



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Mark Newcomb, Chair
Wes Gardner, Vice-Chair
Luther Propst
Natalia D. Macker
Len Carlman

April 8, 2025

Mr. Mel Bolling
Forest Supervisor
Caribou-Targhee National Forest
1405 Hollipark Drive
Idaho Falls, Idaho 83401
melvin.bolling@usda.gov

Dear Forest Supervisor Bolling:

The Teton County Board of County Commissioners respectfully requests that the Caribou-Targhee National Forest extend the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) comment period for the Grand Targhee Master Development Plan Projects by 60 days. It is our understanding that the DEIS was published in the Federal Register on March 21, 2025, beginning the 90-day comment period. The publication date was during Spring Break, when many people in Wyoming and Idaho are gone and not available due to schools being out. In the case of Teton County, Wyoming the schools release for two weeks during that time period.

Upon initial review, the Board finds the DEIS evaluation of socioeconomic impacts to be more qualitative than quantitative. An extension would allow the Board to further examine the socioeconomic analysis and possible impacts these changes could have on our community and taxpayers, while also navigating the recent changes to Wyoming Statutes on collections of property taxes, which may be reflected incorrectly in the DEIS.

Additionally, the Board has limited opportunity to participate in drafting the DEIS, consisting of 600+ pages and associated appendixes, and was sent just before a two-week recess of the Board. As a Cooperating Agency and Board of the County directly impacted by these proposed changes, it is our duty to provide a thoughtful and thorough review.

We appreciate your consideration of our request for a 60-day extension beyond the 90-day comment period to allow our Board an opportunity to fulfill our role as a Cooperating Agency and to provide useful comments to the Forest's DEIS process. Please do not hesitate to reach out to us if you have any questions.



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Sincerely,

Mark Newcomb, Chair
Teton County Board of County Commissioners

Attest: Maureen E. Murphy
Teton County Clerk