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Organization:

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Comments:

Please include the following comments as part of the scoping procedure.

The Resort expansion is huge, with enormous impacts on transportation, community resources, and wildlife habitat.

Accordingly, a great deal of additional study should be undertaken to assess the impacts, as follows.

1. Mono Trees and South Bowl. These expansion areas will forever change Teton Canyon whose wildlife habitat and visual qualities we have worked so hard to protect, most recently with development easements. Furthermore, current back-country access would be prohibited, and further closures would be associated with cat-skiing. If expansion of Peaked is so important to GT expansion, they should begin by building the Peaked lift which was approved 26 years ago, in 1994, and would not displace wintering wildlife. At the very least, additional study of those impacts should be required.

2. Uphill Impacts. The public-land expansion does not tie directly to the private-land PUD approved by Teton County, WY in February, 2019. But this expansion cannot be in a vacuum, and supporting facilities and the capacity of the PUD to support the expansion plans should be assessed. For example, the PUD Transportation Plan assumes up to 70% of employees and 30% of day-skiers will use transit access. How is this that to be accomplished? For how many employees and skiers? At what public and private costs, particularly without expensive improvements to address likely road congestion.

3. Downhill Impacts. Teton County and its municipalities have struggled with planning issues, and have proven to be unsuccessful in achieving code to support the County Comp Plan. But the Targhee expansion requires considerable growth of housing, lodging, and visitor facilities in the Teton Valley, requiring enormous capital improvements. Most important would be water and sewage utilities.

Currently, the Driggs Sewage-treatment plant is the worst municipal polluter in Idaho, with ammonia discharges that are 2500% above permit levels, with no funding or plan in place to achieve compliance. Accordingly, discussion of complementary impacts upon public infrastructure should be extensively studied, so the GT expansion can be comprehensively assessed. Bigger is only better when all the pieces are in place, and the current scoping information does not begin to address these external impacts upon the community.

Thus, the Resort expansion request must be studied far more comprehensively in terms of community impacts, including the likely effects on the unique ecosystem of Teton Canyon.