

June 15, 2028

Scott Fitzwilliams, White River National Forest Supervisor
c/o TJ Broom, Mountain Sports - Special Uses Program Lead
White River National Forest
Aspen-Sopris Ranger District
620 Main Street, Carbondale, CO 81623

Re: Aspen Mountain Pandora Development and Summit Snowmaking Projects
Proponent Aspen Skiing Company's Initial Comments and Reservation of Standing to Object

Dear Messrs. Fitzwilliams and Broom:

Aspen Skiing Company ("ASC") has submitted project proposals, together with supporting information, concerning the development of ski terrain, ski resort infrastructure and expanded snowmaking on the summit of Aspen Mountain commonly known as the Aspen Mountain Pandora Development and Summit Snowmaking Projects.

To date, ASC has not seen or received preliminary information, specialists' analyses, reports, or resource assessments, nor have drafts of an Environmental Assessment or its component parts, including alternatives, proposed mitigations, conclusions, design criteria, or other conditions been fully prepared and distributed by the Forest Service.

ASC therefore submits only general subject matter comments at this point in time and specifically reserves its rights and standing to submit further comment upon the release of a draft E.A. and/or should it be necessary, to object to a draft E.A. and Decision Notice pursuant to the provisions of the Code of Federal Regulations and in particular 36 C.F.R. part 218.

Public and referral agency comments and discussions have been varied to this point in the review process, but in particular water supply and discharge issues have been noted as an area of interest for environmental assessment and analysis. ASC has submitted a supplemental report to the Forest Service, *Snowmaking Water Availability Analysis*, dated May 23, 2018, prepared by Resource Engineering, Inc. ASC has also discussed and provided copies of this report to the City of Aspen and will provide a copy to the County as part of the local jurisdiction's master plan and project review process. The report concludes that sufficient water is available to meet proposed snowmaking water needs without jeopardizing minimum stream flow requirements or municipal needs through the City's projected build-out in 2065. Resource Engineering, under sub-contract to SE Group, is also preparing an analysis of water discharge and storm water management impacts and control measures. ASC has not yet seen or been privy to this analysis or its conclusions, but believes issues of water supply and discharge can be adequately met and/or mitigated in all regards with respect to the proposed projects.

Acknowledging that a small portion of the proposed ski area terrain is currently designated Management Area 7.1 - Intermix under the White River National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan ("the Forest Plan") and that the Forest Plan would require reallocation of these affected lands to Management Area 8.25 – Ski Areas (Existing and Potential), ASC appreciates the Forest Service's desire to achieve no net increase of the SUP area, but notes that these areas have just recently

been ground surveyed and no discussions have yet taken place with the Forest Service as to exact SUP boundary adjustments. Clarification and legal description of the proposed SUP boundary adjustments should be undertaken by ASC as permit holder and the Forest Service to define and confirm the contemplated land reallocation.

ASC appreciates this opportunity to comment and looks forward to receiving additional information regarding the scoping and analysis currently being conducted by the Forest Service, its specialists and contractors.

Regards,

Aspen Skiing Company



David G. Corbin

Senior Vice President – Planning & Development

cc: Travis Beck, SE Group
Rana Dershowitz, ASC
Mike Kaplan, ASC