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Comments:

I am against the proposed expansions for a multitude of reason. The common reasoning for the expansions is that they are necessary to "meet the ever-increasing expectations of the... skier markets." However, that is a purely speculative statement as these resources haven't been needed in the past as proven by the fact that they do not currently exist. Additionally, the long-term effects of the current pandemic are yet to be seen on the skier market. Many are predicting an increase in the backcountry skiing. Expanding the borders of Targhee will invade upon the backcountry accessible terrain in Teton Canyon and potentially devastate this still fledgling market.

Specifically, in regards to the South Bowl and Mono Trees expansions, these will be invasive expansions that will effect the popular and pristine Teton Canyon area. It will sacrifice the experience of thousands of non resort goers for the profits of an already poorly managed company which has been verging on bankruptcy for years. By throwing them a lifeline by approving the expansion, you would be rewarding bad behavior by a private company at the expense of local residents and non-resort going visitors. These expansions also fail to take into account the changing climate by building on south facing slopes and, in regards to Mono Trees, low elevation terrain. Within my 20 years of skiing at Targhee, I have already noticed how winter warming patterns have shortened the ski season and pushed the once reliable November opening date later and later. Even in high snowfall years, the southern slopes on Sacajawea have struggled to have viable skiing before January. This is only getting worse. The expansions may help profits for a few years until those south facing slopes are unskiable. The local community will have to live with the negative effects of those expansions for generations.