

Date submitted (UTC-11): 10/8/2020 3:04:57 AM

First name: Bill

Last name: Hoblitzell

Organization:

Title:

Comments:

Targhee's request for permit area expansion and additional lift accessed skiing is reasonable and supportable for a number of reasons and should be supported by USFS. As climate change continues to shift snow elevations in the Tetons and elsewhere, access to high elevation zones where annual snowpack depth remains stable may become crucial to continued success of skiing in the Rockies. In addition, demographic predictions for both Idaho and Wyoming support continued population growth, especially in the Boise/Treasure Valley axis and along the northern Snake River plain from Pocatello to Idaho Falls. Southern Idaho's small number of middle-to-large sized ski complexes (Targhee, Sun Valley, Tamarack) already face crowding and capacity issues during seasonal times, indicating a market for additional lift-serviced ski area facilities is present. Permitting and environmental impacts for new ski areas is extremely difficult, and involves expansion into new mountain zones. Focusing these activities around existing facilities, where road access is already present and forest and mountain disturbances or fragmentation are also already present makes much more sense.