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Comments:

Comments on the Expansion of the Grand Targhee Ski Area:

Any discussion on the Expansion project should start with the premise that the National Forest and the ski resort that lies within its boundaries are natural resources. The top priority in dealing with them should be to respect, preserve and care for them in a way that allows them to remain as close as possible to how they were created. Special consideration needs to be given for the special pressures that accompany the growing numbers of people who want to use them. The top priority should be to the resource and the community.

The power to control the stewardship of the National Forest and the ski resort belongs with the Forest Service not with the few individuals who want to make money off of them and whose concern for the resources is secondary.

The plans to expand the resort SHOULD BE OPPOSED because of the adverse effect on the following:

The Community:

If consideration is given to other ski areas such as Aspen, Vail, Sun Valley, Telluride, Big Sky and, yes, our good friends at Teton Village with similar development plans, certain things are certain:

With the growth and development of the ski area people who are native to the Teton Valley will no longer be able to live there. They will be unable to pay the taxes on the property that they and their families have owned and on which they have lived for generations.

Groceries, gas and other costs of living will go up way more than they already have.

There is already a shortage of housing in the Teton Valley due to the need of providing housing for the workers and others who can no longer afford to live in Jackson.

The roads will be filled with speeding cars and impolite people from California, Texas, Washington, Nevada and other places who rush to make the Teton Valley exactly like the places they were trying to escape when they came here.

These people and their unpleasant qualities are already here and more are coming, but there is no need to encourage their influences. The places mentioned above and many others already exist for those people. The top priority is to protect the Teton Valley from them.

The Wildlife:

The deer, elk, and moose have already been all but pushed out of the area where the ski area is located. Zip lines, more trails and roads are only going to put more pressure on them and push them farther away. Because there is only so much space the wildlife numbers will diminish and be eliminated.

The Forest:

Trees and grass replaced by towers and more machines and way more people. Gas stations, convenience stores, condos will take the place of what is left of the natural settings. Crowds that glut the South Fork, The Teton and the Henry's Fork rivers will certainly explode even more. Once those resources are gone, they will never come back.

Certainly, things can be done to improve and modernize the resort. Many comments have already been made as to how they can be done without expanding the area. This is one more opportunity that the Forest Service

can choose to protect and preserve and provide its experience and knowhow to the development plans of the ski area as it is.

There is no shortage of individuals with deep pockets who want to exploit the forest for their individual profit. .  
There is only one Grand Targhee. Why make it like every other resort?

"Man is rich according to the number of things he can leave alone." Henry David Thoreau