Data Submitted (UTC 11): 6/11/2021 6:51:56 PM
First name: Kathleen
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Organization: Coalition for the Canyon
Title:
Comments: To Whom It May Concern:
We are hereby voicing our objections to the proposed ski area expansion outlined in the Steamboat Resort Improvements Project #58336, specifically the expansion into Fish Creek Canyon and Pioneer Ridge.

As a community, we believe the Environmental Assessment represents an improper overview of environmental impacts, a truncated review of alternatives; a lack of meaningful analysis on secondary and cumulative long-term impacts; substantial and potentially unacceptable impacts to the Burgess Creek drainage; and insufficient details on mitigation to compensate for unavoidable impacts on the environment.

As such, we have compiled a response to the SSRC EIS outlining the negative impact the proposed Pioneer / Fish Creek expansion will have on the surrounding ecosystem and community as a whole. Colorado Parks and Wildlife as well as the EPA both wrote letters against this expansion. Further, the petition we set up had over 500 signatures in a matter of days. The expansion makes no sense to anyone who lives in the community. Expanding into an area which has multiple species threatened by any further development is clearly an act against sustainability.

Can we honestly say that Mr. Bacon's response that the affected animals will have sufficient habitat is true when the ski area has had to put up numerous signs warning their clients about them? Isn't it obvious that this is their preferred territory and they are not leaving? When is it enough?

Further, from a community standpoint, increasing human traffic deeper into the surrounding backcountry of the existing ski area will only lead to more rescues. This greatly impacts the resources of Search and Rescue, the NFS, and other community resources.

Based on the data supplied by the ski area, we are not convinced that SSRC cannot accomplish its growth goals within its existing footprint and should look to alternatives for any type of expansion to meet clientele needs.

We have identified several groups who will fight this expansion by legal means if necessary, money is no object. We hope the resort comes to it senses and looks at other ways of addressing clientele needs.
Sincerely,
The Collation for the Canyon