



May 29, 2018

Via electronic submission

Scott Fitzwilliams
c/o Max Forgensi
Mountain Sports Permit Administrator
White River National Forest
P.O. Box 190
Minturn, CO, 81645

RE: Beaver Creek Resort – McCoy Park Terrain Development

Dear Scott,

Beaver Creek respectfully submits these comments in response to the Notice of Opportunity to Comment on Beaver Creek's proposed McCoy Park Terrain Development (the "Project"). Beaver Creek commends the Forest Service for their work so far in reviewing the Project, and thanks the Forest Service for the opportunity to comment. We ask that these comments be added to the administrative record, and look forward to working with the Forest Service in the future.

Beaver Creek Resort is known for its family-friendly atmosphere and providing a relaxed and safe on-mountain experience for all who visit. Over the last five years, our skier visits have grown approximately 10 percent. Many of these visitors are beginner, novice, or low-intermediate skiers. Although Beaver Creek is a recognized industry leader in providing premier terrain for all skier skill levels, the recreational experience at Beaver Creek would be improved by providing additional terrain for new and beginner skiers to learn in an engaging environment, with high-quality snow conditions. The Project will meet that need. McCoy Park is located apart from busier, more advanced terrain and is an ideal teaching area for new and beginner skiers. The high-elevation location and north and northwest exposure ensure dependable high-quality snow conditions that will delight skiers. Beaver Creek urges the Forest Service to adopt the Proposed Alternative.

Beaver Creek worked hard with the Forest Service to identify the Proposed Alternative to provide expanded winter recreational opportunities in a manner that minimizes impacts on forest and biological resources. Beaver Creek has committed to complying with best management practices (BMPs) to ensure that construction and maintenance activities are conducted to minimize environmental impacts. The White River National Forest Plan allocated the affected lands to skiing at Beaver Creek, and the Project is consistent with Beaver Creek's 2010 Master Development Plan, as well as Forest Service Forest Plan standards and guidelines.

The Project will avoid and minimize ground disturbance and has been planned to avoid and minimize potential impacts on elk, Canada lynx, raptors, and greenback cutthroat trout in McCoy Creek. Beaver Creek has committed to halt construction and maintenance activities during elk calving and calf rearing periods, and will conduct multi-year stream and vegetation surveys following construction to ensure that environmental health is maintained. Ground disturbance will be mitigated by a 1:1 tree restoration project. Aside from periodic and necessary maintenance, Beaver Creek proposes no organized summer use of McCoy Park, avoiding impacts to wildlife during active summer periods.



The proposed Project will provide new and complementary recreation opportunities aimed at fun and safe experiences for kids and families while minimizing impacts to the environment. In addition to the lift-served downhill skiing terrain, we are equally excited to be able to provide a new and enhanced Nordic and snowshoe trail system around the periphery of the McCoy Park bowl. Beaver Creek appreciates the efforts of the Forest Service in reviewing and guiding this Project, and thanks the Forest Service in advance for its work preparing the Environmental Assessment. Beaver Creek urges the Forest Service to adopt the Proposed Alternative in its current form. We look forward to working with you and your staff on this Project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Beth Howard".

Beth Howard
Vice President and Chief Operating Officer
Beaver Creek