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Comments:

As a 40 year resident of Teton Valley and lifelong skier, mostly backcountry and nordic, as the former executive director of Teton Valley Trails and Pathways who started the nordic ski trail grooming program in Teton Canyon 20 years ago, I feel deeply involved in this proposed expansion. The main reaction I have is a strong objection to the effective privatization of public lands in and above Teton Canyon.

From an EIS point of view, I want to know what the proposed expansion would do to the already limited winter range for wildlife in Teton Canyon. I think the impacts on Teton Canyon can only be negative for critters and humans, other than yahooping downhill skiers. We have already seen far too much snowmobile traffic in Teton Canyon from skiers skiing down from Peaked via the resort and being towed out by snowmobiles, who usually trash the nordic track. Some of this may even be illegal commercial activity.

Targhee has had approval for various improvements and expansions as well as a 120 acre land exchange in recent years, yet they have not done much to improve their operations on the existing permit area, let alone build any restaurants or real estate development. Why do they want a huge expansion of the permit area and approval of a grandiose scheme to build a mega-resort? I suppose they are shooting for the moon, dreaming big in the only area they can reasonably expand into. Is this an appropriate use of public lands? I think not...