each of the enhancement ideas warrants an individual review as to their merits and they cannot be packaged within "Alternatives" as presented to get a worthwhile assessment of their value and impact to the community and environment. Picking one "Alternative" over another greatly limits the ability to choose worthwhile expansion ideas.COMMENT#21.3 Purpose and Need for Action -page 3Statement -"To address industry growth, maintain its market niche, and meet increasing guest expectations, GTR must continue to develop and improve its on-mountain and base area offerings. These developments are needed in direct response to evolving consumer demands and the competitive regional and destination skier markets."OBJECTION: Yes, some development would be beneficial but unless Teton County Idaho and the City of Driggs are able to also increase development of area services and roadways to meet an increased GTR guest traffic and expectations, GTR should not significantly increase their development. GTR, Teton County Wyoming, and the state of Wyoming will primarily benefit from money brought in, while Idaho (Driggs and Teton County Idaho) will receive little monetary benefit, which is needed for their future development.COMMENT#31.3 Purpose and Need for Action -page 3Statement - "Further, there is an opportunity to increase public safety. With the installation of the Colter Lift, skiers are currently able to easily access the South Bowl area, which is currently outside the ski area SUP boundary.OBJECTION: The concept of "to increase public safety" is a fabrication to try and justify the SUP expansion. A South Bowl expansion will not increase publicsafety as stated. If a safety issue currently exists, the South Bowl expansion will just move it further into other adjacent areas within Teton Canyon that may be even more prone to avalanches. Backcountry skiers have no boundaries as to where they will ski and were skiing the South Bowl area even before the Colter lift was installed. If anything, with a South Bowl lift, skiers will venture even further away from GTR into other avalanche prone areas of Teton Canyon and increase the disturbance even more of the wilderness experience that others are seeking in Teton Canyon.COMMENT#41.7.1 The Human Environment - page 10TRAFFIC AND PARKINGOBJECTION: The Study Area did not include US 20 and SH 33 to Sugar City, Rexburg and Idaho Falls or SH31 and US 26 to Swan Valley and Idaho Falls. These roads will be travelled more heavily if the GTR expansion goes as planned and would need to be included in the study, especially due to their frequent winter closures due to wind, snow and frequent accidents. The agricultural traffic on these roadways could also be impacted through other seasons.In addition, Park and Ride bus stops need to be addressed and enhanced from Victor, Driggs, and Tetonia with parking provided at various Park and Ride locations. This is needed now, without any enhancements approved.COMMENT#51.7.1 The Human Environment - page 11PUBLIC SAFETYOBJECTION: The concept of "to increase public safety" is a fabrication to try and justify the SUP expansion. A South Bowl expansion will not increase public safety as stated. If a safety issue currently exists, the South Bowl expansion will just move it further into other adjacent areas within Teton Canyon that may be even more prone to avalanches. Backcountry skiers have no boundaries as to where they will ski and were skiing the South Bowl area even before the Colter lift was installed. If anything, with a South Bowl lift, skiers will venture even further away from GTR into other avalanche prone areas of Teton Canyon and increase the disturbance even more of the wilderness experience that others are seeking in Teton Canyon.COMMENT#61.7.2 The Physical and Biological Environment - page 11AIR QUALITYOBJECTION: The Study Area only includes Teton County Wyoming and needs to include Teton County Idaho for air quality

concerns due to increased traffic identified especially within the Driggs city limits. Even under today's situation in the valley, the intersection of Little Ave and SH33 can have dozens of cars and trucks backed up at the traffic light for extended time periods in all directions with significant exhaust emissions. The GTR expansion, if it goes as planned, will make this condition much worse. This needs to be part of the study.

COMMENT#71.9.3 Forest Service Manual 2343.14 - page 20 Consistency with Forest Service Policy, Forest Service Manual 2343.14 states: "To the extent practicable, harmonize with the natural environment of the site where they would be located by: [diams] Being visually consistent with or subordinate to the ski area's existing facilities, vegetation and landscape;"

OBJECTION: The Mono Trees expansion will involve cutting trees to provide 97 acres of trails. Cutting these trails, from a visual perspective, will not be visually consistent with the existing ski area landscape or harmonize with the natural environment of the GTR site as required by the cited Forest Service Manual. When viewing GTR and the Teton Mtns from Teton Valley, Idaho, it is hard to see GTR, as the open terrain of Fred's Mtn and Peaked Mtn blend in with the entire front range terrain. Many people, unless they are aware of GTR's existence, don't currently realize that GTR exists when looking towards the Tetons. The Mono Trees expansion will change this view dramatically.

COMMENT#82.2.1 Alternative 1 - No Action - page 23 **COMMENT:** I PREFER this option. No other comments on this alternative.

COMMENT#92.2.2 Alternative 2 - page 23 **OBJECTION:** I Reject Alternative 2 as presented

OBJECTION: Of PRIMARY concern is that this Alternative 2 (as well as the other Alternatives) involves too many proposed actions. Many of which are very undesirable, while some are viable necessary improvements to the GTR. It is due to the HIGHLY UNDESIRABLE ACTIONS that I REJECT THIS ALTERNATIVE (and others).

COMMENT#102.2.2 Alternative 2 SPECIAL USE PERMIT/OPERATIONAL BOUNDARY EXPANSIONS - page 24 South Bowl Area Terrain

OBJECTION: GTR SUP should not be expanded. The existing SUP is more than adequate to accommodate existing skier traffic and future traffic. Existing lift capacity far exceeds skier traffic even on busy holidays especially when compared with other destination resorts where long lift lines are common. GTR has a few busy holidays whereby the Dreamcatcher lift in the early morning is busy. Most ski days, especially during weekdays, lift lines are non-existent and there are a great number of empty chairs and partially filled chairs across the GTR complex.

The above comment applies to the proposed construction of the South Bowl Lift and Mono Trees Lifts.

COMMENT#11 South Bowl Area-page 23

OBJECTION: I reject this action. The South Bowl Lift is definitely unnecessary as more than enough challenging terrain currently exists at the GTR and as previously stated in comment for 1.3, "increase public safety" is a fabricated concept to rationalize the need for this lift. In addition, the impact to Teton Canyon would be significant. The construction of the lift and necessary roads and amenities for it to function, as explained, would negatively affect Teton Canyon and the backcountry wilderness experience people strive to get in this area. Not only those that currently access Teton Canyon from the Colter Lift but for those that access Teton Canyon from the below road and cross-country trails. The sounds from the GTR equipment and skiers, with a South Bowl Lift would travel far through the lower canyon and diminishes greatly the backcountry wilderness experience people are seeking when in Teton Canyon. Areas like Teton Canyon with its majestic Teton views and backcountry wilderness is in itself a large draw for tourist to come to this area.

COMMENT#122.2.2 Alternative 2 SPECIAL USE PERMIT/OPERATIONAL BOUNDARY EXPANSIONS - page 26 Mono Trees Area Terrain/Mono Trees Lift

OBJECTION: I reject this action. A Mono Trees Lift is unnecessary as this area is currently skied by many using access to the Sacajawea Lift. Cutting trees to create ski trails through this area would create an indelible scar to this beautiful terrain that would be visible out in Teton County, Idaho. Thinning the trees without creating trails would allow less competent skiers a better ski experience but constructing a lift and necessary roads and amenities for it to function, as explained, creates unnecessary damage to the scenic value of this area.

COMMENT#132.2.2 Alternative 2 SPECIAL USE PERMIT/OPERATIONAL BOUNDARY EXPANSIONS - page 27 Lightning Ridge Guest Facility

OBJECTION: I reject this action. Placing a facility as proposed in this location is highly questionable as it is not in an easily accessible location from a skiing perspective even with the construction of the Mono Trees Lift. Constructing the facility and necessary roads and amenities for it to function, as explained, creates unnecessary damage to the scenic value of this area.

COMMENT#14 LIFTS, LIFT REPLACEMENTS AND REALIGNMENTS (WITHIN THE EXISTING SUP AREA)

Dreamcatcher - page 78 **OBJECTION:** The proposed "chondola" is a good planned improvement. To enhance this new replacement lift would be to establish a midway station near the top of the Wandering Moose trail. As in past years, prior to the current Dreamcatcher chair lift, a midway station existed, whereby during

fogged in mountain top days, skier would offload midway. This option would make the Crazy Horse Lift unnecessary. If Fred's Mountain Top Guest Facility is accepted, routine provisions must exist to the Dreamcatcher lift to allow skiers/visitors to the facility to ride down the lift when they may not be able to safely ski down, due fog or other weather conditions that exist after visiting the facility. COMMENT#15 Crazy Horse - page 28 OBJECTION: I reject this action. This proposed lift is unnecessary, as the Dreamcatcher replacement would more than accommodate existing and proposed skier traffic. Generally when the Dreamcatcher Lift is inoperable it is due to high winds or other weather factors, which most likely would also affect the Crazy Horse Lift. Also, having a midway station off the Dreamcatcher Lift would make this lift unnecessary. COMMENT#16 North Boundary - page 28 COMMENT: I favor this proposed action. This proposed lift would provide a good option for skiers when upper mountain conditions are unfavorable due to fog, wind, or other weather factors. COMMENT#17 Shoshone - page 29 COMMENT: I favor this proposed action. COMMENT#18 Palmer Platter Surface Lifts and Lights - page 29 COMMENT: I favor this proposed action. COMMENT#19 Teaching Carpet - page 29 COMMENT: I favor this proposed action. COMMENT#20 TERRAIN AND ON-MOUNTAIN INFRASTRUCTURE WITHIN THE EXISTING SUP ARE~Terrain Development, Glading and Grading - page 29 No Comment COMMENT#21 TERRAIN AND ON-MOUNTAIN INFRASTRUCTURE WITHIN THE EXISTING SUP AREA) Administrative Routes - page 30 OBJECTION: As I rejected several proposed actions, any roads associated with them would therefore be rejected as well. COMMENT#22 TERRAIN AND ON-MOUNTAIN INFRASTRUCTURE (WITHIN THE EXISTING SUP AREA) Snowmobile Rescue Cache -page 31 OBJECTION: I reject this proposed action as it is unnecessary, as historical evidence does not warrant it's need. COMMENT#23 TERRAIA N AND ON-MOUNTAIN INFRASTRUCTURE (WITHIN THE EXISTING SUP AREA) GUEST SERVICES FACILITIES Fred's Mountain Top Guest Facility - page 32 OBJECTION: I reject this proposed action. Weather conditions as fog, high winds, blizzards, and other weather factors, which occur frequently, make this an undesirable location for this facility. Skiers of all abilities would desire to access this facility and those less skilled when confronted with adverse weather conditions, would not safely be able to ski down the mountain. Placing this facility at the top of Fred's Mountain creates a significant safety hazard. Lift closures during summertime periods also take place due to adverse weather condition potentially trapping people in the facility. The location of this facility also presents a significant impact to the visible scenic landscape and character of this environment. The facility would be visible for miles around within the Jedediah Smith Wilderness Area and Teton Mountain range along with affecting the scenic value from Teton County, Idaho valley. The facilities location is too close and visible to these wonderfully scenic areas. If this facility is accepted, routine provisions to the Dreamcatcher lift to allow skiers/visitors to the facility to ride down the lift when they may not be able to safely ski down, due fog or other weather conditions that exist after visiting the facility. COMMENT#24 TERRAIN AND ON-MOUNTAIN INFRASTRUCTURE (WITHIN THE EXISTING SUP AREA) GUEST SERVICES FACILITIES Sacajawea Restaurant and Guest Facility - page 32 COMMENT: I accept this proposed action. COMMENT#25 TERRAIN AND ON-MOUNTAIN INFRASTRUCTURE (WITHIN THE EXISTING SUP AREA) GUEST SERVICES FACILITIES Shoshone Guest Facility - page 33 COMMENT: I accept this proposed action. COMMENT#26 TERRAIN AND ON-MOUNTAIN INFRASTRUCTURE (WITHIN THE EXISTING SUP AREA) GUEST SERVICES FACILITIES Rick's Basin Guest Facility - page 33 COMMENT: I accept this proposed action. COMMENT#27 TERRAIN AND ON-MOUNTAIN INFRASTRUCTURE (WITHIN THE EXISTING SUP AREA) GUEST SERVICES FACILITIES Storage and Vault Toilet Facilities -page 34 COMMENT: I accept this proposed action. COMMENT#28 TERRAIN AND ON-MOUNTAIN INFRASTRUCTURE WITHIN THE EXISTING SUP AREA) GUEST SERVICES FACILITIES NON-WINTER AND ALTERNATIVE ACTIVITIES - page 34 No Comment COMMENT#29 2.3 Alternative 3-No SUP Expansion OBJECTION: I Reject Alternative 3 as presented - page 36 OBJECTION: Of PRIMARY concern is that this Alternative 3 involves too many proposed actions. Many of which are very undesirable, while some are viable necessary improvements to the GTR. It is due to the HIGHLY UNDESIRABLE ACTIONS that I REJECT THIS ALTERNATIVE. COMMENT#30 2.3 Alternative 3 -No SUP Expansion Construction of on-mountain restaurant at the to of Dreamcatcher Lift - page 38 OBJECTION: I reject this proposed action. Weather conditions as fog, high winds, blizzards, and other weather factors, which occur frequently, make this an undesirable location for this facility. Skiers of all abilities would desire to access this facility and those less skilled when confronted with adverse weather conditions, would not safely be able to ski down the mountain. Placing this facility at the top of Fred's Mountain creates a significant safety hazard. Lift closures during summertime periods also take place due

to adverse weather condition potentially trapping people in the facility. The location of this facility also presents a significant impact to the visible scenic landscape and character of this environment. The facility would be visible for miles around within the Jedediah Smith Wilderness Area and Teton Mountain range along with affecting the scenic value from Teton County, Idaho valley. The facilities location is too close and visible to these wonderfully scenic areas. If this facility is accepted, routine provisions to the Dreamcatcher lift to allow skiers/visitors to the facility to ride down the lift when they may not be able to safely ski down, due fog or other weather conditions that exist after visiting the facility.

COMMENT#312.2.4 Alternative 4 - South Bowl, No Mono Trees - page 38

OBJECTION: I Reject Alternative 4 as presented. **OBJECTION:** Of PRIMARY concern is that this Alternative 4 involves too many proposed actions. Many of which are very undesirable, while some are viable necessary improvements to the GTR. It is due to the HIGHLY UNDESIRABLE ACTIONS that I REJECT THIS ALTERNATIVE.

COMMENT#322.2.4 Alternative 4 - South Bowl No Mono Trees - page 38

South Bowl Area

OBJECTION: I reject this action. The South Bowl Lift is definitely unnecessary as more than enough challenging terrain currently exists at the GTR and as previously stated in comment for 1.3.1, "increase public safety" is a fabricated concept to rationalize the need for this lift. In addition, the impact to Teton Canyon would be significant. The construction of the lift and necessary roads and amenities for it to function, as explained, would negatively affect Teton Canyon and the backcountry wilderness experience people strive to get in this area. Not only those that currently access Teton Canyon from the Colter Lift but for those that access Teton Canyon from the below road and cross-country trails. The sounds from the GTR equipment and skiers with a South Bowl Lift would travel far through the lower canyon and diminishes greatly the backcountry wilderness experience people are seeking when in Teton Canyon. Areas like Teton Canyon with its majestic Teton views and backcountry wilderness is in itself a large draw for tourist to come to this area.

COMMENT#332.2.5 Alternative 5 - Mono Trees No South Bowl - page 40

OBJECTION: I Reject Alternative 5 as presented. **OBJECTION:** Of PRIMARY concern is that this Alternative 5 involves too many proposed actions. Many of which are very undesirable, while some are viable necessary improvements to the GTR. It is due to the HIGHLY UNDESIRABLE ACTIONS that I REJECT THIS ALTERNATIVE.

COMMENT#342.2.5 Alternative 5 - Mono Trees No South Bowl - page 40

OBJECTION: I reject this action. A Mono Trees Lift is unnecessary as this area is currently skied by many using access to the Sacajawea Lift. Cutting trees to create ski trails through this area would create an indelible scar to this beautiful terrain that would be visible out in Teton County, Idaho. Thinning the trees without creating trails would allow less competent skiers a better ski experience but constructing a lift and necessary roads and amenities for it to function, as explained, creates unnecessary damage to the scenic value of this area.

COMMENT#35

CHAPTER 3 Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences

3.1.3 Affected Environment Recreation in the GTR SUP Area - page 61

OBJECTION: The attraction for local skiers (those from Pocatello, Idaho Falls, Rexburg and other SE Idaho communities) to ski GTR has declined considerable over the last few years due to the increase cost of lift tickets. Your analysis does not adequately include the SE Idaho affected environment. Further development and associated increased lift ticket and lodging costs will further decrease SE Idaho attendance.

COMMENT#363.1.3 Affected Environment Recreation in the GTR SUP Area - page 61 and Terrain Network - page 62

OBJECTION: This paragraph states "GTR generally lacks an adequate amount of beginner and intermediate terrain to provide an appropriate learning progression." If the need that GTR has is for more beginner and intermediate terrain, why the need for the South Bowl and Mono Trees expansion. This rational conflicts greatly with what is stated for much of the terrain expansion desire.

COMMENT#373.1.3 Affected Environment Visitation and Resort Capacity - page 63

OBJECTION: Current existing terrain and lift capacity far exceeds visitation at the GTR. Except for a very few ski holidays and fresh deep powder mornings, lift lines are non-existent and dozens of empty or partially filled chairs routinely exist at the GTR. Also, primary skiers had historically included those from Rexburg, Idaho Falls, Pocatello and all other southeast Idaho area communities. This EIS excludes any mention of these communities. In addition, increased current lift ticket prices have now excluded many of these local residents due to affordability and future expansion, with further increased prices, will exclude them even more. This will therefore decrease visitation numbers from what is stated.

COMMENT#383.1.3 Affected Environment Facilities and Guest Services - page 64

OBJECTION: Additional guest services as a day lodge at the bottom plaza area, a mountain facility at the top of Sacajawea Lift, at the top of the Shoshone Lift, and in Rick's Basin are needed.

COMMENT#393.1.3 Affected Environment Recreation on Surrounding NFS Lands - page 65 and page

75OBJECTION: This section states that the proposed projects at GTR will lead to an increase in use of recreation opportunities outside of the GTR SUP that would include Teton County, Idaho. Therefore, this EIS needs to address the impacts within Teton County, Idaho.COMMENT#403.2.3 Affected EnvironmentVIEWPOINT ANALYSISView 5 -Grand Teton Summit -page 92"... these climbers generally have a high sensitivity toward the natural appearing and undeveloped landscape visible from this viewpoint."OBJECTION: The above statement is true. Therefore the expansion, particularly the addition of Fred's Mountain Top Guest Facility would be a significant detractor from the natural beauty of this area.COMMENT#413.2.3 Affected EnvironmentVIEWPOINT ANALYSISView 5 -Grand Teton Summit -page 92"... all viewers at this location would be rock climbers. The duration of their view would likely last several minutes ... "OBJECTION: The view while climbing does occur sporadically but will last longer when reaching the summit to take in the mountain views. A restaurant on the top of Fred's Mountain will be an eyesore for those taking in the beauty of the surrounding majestic mountains.COMMENT#423.2.3 Affected EnvironmentVIEWPOINT ANALYSISView 8 -Hurricane Pass -page 93"... these hikers generally have a high sensitivity toward the natural appearing and undeveloped landscape visible from this viewpoint."OBJECTION: The above statement is true. Therefore the expansion, particularly the addition of Fred's Mountain Top Guest Facility would be a significant detractor from the natural beauty of this area.COMMENT#433.2.3 Affected EnvironmentVIEWPOINT ANALYSISView 9 -Lower Saddle Between the Middle and Grand Tetons -a e 93"... these hikers generally have a high sensitivity toward the natural appearing and undeveloped landscape visible from this viewpoint."OBJECTION: The above statement is true. Therefore the expansion, particularly the addition of Fred's Mountain Top Guest Facility would be a significant detractor from the natural beauty of this area.COMMENT#443.2.3 Affected EnvironmentVIEWPOINT ANALYSISView 10 - Middle Teton Summit -page 93"... these hikers generally have a high sensitivity toward the natural appearing and undeveloped landscape visible from this viewpoint."OBJECTION: The above statement is true. Therefore the expansion, particularly the addition of Fred's Mountain Top Guest Facility would be a significant detractor from the natural beauty of this area.COMMENT#453.2.3 Affected EnvironmentVIEWPOINT ANALYSISViews 17 and 18 - Table Mountain, Jedediah Smith Wilderness (Summer and Winter) -page 95OBJECTION: To impart that viewers would experience this view for only several seconds is flawed. As a long time hiker/backpacker and having climbed and hiked through this area, the view would be experienced for hours. A much longer time frame would take place and several of the expansion proposals would detract from the natural beauty of this area.COMMENT#463.2.3 Affected EnvironmentVIEWPOINT ANALYSISView 19 -Teewinot Mountain -page 95OBJECTION: To impart that viewers would experience this view for only several minutes is flawed. As a long time hiker/backpacker and having climbed Teewinot, the view would be experienced for hours. A much longer time frame would take place and several of the expansion proposals would detract from the natural beauty of this area.COMMENT#473.2.3 Affected EnvironmentVIEWPOINT ANALYSISView 20 -Teton Scenic Byway -page 95COMMENT: To impart that viewers would experience this view for only a few seconds is flawed. This may apply to a driver but not to passengers in vehicles and definitely passengers in tour busses. A much longer time frame would take place and several of the expansion proposals would detract from the natural beauty of this area.COMMENT#483.2.4 Direct and Indirect Environmental ConsequencesAlternative 2 -Proposed ActionExisting Grand Targhee Resort Special Use PermitFred's Mountain Top Guest Facility-page 96OBJECTION: To impart that the 11,000 square foot proposed facility is only an "incremental addition to a largely undeveloped landscape" is ludicrous and that visitors expect to "encounter developed recreation infrastructure within the view shed" when visiting the Tetons and a Wilderness area is also absurd. An undisturbed natural mountain vista is what visitors to the Tetons expect.COMMENT#493.5 Traffic and Parking3.5.2 Affected Environment Traffic -page 147"On weekends and holidays, the traffic leading up to GTR can create backups, which sometimes extends into Driggs."Parking"On busy days in the winter, demand has exceeded parking supply, and cars have waited or been turned away when spaces are not available""This analysis of traffic volumes illustrates that that the proposed projects may increase the number of vehicles traveling on roadways accessing GTR; therefore, implementation of the action alternatives could contribute to the back-up in Driggs and at the resort on busy days."

OBJECTION: The Traffic and Parking analysis has imparted that there is an existing problem under current operational conditions with further problems taking place even with Alternative 1 No Action. Proposed actions under other expansion Alternatives do not adequately address the significant increase in traffic and parking

needs that would take place with any further expansion. Traffic issues in Driggs and Teton County, Idaho also need to be addressed for any further GTR expansion in this Draft EIS for this document to be of value.

COMMENT#503.10.5 Cumulative Effects PAST, PRESENT, AND REASONABLY FORESEEABLE FUTURE PROJECTS -page 167 "It is anticipated that if these projects are constructed, a higher percentage of guests would be able to stay at on-resort lodging and daily vehicle trips to the mountain would be reduced."

OBJECTION: This statement is meaningless from a broad view regarding the scope of the proposed expansion Alternatives, as the vast majority of visitors would not be lodging at the GTR. The expansion Alternatives do not include increasing on resort lodging. Parking and traffic problems would significantly get worse with any expansion and affect Driggs, Idaho which is not adequately covered in this EIS.