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Organization:

Title:

Comments:

Mr. Bolling,

I'm writing directly to you because the website is unavailable and comments are due today. As a frequent user of Teton Canyon trails for hiking, running and skiing, I have concerns about proposed development on the south side of the Targhee expansion. One of the benefits of accessing Teton Canyon is the thrill of wildlife sightings. Encroachment of ski terrain into prime wildlife habitat will alter the behavior of the native wildlife that visitors come here to see and will reduce those encounters.

I'm also concerned about the environmental impacts of ski resort expansion. It's ironic that the ski resort industry, so vulnerable to climate change, also exacerbates that change by the burning of fossil fuels during snowmaking, running lifts and transportation. An EIS for the project must include assessment of climate impacts.

Snowmaking has multiple, negative environmental impacts which must be studied. Potential impacts include aquifer depletion and noise pollution. I live "downhill" from the ski area, and don't want to see my well impacted so that more people can come from out of town and ski. Targhee's proximity to the Jedediah Smith Wilderness Area is of concern to me because noise carries far into the Canyon, and one of the defining characteristics of the wilderness experience is solitude.

The addition of lights on some slopes and from two mountaintop restaurants will also negatively impact wildlife and anyone who lives nearby and appreciates our valley's dark skies.

My family and I are enthusiastic users of Grand Targhee, but these environmental concerns weigh heavily on us. Please add my suggestions to the list of potential impacts that must be studied during the EIS process.