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First name: Peggy

Last name: Hinman

Organization:

Title:

Comments:

To Mel Bolling, care of Jay Pence, Teton Basin District Ranger

Subject: comments on Grand Targhee NOI

1. The proposed action needs a time frame for implementation. A time frame is needed to support analysis of impacts given the number and variety of projects within the proposed action. An action of this scope must include a time frame to provide context for evaluating the significance of effects.
2. An alternative of phased development should be studied. Each phase should represent the collective proposed actions needed to complete development in a discrete portion of terrain. Key infrastructure needs such as parking should be associated with plans for each phase. A phased development alternative is reasonable due to the ambitious extent of the proposed action, particularly in light of the slow pace for implementation of past decisions.
3. The proposed action should include concrete proposals for aligning access (e.g. parking, transport) with the actions that would yield increased resort capacity.
4. There is a need for day use facilities at GT. The proposed action should include day use facilities. The analysis should include actions that address existing and projected use by schools, clubs, ski teams, churches, and small groups, such as a proposal for a 'community center'. Brown baggers need more than a locker area. It is clear from the data presented that the largest portion of visitors to GT will continue to be day users, so the proposed action should reflect this.
5. Development of the South Bowl will involve increased sharing of the GT boundary with wilderness areas. I request evaluation of the potential effects of this development on soil, vegetation, wildlife, and the human wilderness experience.
6. The Caribou Targhee Forest Plan is outdated. I am concerned that the boundaries for certain areas subject to prescriptions (for example, deer habitat) may be changing over time. The designation of the areas in proximity to the SUP area should be re-evaluated as part of this EIS, and the Forest Plan should be amended as necessary. Also, effects on migration of wildlife with habitat in and near the SUP area should be considered.
7. The 'no action' alternative is mentioned but not described in the NOI. I imagine the 'no action' alternative will be to continue with GT's SUP and already approved actions. Please make the SUP and any related plans available on the project website.
8. I feel that GT has had a great commitment to educating its guests about wildlife and habitat. I think this is an important and attractive aspect of the resort's 'culture'. The proposed action should include specific commitments to continue offering a variety of learning experiences.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this project.