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Organization:

Title:

Comments:

Project comment.

Please consider the following:

1. Impact of the South bowl expansion on surrounding designated wilderness. The cliff bands on the north boundary of Freds Mountain are a natural barrier between the developed ski area and the wilderness area. No such barrier exists between the proposed South Bowl expansion and the designated wilderness terrain that nearly surrounds it. Consequently development of this area will have profoundly negative effects on wildlife not only in the South Bowl but the wilderness area as well. Affects include habitat loss, noise pollution from skier traffic and avalanche control activities, roads and other infrastructure required.
2. Loss of backcountry terrain. Does it make sense for the USFS to reserve a huge parcel of backcountry terrain for the declining population of downhill skiers at a time when public interest in backcountry recreation is rapidly increasing?
3. Grand Targhee seeks the South Bowl expansion to "enhance terrain variety." Adding high avalanche danger terrain with poor, often dangerous snow quality due to southerly exposure would certainly do that. Also consider the frequent skier injuries that will occur in this terrain.
4. Please consider a refocused proposal aimed at maximizing development opportunities within the current permit area.