



(208)776-8254

bocc@tetoncountyidaho.gov

Teton County Commissioners

150 Courthouse Drive

Driggs Idaho 83422

June 9, 2025

Kim Pierson, Forest Supervisor
c/o Jay Pence, Teton Basic District Ranger
1405 Hollipark Drive
Idaho Falls, ID 83401

RE: Grand Targhee Master Development Plan Projects

Dear Ms. Pierson,

Please accept the following comment from Teton County, Idaho, regarding the Grand Targhee Resort SUP Expansion Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Grand Targhee Resort is part of the valued present-day unique character of Teton Valley and has served an important role in the community's economic development and healthy quality of life. Expanded capacity and facilities to sustain the resort's viability is desirable - to the degree that it supports the community's objectives and delivers a positive net impact in Teton County, Idaho.

In addition to reviewing and considering analyses contained in the Draft EIS, Teton County, Idaho made the following findings:

1. Teton County has outstanding concerns about how the base area buildout of 450 units and 150,000sf of commercial will impact local services in Idaho, including: transportation, workforce housing, law enforcement, visitor services, emergency medical and recreation facilities.
2. Existing rapid growth in the community is already stressing public services, decreasing affordability and degrading our small-town character and natural environment.
3. State laws are becoming increasingly restrictive on local taxing authority and budgets, reducing the ability of Idaho jurisdictions to maintain public service levels under higher growth scenarios.

4. The resort is a driver of population growth and real estate development in Teton County, Idaho, and the magnitude of the resort's expansion has the potential to correspondingly exacerbate the already high rate of growth and development in Teton County, Idaho.
5. The leisure & hospitality industry generates mostly low-wage jobs, which creates more need for low-income housing that must be addressed by the community.
6. Our residents place a high value on protecting wildlife, the environment and scenic views, including the dark night sky.
7. Water availability has become a critical issue for the County.

May 8, 2025, the Teton County Board of County Commissioners hosted a Town Hall to gather public sentiment regarding the Draft EIS. Over 100 members of the community attended, online and in-person, to make comments inline with the findings outlined in this letter, as well as other concerns.

Based on the Draft EIS analyses and the above criteria and findings, **Teton County, Idaho supports and recommends a modified Alternative 3, No SUP Expansion, with removal of the Restaurant/Bar from the top of Fred's Mountain**, given that it would allow a moderate amount of capacity expansion, with correspondingly less severe impacts on Idaho public service levels than the proposed action, while also protecting valuable natural resources important to the community's wellbeing.

Sincerely,

Teton County Board of County Commissioners

Brad Wolfe (Chair)

Ron James

Dan Powers