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Organization: Vail Summit Resorts, Inc.

Title: COO

Comments: February 2, 2023

Via electronic submission

Scott Fitzwilliams

c/o Sarah Strehle

Dillon Ranger District

White River National Forest

680 Blue River Parkway

Silverthorne, CO 80498-0620

RE: 5-Chair Lift Replacement at Breckenridge Ski Resort

Dear Scott:

Breckenridge Ski Resort (BSR) submits these comments in response to the Forest Service's scoping notice for BSR's proposed 5-Chair Lift Replacement Project (Project). BSR thanks the Forest Service for the opportunity to comment and asks that these comments be added to the administrative record.

BSR is known for its world class four-season recreational opportunities, including one of the premier ski and snowboard experiences in North America, and is a recognized industry leader in providing premier terrain for all skier and rider skill levels. Consequently, BSR is one of the most visited ski resorts in North America. The Colorado and Rocky Mountain SuperChairs and Rip's Ride, which provide access to Peak 8 terrain, are often at capacity during peak times on weekends and high-visitation days. Accordingly, the recreational experience at Breckenridge would be improved by providing additional out-of-base lift capacity, and the Project will meet that need, thus reducing wait times and congestion for guests accessing Peak 8 terrain. Moreover, the Project's planned lift replacement will improve guest circulation, further reducing congestion in the base area, while allowing skiers and riders to more easily access the appropriate out of base lifts and improving skier and rider flow between Peaks 8 and 9. The upgraded infrastructure will improve the guest experience, especially for lower ability level skiers and riders, and it will also improve summer operations, occurring primarily on private lands. Finally, the small children's restroom located on Forest Service land will improve the experience of Ski and Ride School guests.

BSR worked with the Forest Service to design the Project to improve the guest experience, while avoiding and minimizing impacts on forest and biological resources. Wetlands and botanical resources in the Project area have been surveyed, and the Project has been designed to avoid disturbing them. Ground disturbance will also be minimized by using existing access roads to access and construct the project. Finally, project-associated drainage improvements will protect downstream water resources on Forest Service and private lands.

The Project will occur in an area that experiences extensive human activity. The White River National Forest Plan allocated the affected lands to BSR, and the Project is within BSR's special use permit and existing lift-served terrain. The Project area has also been analyzed in numerous environmental reviews under the National Environmental Policy Act, including the 2015 Multi-Season Recreation Projects Environmental Impact Statement. The Project is consistent with BSR's 2022 Master Development Plan, as well as Forest Service Forest Plan standards and guidelines, and BSR does not anticipate that the Project will increase peak day visitation.

In sum, the Project will meet a critical need to reduce congestion and wait times at the Peak 8 portal and will improve the guest experience, especially for Ski and Ride School guests. BSR appreciates the efforts of the Forest Service in reviewing and guiding this Project and looks forward to continuing to work with you and your

staff.

Respectfully,

Jody Churich

COO

Breckenridge Ski Resort

Cc: Adam Bianchi, Dillon Ranger District