

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

March 25, 2026

Tom Schultz
Chief
U.S. Forest Service (USFS)
1400 Independence Ave. NW
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Chief Schultz,

I write to respectfully request that you protect the viewsheds of the Jedediah Smith Wilderness, the Grand Teton National Park, and the Caribou-Targhee National Forests when finalizing the Grand Targhee Resort Master Development Proposal later this year. I believe that there is a clear path forward to meet the resort's infrastructure needs, protect an important ecological and recreation landscape, and adhere to the Forest Service's multiple-use land management philosophy.

The Grand Targhee Resort, located west of Grand Teton National Park and the Jedediah Smith Wilderness on the Caribou-Targhee National Forest in Wyoming, currently operates on a Special Use Permit issued by the U.S. Forest Service (USFS). That permit establishes allowable resort boundaries, which protect the region's extraordinary wildlife population and irreplaceable natural landscapes.

The resort has now proposed to pursue further development that would expand those existing boundaries. In March 2025, USFS issued a draft environmental impact statement (EIS) on the "Grand Targhee Resort Master Development Proposal," which it tentatively plans to finalize and issue in July 2026 ahead of implementation in 2027.¹

I am glad to see this project undergoing that environmental review given the area's iconic viewsheds and beloved species like bighorn sheep, and I wanted to specifically flag on additional item for USFS to carefully consider as it assesses the impacts of this project. The "Fred's Mountain Top Guest Facility," which was mentioned in the Draft Scenery Technical Report issued with the draft EIS, would have serious and unnecessary visual impacts on the surrounding landscape.

Proposed for the mountaintop of Freds Mountain, the facility would, according to the Report, would be visible from ten different areas of the region considered by USFS, including the South

¹ [Grand Targhee 2018 Master Development Plan Projects | USFS](#)

Leigh Lakes, many hiking trails, and even the summit of Grand Teton. Nevertheless, the report concludes that the facility (in part thanks to a commitment to have no “major night lighting”) would not seriously impact regional views.

As an avid hiker who is familiar with the region and particularly the Tetons, I respectfully disagree. There is no need to allow new visual intrusions on the Jedediah Smith Wilderness, the Grand Teton National Park, or the Caribou-Targhee National Forests for the purposes of private business when reasonable alternatives exist. Allowing for encroachment over the top of the Freds Mountain and ruining the skyline, thereby marring the marvelous viewshed is not only unnecessary, but will also open the door to future, more egregious requests going forward.

My preference, to accommodate Grand Targhee Resort’s infrastructure needs while protecting the world-class landscape of the west slope of the Teton Range, is to allow structures up to two hundred feet vertical below the skyline ridge of Freds Mountain—but no higher. Regardless of where a structure is placed, I also ask that USFS propose specific, enforceable lighting rules to elaborate on the no “major night lighting” including in the draft report. I hope that that approach to the final EIS can balance USFS’s responsibilities in managing these wonderful public lands, ensuring a sustainable development path for Grand Targhee that meets its needs without undermining other land uses or provoking unnecessary conflicts with other land users. As a strong advocate for outdoor recreation, I believe this is the best path forward to ensure a productive and well received outcome.

I thank you for your attention to this matter. I, and my staff, are happy to discuss further and await any updates on this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Donald S. Beyer Jr.", written in a cursive style.

Donald S. Beyer Jr.
Member of Congress