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First name: Robin

Last name: Upton

Organization:

Title:

Comments:

Dear Jay and All Interested Parties:

We are writing on behalf of our concern in the expansion of Grand Targhee Resort's Master Plan. Our belief is if GTR is allowed to to expand, the negative impact to our beautiful valley will be significant and irreversible.

We live in Teton and see the resort everyday. In the late afternoon, we see the sunlight reflecting off the cables of the Blackfoot lift. It looks like a diamond necklace. We see the top of DreamCatcher. Now GTR has proposed building a 6000 square foot summit restaurant on Fred's Mountain.

At the top of our list for living in this side of the valley is to view the grandeur and utter beauty of the Teton Range, not to look at more shiny objects on the mountain. You change that grandeur and view and you change our experience of living in this Valley.

If this expansion is approved it will be known as a "mega resort" bringing with it "mega people & mega traffic". Don't we already have one of those mega resorts on the other side of the pass in Jackson Hole with many others in Utah, Colorado, California and Montana. Why do we need to have another one here in our valley? Isn't it ok to keep our town small with farms and open vistas?

We are already seeing significant growth in our valley especially in the last year due to the pandemic and people's ability to work remotely. As well, people are moving away from bigger cities to more rural areas like ours. We have a deep concern that the expansion of GTR will only accelerate this growth in Teton Valley.

We already see what is going on in Teton Valley due to the growth of Jackson Hole and the out of control tourism over there. Our parks have been over run with tourists this summer as well as the Teton River & Teton Canyon. Allowing the expansion of GTR will only make these matters worse.

As well, this year will be the first season GTR is a part of the Mountain Collective, which will mean more people coming to our valley which means higher impact on our roads on a daily basis, traffic jams and parking lots filling up by 9 am. We have already experienced "full to capacity" parking in the lots up on the ski hill and cars sitting idling on Ski Hill Rd because of too many cars/people as more people learn about GTR.

This summer has produced long lines at our one traffic light in town - we can only believe with the proposed plan by GTR, the anticipated effects will be more long lines at the traffic light, empty cars idling in Brouilim's parking lot while visitors go shopping, more wood-burning stoves stoking in the valley thus creating major particulate air pollution which leads to respiratory problems and other health issues.

In addition, this expansion will have other impacts. More airplane traffic and noise, which we're already experiencing here in the valley. As Jackson Hole has become a world renowned ski town and, the billionaires are moving out the millionaires, there is the threat that as Teton Valley becomes a destination "ski town", it will move out the working class folks and the farmers that make up this valley now and become a "millionaires only" town.

Now let's address this expansion as it relates to Teton Canyon. If GTR is allowed to expand and add three new lifts & ski runs, there will be major noise, wildlife and visual impacts. New roads will be built taking away beautiful lands and scenery, wildlife corridors disturbed and wildlife displaced, trees cut down, obtrusive ridge lines developed and night lights seen from all over the valley. This is not the Teton Valley we envision.

Our questions remain: Shouldn't our national forests be accessible to to all people and not just the wealthy? Since when did we give the USFS the right to rule on our quality of life here in Teton Valley? Why do we feel the need to compete with other ski resorts and encourage indefinite development on public lands? We feel this should NOT be the policy of the USFS.

In closing, we are 100% against this expanded development of Grand Targhee Resort. It is our responsibility as residents of Teton Valley and stewards of the land to ensure our quality of life, as well as the wildlife that live and pass through this valley, is not degraded by an expanded development of GTR. We are afraid it will be if approved by the USFS.

We ask that you just say NO to this project. For the residents of the valley, the animals, the quality of life of living in a small mountain community and to the health of our Mother Earth!

With Respect and Gratitude,

Todd Quayle & Robin Upton