

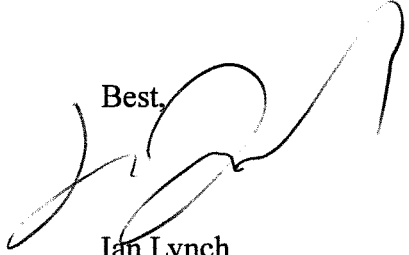
May 14, 2018

To whom it may concern,

I, along with many other Ski Club Vail Athletes, believe it is in the best interest of the community to expand the Golden Peak Training venue. With the recent influx of athletes from outside of the Vail valley, it is imperative that we expand our training venue. With the new expansion, not only are we able to accomodate more ski club athletes, but we can make our venue the most competitive training space in the world. This competitive training space will allow SSCV to bring in revenue by selling training space to other high level programs, and thus will bring in more revenue for Vail resorts. Many members of the community know that when Vail resorts prosper, we all do. This expansion would be good for not only athletes, but every person who steps foot in the valley.

Speaking as a ski club athlete, the expansion to Golden Peak is an absolute necessity. Every snowsport has evolved tremendously, but as an Alpine athlete I have seen American ski clubs fall behind the curve. Our athletes are not progressing as well as our European counterparts in Norway, Sweden, etc. The expansion of Golden Peak will lead to more training space, as well as a world class venue for all events. It will allow all alpine ski club athletes to be on the hill at the same time, as well as guest teams who can pay to be on the venue.

I believe that the expansion to Golden Peak is a necessary step to propel our club and community into excellence.

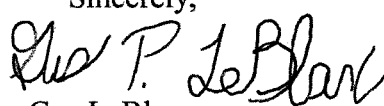
Best,

Ian Lynch

Ski & Snowboard Club Vail
598 Vail Valley Dr, Vail, CO 81657
9 May 2018

Dear Ski and Snowboard Club Vail Executives,

I am writing in regards to the Golden Peak Expansion program. I am in full support of this plan, as I truly believe it will better the training environment for your athletes. Having a surface lift on the new venue will be a very valuable tool for alpine athletes in particular. Athletes will have the opportunity to get in more runs in a single training session. Repetition is everything in ski racing, especially in the slalom discipline. There is evidence to prove this phenomenon when you look at the Howelsen Hill training venue and many of the venues in the midwest. Both the Steamboat Springs Winter Sports Club and many midwestern teams such as Buck Hill have continued to develop some of the best slalom skiers in the nation for the past couple of decades. I think it is fair to assume that one of the most primary factors in this successful development is the presence of a surface lift. Surface lifts provide shorter lap times and in turn result in more dense training sessions.

Another important point of the matter is that this expansion will allow for a full sized speed venue. Vail will be able to hold many more events including both FIS and NorAm speed races. There are only two current speed venues in Colorado: Copper and Aspen. Copper is the only hill of the two challenging enough to host a NorAm event. If SSCV went through with this expansion they would have a terrain-diverse venue that is capable of running all four disciplines. This is a very rare thing to come by in the entire nation. I also think that this expansion would be very appropriate considering Vail hosts many training days for World Cup athletes before the Birds of Prey races. It would be nice for those athletes to train Downhill and Super-G before they ski Birds of Prey because Birds of Prey is considered to be one of the most grueling speed venues on the World Cup Circuit. Thank you for taking the time to listen to my opinion and I hope my words help influence your decision to go through with the expansion.


Sincerely,

Gus LeBlanc

May 14, 2018

Dear U.S Forest Service,

Golden Peak is home to some of the best early season training in the world. The best skiers come from all over the globe to train here before the race season starts. The Austrian, French, Italian, German, and U.S Nationals teams come to train during the same 3 week period, each with their own course. That is a lot of space they take up. While all the national teams are training on Gold Peak, the skiers that are a part of Vail cannot train at Vail. They have to travel to copper or Loveland to get the same training that could be available at their home. If Gold Peak gets expanded then more National teams could train at the same time, and skiers that are part of Ski Club Vail will be able to train at the same time as the professionals. Doubling the training space that is available for Ski Club Vail will make the training 10 times better, it will give the coaches more room to set giving the athletes a better training experience. The courses will be more spread out making it less likely for kids to hit each other. In mid winter when every age group is training at the same time, the little kids have to go and train on a different run. With the Gold Peak expansion all members of Ski Club Vail will be able to train on Gold Peak at the same time. Also with the expansion and the surface lift the turnaround time will be much faster. The faster turnaround will make for a lot more runs per day. A lot more runs per day will lead to more training and people doing better in races and an unbelievable program for ski club vail. I think the Gold peak expansion is a very good step for Ski Club Vail. This expansion will cement Vail's spot as the best Ski Club in the nation.

Sincerely, Bridger Gile

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bridger Gile". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

May 14, 2018

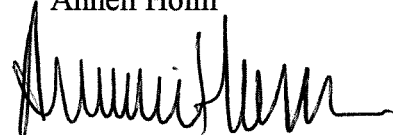
Dear Ski and Snowboard Club Vail,

I am writing to you all in regards to the Gold Peak expansion. I have been an athlete at Ski and Snowboard Club Vail since 2006. Throughout all my years at SSCV I have seen it change in countless ways. I remember riding up the chairlift with some of my ski buddies as a little six year old and we would always point up at the trees above the race arena and say "They almost made that a part of our training hill once too." While that was a while ago, and even since then, there has always been talk about doing so, I believe the time has come to actually take action in expanding Gold Peak. Ski and Snowboard Club Vail is growing rapidly, and becoming more and more popular, and will continue doing so for generations to come. While I am a FIS athlete, and I do almost always get lane space on Gold Peak, but I look back to the days we had to train on Giant Steps and Whippersnapper. Training on those runs were not ideal for us, they were not prepared for a course to be set in them, the snow was never in good shape and training on Giant Steps allowed us to only get about four runs in per session. Expanding Gold Peak would allow for all SSCV athletes to train on race prepped snow and a hill dedicated to SSCV and SSCV only, and not forcing us to move to other runs on Vail Mountain. This would also allow for faster runs, and all athletes would be able to watch and learn from each other if we are all put on the same hill. I believe expanding Gold Peak would be beneficial for all athletes at SSCV and taking action as soon as possible would allow for these positive changes for seasons to come.

Thank you for your time, and I hope this can be the new future for Ski and Snowboard Club Vail.

Sincerely,

Anneli Holm

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anneli Holm', with a stylized, cursive script.

May 14, 2018

Dear US Forest service,

As a snowboarder the GP expansion will not affect me entirely as the expanded land around gold peak will be used entirely to create more land that racers will be able to begin training on before previous years. However from the skiers standpoint these 42 acres of training ground will be game changing. More elevation, earlier process to make snow, nearly double the land for sscv training grounds, and a surface lift. The GP expansion will be game changing for sscv racing athletes, they will have more access to snow, more runs while they are on snow, and more time to start training. However this is all just a plan at the moment and they are looking for comments from the people ofvail to see if the general consensus is to go through with the expansion. This is something we do not see from vail very often and instead they will normally and go ahead with their plans without getting the public involved. This is helpful as everyone voice is heard and we become closer to a democracy in that way in our valley. I believe that the GP expansion would actually bring more revenue into the sscv club as more athletes get more time their skills increase and quickly behind that comes more publicity. The vail county would be smart to follow through with the GP expansion. However as a snowboard on the sscv snowboard team I would hope that they would use some of that new acreage for snowboard and freestyle skiing as there is very limited terrain for the slopestyle riders. If they opened up some terrain park features in the GP expansion snowboarders would be able to start training at their teams' home moutain much sooner rather than February like they did with the full size park this year.

Sincerely,

Nathan Panlilio

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nathan Panlilio', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Dear U.S. Forest Service,

My name is Casey Adams. I'm a member of Ski and Snowboard Club Vail, and I also attend Vail Ski and Snowboard Academy. I'm writing you to address the expansion of Gold Peak. The expansion of Gold Peak will be not only be a benefit to the athletes, but the community as a whole. Vail has been hosting international ski training since the 1963. With the exception of these events every fifteen years, ski racing is not continuously popular like it is in other countries. The expansion of Gold Peak will allow for Vail to become a more permanent destination for ski racing.

In technical terms, the 42 acre expansion will allow for many new opportunities during early and regular season. It will be higher elevation, allowing for colder temperatures to ensure durable snowmaking conditions. This will allow each program to train there early season, instead of traveling to Copper or Loveland and paying for lane space. The SSCV training space will nearly double in size allowing for SSCV to rent out lanes and stay on track with projected profits. In prior seasons these profits are lost, as athletes are forced to train elsewhere.

Personally, I am in favor for this expansion as it will meet all the requirements for international downhill races. I would definitely consider myself a "speed freak" as I love to go fast. With the current training venue, downhill and super-g training are very scarce, leaving SSCV to not pursue this type of skiing. Allowing more space will allow athletes to further their skills skiing speed. This will overall help with an athletes fear and technical ability.

Sincerely,

Casey Adams

Dear White River Forest Service,

My name is Max Bervy. I am a senior at the Vail Ski and Snowboard Academy and I am writing you today to express opinion towards the Gold Peak expansion project. It is true that there are arguments against the Gold Peak expansion, but I believe the benefits of it are much more impactful than any of the negatives. Providing this new terrain will allow skiers from all over the world to come to Vail during the early months of the snow year and get valuable training that is more prestige than any other mountain in the world. This new expansion will allow for a safer environment on the hill, where the hill organizers are not forced to cloud narrower parts of the hill with too many skiers or lanes. I believe that within years the profit made from the expansion will offset the deficits and only continue to attract world class skiers to the great valley of Vail. So yes, make this expansion happen, I truly believe everyone will be happy with the decision of the expansion, as I am eager to see the final decision made and the benefits that will come if it is approved.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Max Bervy III', written over the printed name.

Max Bervy III

Dear U.S. Forest Service,

If carried out, The Golden Peak Expansion Project will have a great impact on Ski Club Vail and the athletes involved.

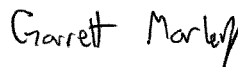
42 acres of trails dedicated specifically to the training athletes in the valley is a benefit for both athletes and the public. Athletes simply do not have to deal with the public interfering with training courses, which can be a considerable safety hazard. The public benefit by simply having more trails to ski. However, there is the question about the environment. Will it damage the natural habitat and wildlife? In general – yes. However, as the valley grows as a community, more and more people are here to ski, train and compete. The expansion will meet this demand and keep most of the people happy.

A surface lift rather than a chairlift is also great part of the plan. As stated in the Vail Daily articles, a surface lift greatly increases the number of laps one can do in a short period of time. This is crucial for getting the most out of one's time on the mountain when they are looking to effectively train. It will also have less noise pollution and be more appealing to look at than a cumbersome chairlift occasionally rising above the trees.

The simple change in elevation will also make a huge difference for training schedules. For those looking to get most out of the mountain, as nearly all coaches and athletes are, being able to start earlier in the year puts Vail ahead of many other teams in the country.

There are drawbacks to the project regarding the environment and preserving the history of Golden Peak, but this opportunity to update the training area for Ski Club Vail to accommodate for the increasing demand of athletes is too good to pass up.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Garrett Marley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping flourish extending upwards and to the right.

Garrett Marley

Vail Ski and Snowboard Academy Student-Athlete

Dear U.S. Forest Service,

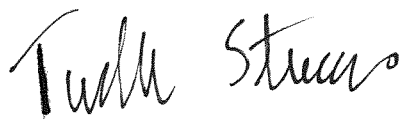
I am Tucker Strauch and I am writing to you to voice my support for the Golden Peak Expansion. I am currently a senior at the Vail Ski and Snowboard Academy and am an aspiring ski racer. I know that there are some people that strongly oppose the hill expansion but here are a few reasons why I think it is a great idea:

First, a hill expansion will bring in much more money to the club. By having an extended amount of training lane space available (especially in the early season), Ski and Snowboard Club Vail can rent out many more lanes to other clubs and the national ski teams. Other clubs renting our lane space is one of the large economic producers for the club and having more lane space available will significantly increase our income. A hill expansion will also create a long enough hill for a women's world-cup race. Another world cup in the Vail Valley will greatly increase tourism, and, therefore, strengthen our town infrastructure. Also, during large events such as the Burton U.S. Open, SSCV usually is forced to shut down most of the race arena, leading to teams having to train temporarily at Black Forest or Beaver Creek. This hill expansion will allow more training space to open so that when these large events come in, SSCV still has a place to train.

Another issue with having too small of a hill is that there are safety hazards. For example, when there are three Giant Slalom courses and a mogul course all set up on one hill, a collision is bound to occur. This is a serious problem and the hill expansion would allow SSCV to better spread out the different courses, so that we can minimize the risk of accident.

Thank you very much for your time,

Tucker Strauch

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tucker Strauch". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a small flourish at the end.

May 14, 2018

Dear U.S. Forest Service and Council Members,

The Gold Peak Expansion has been on the minds of many ever since Ski Club Vail starting growing in size. Especially, for the Alpine community at the club which has the most amount of athletes that are in need of more hill space. Yes, Alpine should get more space.

However, the area is created to provide more training room should and must be divided fairly to ensure moguls, freestyle, and snowboarding are all a part of the new grounds. There have and are many U.S. Freestyle Team members that have been with Vail since their early childhood which goes to prove that those teams should be seriously considered in getting more hill space (not just Alpine).

On another note, this expansion is not the most eco-friendly, but it is needed. People need to understand we are not cutting down the entire forest merely just parts of it to provide more room for dedicated young athletes on their way to achieving lifelong goals. To compensate for the loss in trees. The Ski Club Vail Community should be fully responsible for the cleanup and maintenance of the land being bought to them. There should be no trash anywhere on the hill space because the athletes and coaches owe it the land to provide to them what the land is serving to us. Once again, training space is needed and in the long run will produce the best athletes Vail has ever seen in the years to come.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Hannah Fallon', written in a cursive style.

Hannah Fallon

To whom it may concern,

As a NorAm team member of Ski and Snowboard Club Vail, I have been afforded the opportunities to train and race around the world. The biggest difference that I have found between the top performers and the rest is that of who gets the most training. While Vail is an incredible place with a nice race hill, we do not get the quick lap times that many other clubs have. It takes about 12 minutes per run of slalom, where at Steamboat they can get 3-4 slalom runs in 12 minutes. This is the same case at most East Coast and European academies. Expanding Golden Peak would give us the same opportunity that the top ski academies around the world have, on an even better hill.

Lap times are important, but another huge benefit to expanding Golden Peak is what it would do for our speed events, and the money it could bring through hosting more races. There are very few important races at Vail, and this is very disappointing. We have a very visible race course, and if expanded, we could host awesome events and bring more attention to ski racing. Also, SSCV has recently acquired the nickname "slalom club vail", and this because we have stopped putting any emphasis on speed events, which Americans tend to be most successful in. With this expansion, we would be able to have a legal downhill course where we could foster the skills of up and coming speed skiers.

Lastly, for almost two months SSCV has no access to the whole bottom portion of our hill, Main Arena, due to the Burton US Open. This leaves us with only BooBoo and Afterthought for all of SSCV. For two months we are forced into a tiny space, and there are several injuries as a result of too many people on such a small hill space. This really does not bode well for our training, but with the expansion of Golden Peak this would be far less of an issue.

The Golden Peak expansion would allow our club to finally make the jump needed to become the best ski club in the nation. The club has been fairly stagnant in the last few years, and this would be the tipping point to really begin making fast skiers. I fully support the Golden Peak expansion, but I also think for every tree we cut down, we should plant a seed somewhere else.

Thanks for listening,

Emma Hall (senior at the Vail Ski and Snowboard Academy)

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Emma Hall", with a stylized flourish at the end.

May 14, 2018

Dear National Forest Service,

My name is Wyatt Palmer and I am currently a senior at VSSA, this is 10th year at SSCV and I have personally been through the ups and downs in the ski club and the Gold Peak Expansion has always been a big topic of conversation. Now that it is in the final steps of either happening or not, I want you to know the benefits if this were to happen. Skiing is a community in this valley and we take much pride in our athletes that are either being developed to the athletes on the world stage in any skiing event.

First off we as athletes want to get the best training as possible to compete with other clubs and even in some special cases other nations. Due to limited room of training space on gold peak currently for all SSCV athletes it is hard to train on a daily basis. We as a club have grown in large numbers over the past couple years and training space is limited to the athletes due to the large growth in the program, as you may know tourists do not like racers due to the fact of high intensity laps and seem to get in their way. If the expansion did happen it would provide more training room and also spread athletes out across gold peak so we would not be such a negative downfall to Gold Peaks tourism and especially with the surface lift.

One of the biggest advantages would be the track and the surface lift, with the new track it could hold FIS legal Super G events with only three other mountains in the rocky region that can offer the same venue; Copper, Aspen Highlands and Beaver Creek. This would provide more income to the community due to lodging and other travel necessities of ski racers but will this not only attract FIS skiers. But mainly also providing a world class training track and a high speed turn around of lift time it would increase athletes volume of runs and create better skiers that could represent this community and valley.

It may seem a lot of work and an expensive process for the community but in the long run it will be a major profit to the valley and skiing community and we will respect the land we are skiing on because it will mean more than just another run it is the run where champions will ski and future champions will be developed and representing the Vail Valley on a world stage.

Sincerely,

Wyatt Palmer

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Wyatt Palmer', with a stylized, cursive script.

May 14, 2018

Dear US Forest Service,

Hello my name is Jacob Dilling and I have been athlete at Ski and Snowboard Club Vail since I can remember, and the Golden peak expansion would help me reach my goals as a ski racer. For example, dew to the higher altitude Ski and Snowboard Club Vail would be able to begin snowmaking much earlier in the season. If this were to happen my peers and i would be able to get on snow on our own hill before many other people in the nation, and this extra training would give us the upper hand going into our ski races. This hill expansion will also bring a lot of business to the Vail Valley because instead of ski racers traveling to other places around the world the would be traveling to our hometown. The early season training could also bring in many new jobs. For example, the snow making and the lift operators would be able to begin working much earlier than the would be able to if their was not early season training. Needless to say it would also provide jobs for the US Forest Service men and women whom would be helping expand the race venue. This expansion would help my family and many others save a lot of money when it comes to early season training. I would love the hill expansion, and it would create many new additions and benefit to the Vail Valley.

Sincerely,

Jacob Dilling

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jacob Dilling', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

PO Box 3462
Vail, CO 81658
May 6, 2018

Dear Golden Peak Proposal,

As an Alpine alumni of Ski and Snowboard Club Vail (SSCV), I do not support the expansion of Golden Peak. I understand out of most anyone the urge to cut down hundreds of beautiful aspens in order to have more training for speed events. However, I do not deem this expansion necessary or deserving. It is unnecessary due to the lack of Super G and Downhill that the athletes participate in. As a u19 FIS athlete, I did not compete in a single speed event this year. My fellow teammate requested to compete in these events and was denied. She was forced to train with other teams. The coaches and heads of SSCV, particularly Kirk Dwyer, John Hale, and Mark Smith do not support the athletes in this manner. If SSCV *really* wanted to have world class speed athletes, then we would be training on Birds of Prey, a World Cup venue that already exists.

Nonetheless, I am not saying that SSCV should not be upgraded. In fact, it needs to be. But not in a way of a fancy new clubhouse or 42 new acres of training. But in respect and equality towards all of the athletes. Not just the athletes who perform well at races, or have "lower points". Ski and Snowboard Club Vail exhibits high amounts of discrimination towards their athletes, and not just alpine athletes. The 42 acres is projected to also include a mogul course and a skier cross course, but why not focus on building a better park for the freeski and snowboard athletes (this would also attract more tourists and competitors in these events. The Burton US Open has a huge economical impact)? Those athletes drive everyday to go train at Copper, Breckenridge, etc. Why not focus on the Big Mountain athletes? Why not focus on more pay for Coaches? There are so many better ways to make training at Vail exceptional that do not require destroying the gorgeous environment many call home.

Overall, giving Vail more acreage for training in events that the head administrators discourage their athletes to partake in is ludicrous. SSCV has focused so much on trying to become the best club with the most amazing clubhouse and the most amazing training venue that they forgot why it was so amazing to begin with. Ski and Snowboard Club Vail is not "For the Kids" anymore.

Sincerely,
Grace Smith

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Grace Smith', with a stylized flourish at the end.