

Date submitted (UTC-11): 9/25/2020 9:21:14 AM

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Organization:

Title:

Comments:

I oppose most parts of Grand Targhee's expansion plans. Please take into account my concerns and do not approve the expansion of new ski terrain and ski lifts into the south facing area of Teton Canyon. Also, please do not approve any night lighting.

I have many concerns about the expansion of ski terrain into Teton Canyon, but a basic question I'd like you to ask, is the impact worth it in the face of climate change? Is it practical to develop new ski terrain on south facing slopes in a rapidly changing climate? To me, it just doesn't make any sense at all. It would be a huge expense and impact, and all for a very short season and limited number of years. I honestly don't think the expansion in this area is a good idea because of the huge wildlife, air quality, climate effects, transportation, housing and solitude impacts. I don't want these impacts even if there was a long term financial gain for the resort. But in this case, it's so unlikely that there would be a long term payoff.

So please carefully consider the following:

- Impact to wildlife
- Air quality impacts
- Climate change impacts
- Transportation implications, including safety and capacity
- Affordable housing for employees - this would push out the locals
- Housing for the elite - this would drive up prices and drive out the locals
- Loss of solitude and quiet in this wilderness area

Also, please carefully consider the cultural and environmental impacts of increased visitation. If Grand Targhee wins your approval for this expansion plan, think how our culture would be crushed by the elite that would be attracted to this area. Think of how our town and our environment would change with masses of billionaires flying in on their private jet and driving up real estate prices. This is a very real risk that has happened all over the world. I'm sure there's a good chance Gillet would sell the resort to Vail, and just think what would happen to our valley when Vail exercises their marketing machine. Just look at Park City.

It's not just the increase in population that I oppose, but the nature of the new residents. The changing culture is the real threat to our community. Please do not displace our original population with the elite one percenters. We deserve to preserve our down to earth rural community.

Lastly, I strongly oppose any approval for night lighting. Please keep our night skies dark and free from light pollution.

It is the responsibility of the Forest Service to carefully study the impacts of this proposal and only grant approval if it would contribute to the greater good of the entire public. Please do the right thing and carefully weigh the impacts that the expansion would have to the general community. I'm sure you will conclude that the negative impacts are not worth the gains. Thank you for your careful consideration on this matter.