

To: Steamboat Ski Area Project  
**% Erica Dickerman**  
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**8/10/2020**

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Greetings, Erica -

Please consider the following concerns during the analysis of the ski area project:

If any other current, past or future environmental analysis considers bike park trails filling a need, those trails need to be operational the 100 days per season specified in the ski areas operating permit. If for any reason those trails are not accessible to the public via chair lift and/or gondolas that are operational, then the general public should be able to access the trails via existing or new roads or a special permit should be issued for the purpose of shuttling users to those trails. This will encourage the ski area permit holder to maintain access to all user groups and not use their finances to make an excuse for not being able to afford to load bikes on the gondola.

It appears that in the ski area permit in regards to the bike park that those trails are not USFS assets and they should not be considered in any needs assessment as they have VERY limited public access as seen in the past few years. There are other private properties in the area that offer far more significant public access than the bike park trails at the ski area. Unfortunately, those other properties do not serve the diverse cycling community.

The already approved miles in the ski area permit boundary should be focused on the summit in the sunshine area with bike access on the new proposed wild blue gondola and other chairs in the area. These trails should be USFS trails and they should connect to the larger USFS network both towards the Buff Pass area and the Rabbit Ears Pass area.

All current and future proposed trails within and connecting to the ski area should consider allowing ebikes Class I and Class III. If after a trial period there is little negative additional environmental impact then Class II and Class IV should be considered. Ebikes have already been approved for use on USFS public lands under the special use permit. I believe that the USFS ski area special use permit area is the appropriate place to allow the general public to use since the ski area tried them with a paid guide service and to my knowledge there were no documented issues. If there were issues, USFS should work with local advocates to address issues and continue to monitor their use by the general public, not only those hiring bike park ebike guides to accompany them.

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