

October 15, 2020

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

Re: Grand Targhee Master Development Plan Projects

Please seriously consider these comments on the proposed expansion of the Grand Targhee Resort. Too often it has been my experience that concerns regarding traditional and existing uses of public lands are ignored when a commercial permit application is submitted to the Forest Service for use of these public lands.

The proposed acquisition of South Bowl and the Mono Trees should be removed from the plan.

#### South Bowl

- Backcountry skiers have a long history of skiing in South Bowl and it provides “perfect powder” days and some solitude unlike areas in Teton Pass
- Access is gained along the boundary of the resort or by skiing or snowmobiling up Teton Canyon road
- If the boundary is extended to include South Bowl public access would cease and only those at the resort would be able to ski there
- The Forest Service and the DEIS need to thoughtfully and comprehensively address concerns from stakeholders
- Expansion into South Bowl would increase access into the Jedediah Smith Wilderness that would negatively impact and displace wildlife

#### Mono Trees

- This area is important habitat for wildlife
- Wintering moose use this area and resort activities would displace them
- The area is very close to habitat that is closed to human entry in winter to protect wildlife

Snow is a crucial and valuable commodity for ski resorts and climate change is impacting this industry as snow levels continue to move up in elevation. Resort skiing is expensive for a family and the industry is seeing a marked decline.

Meanwhile backcountry skiing, split board snowboarding and Nordic skiing are growing. When resorts expand they naturally have to increase their prices to cover their expansion expenses.

Water is a necessary and precious resource to sustain humans, wildlife and habitat.

Snowmaking needs a predictable water source to be successful and this expansion requires additional snowmaking facilities. It is quite amazing and somewhat ridiculous that ski areas need to make snow instead of relying on what the earth provides.

If the resort is allowed to expand into these areas it will put more pressure on wildlife, diminish the wilderness experience for those who are willing to access it despite the difficulties and cause conflicts between recreation users. It will also impact water resources. Given the choice of clean unpolluted drinkable water and using that water to manufacture snow, I would choose clean drinkable water every time.

Kathy Wells

*Kathy Wells*

Idaho Falls, ID