



OFFICE OF THE TOWN MANAGER

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May 14, 2026

Chad Stewart, Forest Supervisor
Scott Spielman, Recreation Manager
USDA, Forest Service, Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forests
Re: Telski Improvements Proposed Action, May 2025

Sent via email to TellurideSkiEA@segroun.com; scott.spielman@usda.gov

To Whom it May Concern:

The Town of Mountain Village strongly supports the application submitted by Telluride Ski and Golf toward implementing much needed upgrades and resort improvements. These upgrades, if implemented with thoughtful planning and careful execution, will be a great benefit to the resort, the Town and its residents, employees, and visitors. Please consider the following comments in regard to resort operations and improvements plan.

Forestry

The tethered logging project as described seems like a reasonable approach to removing large quantities of fuel. It will be important to verify how felled Douglas fir trees will be handled to manage Douglas fir beetles. Debarking any felled Douglas fir trees is an excellent way to prevent spreading Douglas fir beetles if done immediately because it destroys their breeding and overwintering habitat. How is TSG managing Douglas fir trees to prevent spreading Douglas fir beetles during forestry operations?

Parking

In reviewing the existing county standards for parking required for ski resorts, the current requirement appears to be one space per three (3) potential users of the facility at maximum capacity plus one (1) space per every three (3) employees. The 2017 master development plan lists the maximum capacity of the ski resort at 8,230 guests and estimated number of employees was unclear. Per county guidelines there would consequently be 2,743 required parking spaces for guests. Adding an estimating 1,500 ski resort employees in the height of the ski season would result in an additional 500 parking spaces for employees. We are not aware if the forest service has different requirements for ski resorts.

The 2017 plan shows a total of 3,594 spaces, almost none of which is owned by the resort. This includes, per the 2017 plan, 1,490 public parking spaces in the Town of Telluride and Town of Mountain Village.

This also includes hotel parking spaces in both towns, condominium parking spaces in Mountain Village, and employee housing parking. Some portion of each of these could be utilized as meeting parking requirements, since ski guests and employees occupy a portion of these units. There are also an unknown number of parking spaces associated with short-term rentals that are occupied by ski visitors.

It is important to note that only the public parking spaces are available to both day users of the resort and commuting employees of both the resort and all business within the combined towns. A closer look at the 1,490 public spaces described in the 2017 plan shows that half or more of the listed spaces cannot be used by day skiers or employees commuting in from other towns. This includes 300-400 spaces used by residents, 78 spaces that are limited to one hour, and over 300 units on lots that are slated for redevelopment.

In summary, realistically we have around 700 public parking spaces available for day skiers and commuters, with 80% of those owned and operated by the Town of Mountain Village at considerable taxpayer expense. Not surprisingly we experience several days each year where our public lots overflow and we either must turn visitors and commuters away or locate them on the street, in violation of Town policies.

It may be prudent that, as part of this USFS application to update ski area amenities and improvements, updating available parking data and plans should be provided.

Restaurants

Careful understanding of how water and waste facilities are provided should be more clearly identified as part of this plan, particularly for additional facilities on mountain.

Summary

The Town of Mountain Village was founded by the original ski area owners. Our town's success is tied to the success of the ski area. We wholeheartedly support improvements and plan that enhance and improve the ski area.

Sincerely,



on behalf of the Town of Mountain Village,
Michelle Bulson
Interim Town Manager