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Comments: Posted on <https://cara.ecosystem-management.org/Public/CommentInput?Project=47937>

and

By e-mail to: [mforgensi@fs.fed.us](mailto:mforgensi@fs.fed.us)

Scott Fitzwilliams

c/o Max Forgens

Mountain Sports/Special Uses Administrator

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In re: Golden Peak Draft EIS, Golden Peak Improvements Project

Dear Messrs Fitzwilliams and Forgens,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Golden Peak Improvements Project. My comment is in support of the Project.

1. Positive impact on skier traffic and safety.

I am a Mountain Host volunteer at Vail Resort. In that capacity I am directly involved in the "skier traffic management" on Vail Mountain. I am familiar with the time-of-day movement of the skiing public and with bottle necks and choke points on the mountain. The Golden Peak Improvements Project will have positive impact on skier traffic. The expansion will

- \*reduce congestion within the current ski racing training venue(s)

- \*alleviate restrictions during periods such as the Burton Open or prior to full mountain operation which cause congestion

- \*provide improved safety in training

- \*the improvement of safety will most significantly impact the younger athletes for whom collision with "big people" can be dangerous

- \*consolidate training on Golden Peak and reduce use of other trails on Vail Mountain such as Cookshack, Black Forest, and Whippersnapper, which are currently used for training

- \*will reduce congestion on Chairlift No. 6 with athletes spread out on the existing lower training area and upper expansion.

- \*will provide additional training space needed during the preparation and actual Burton Open event which involves a significant amount of time during the course of the winter.

2. Positive impact on Vail Valley youth.

The Ski (and Snowboard) Club of Vail (SSCV) was the first not-for-profit organization in the Vail Valley and has seen significant growth in membership since inception commensurate with the population growth of the Vail Valley. Current membership is approximately at 650 with the majority youth residing in the Vail Valley. So this initiation will positively impact Vail Valley youth providing for SSCV athletes training "at home" during the early and late seasons.

3. The Ski and Snowboard Club Vail has the operating experience and has a proven good record of responsible stewardship and contribution to the local economy.

The Club will expertly take advantage of the higher elevation, allowing for more efficient snow making early in the

year. There will be more assurance for international teams and other teams throughout the United States being able to train at Vail early in the season which provides additional revenues for area businesses during the historically slow period for hotels and restaurants.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

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