

Date submitted (UTC-11): 10/12/2020 12:00:00 AM

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Organization:

Title:

Comments:

RE: Grand Targhee Master Development Plan Projects - Public Comment Submittal

10-12-20

Dear Forest Service & interested Parties,

I strongly oppose this Grand Targhee expansion, as it's currently proposed.

A lot of very thoughtful & detailed comments have already been shared on this site. My comments highlight some key points and I'll try to keep them short in bullets.

There are 2 main concerns & problems with this proposed expansion.

1. Negative Impact to the National Forest & West side of the Tetons - Clearly, this extreme expansion will have a negative impact on some of the most beautiful country in N. America & change the West slope of the Tetons forever.

2. This extreme proposal will destroy what makes Grand Targhee so special and will destroy why so many people from across the country come here and love this place. It's really unfortunate Geordie & his leadership team don't understand this. I'm speaking for friends from across the country, representing the entire spectrum of economic classes, not just myself.

* How does building 2 huge lodges/restaurants at the top of 2 mountains & littering the side of a mountain with ski lifts benefit the National Forest, our community or anyone? These lodges are not proposed as humble little Corbet's Cabin & the expansion of the ski acreage is extreme.

* The view from our Valley & Teton Canyon will be changed forever.

* Such an excessive plan will cost a ton of \$. Where is all the \$ coming from and what happens if they get started and run out of \$ or the funding sources change their minds and pull the plug?

* Total disruption of natural habitat for many animals, with some protected and endangered.

* The construction alone will have a major negative impact on the area. Traffic up Ski hill Rd., heavy equipment all over the mountain and up Teton Canyon.

* Negative impact on water - both surface and ground water. Erosion & silt in pristine streams and the cascading negative impact that will have on fish, animals & even farmers.

* Snow making - most of the proposed expansion is lower elevation &/or South facing slopes. How does that impact ground & surface water? What happened to the saying "Snow from the heavens not hoses"?

* Avalanche suppression - You will need this on the Teton Canyon side for sure. What will be the impact of bombing that beautiful protected area?

* From a business standpoint, how do you expect to get the hordes of people here, who you are looking to attract? If they don't live in a part of the country where they drive snow covered roads 6 months out of the year, like we do, majority of people are very nervous driving snow/ice covered mountain roads. Examples; Teton Pass, Pine Creek, Dry Farms, Ski Hill Rd. To get to The Ghee, people have to drive 2 of those roads and they do it in a rental car with normally lousy tires. We take this for granted, but these roads in winter terrify the majority of visitors. This is a fact.

* One of the strongest arguments in favor of this expansion, is the additional jobs this will bring to our area. If our Valley is looking for ways to create more jobs, there are many more effective ways to do that, that are not destructive and exploitive of our natural resources.

If Geordie & the owners of Targhee are looking for ways to generate more revenue, there are ways to do it while operating within the current foot print of the resort & retaining what makes this place so special. You can see by the many responses on this site, there are a lot of very bright people within our community who love this mountain and deeply care. I'm sure they have great ideas on this topic. Bigger is not better. Embrace Targhee's uniqueness, amplify it & capitalize on it. But don't exploit it.

Owning a top ski resort like Grand Targhee takes a lot of work, sacrifice & capital. We thank you for all that. But it's also a privilege with a responsibility to make a fiduciary decision that is truly in the best interest of others, especially if National Forest land is involved. I hope the owners decide to do what's right for everyone who loves The Ghee and The West Side of The Tetons.

Matt Ward