

Date submitted (UTC-11): 10/10/2020 2:50:30 AM

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Comments:

Many of us Teton Valley residents strongly believe that the true PURPOSE of this project is to have the locally based Targhee owner complete the many required permitting steps in preparation for a future sale. I believe that a major out-of-state resort corporation would face an even harder time securing local support for permitting for a major expansion. Nobody I know wants that to happen. NOBODY except a handful of business interests who stand to profit at the expense of the pristine environment in and around Targhee.

As to NEEDS, I don't think that the Targhee owners or the valley residents NEED an expansion of this magnitude for Targhee to remain economically viable and I do value the viability of Targhee as a winter/summer recreation based regional resort. There is NO Need for a wealthy enclave of homes owned by out of state investors to be carved out of public land or even private land anywhere near or in Targhee. So having said that, what should Targhee be permitted to do? The short answer is nothing or as a compromise, just enough to remain viable as a local and regional recreation resort.

IF any approval for expansion is granted then the following points must be considered as guiding constraints. First and obviously, Targhee should complete the buildout of work that has already been approved and promised ie. the Peaked expansion. There is NO NEED for any expansion to the South and certainly not towards or into TETON CANYON or South Leigh Canyon. Even cutting bike trails into ridges adjoining Teton Canyon had a serious impact on the Alta Culinary water system. Scenic vistas and dark skies must be protected from structures and lighting. Parking is already woefully inadequate and must be fully addressed (parking structure?) in any expansion plan. The Targhee expansion and agency permitting must guarantee access to historically accessed backcountry trails including BT Wilderness, Forest Service lands and the Targhee resort permit areas.

The region does not NEED or WANT nor wish to have imposed upon us another conglomerate owned, glitzy, overpriced, phony resort full of uber wealthy pampered snobs. Your agency must consider the multi-faceted and unavoidable impacts to the local environment including wildlife, water, scenic vistas, night skies, backcountry access and public health with great care and deference to mother nature and the precedent of "small footprint" local needs and wants.