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Title:

Comments:

To: Mel Bolling, c/o Jay Pence Teton Basin District Ranger P.O. Box 777, Driggs, ID 83401.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the scoping of the EIS for the Grand Targhee Master Development Plan. This is in addition to my previous comments submitted on Oct 9.

Teton Canyon and the South Bowl area currently receive regular use from backcountry skiers and snowboarders. Some of this use is from folks leaving Grand Targhee Resort. The latest data that I could find reported sales of backcountry gear (alpine touring skis, splitboards, climbing skins ) grew 9% in 2017 from previous year. Sales grew 6.1 %again in 2018 . (SGB Media Feb 22, 2019)

This is in contrast with decline in alpine skiing and snowboarding.

In the scoping, I would like CTNF to consider how loss of backcountry terrain could be mitigated if South Bowl becomes a cat skiing or a lift served area.

It is very difficult to mitigate lost terrain. Caribou -Targhee NF could ban snowmobiling on Beard Mountain.

Another possibility would be to improve existing backcountry terrain by selectively thinning trees in certain areas.

Why does the USFS allow extensive tree removal in alpine ski resorts when this practice is never considered in traditional and extensively used backcountry skiing areas. Please keep me informed as this EIS progresses.

Respectfully,

Howie Garber