

Scott Fitzwilliams
Forest Supervisor
c/o Max Forgensi
Mountain Sports/Special Uses Administrator
White River National Forest
PO Box 190
Minturn, CO 81645

Chalet 1
Northwoods
600 Vail Valley Drive
Vail, CO 81657

RE: Comments on Golden Peak Improvements Project DEIS

Dear Supervisor Fitzwilliams:

I have been an owner of a home in Northwoods since 1989. While I am currently on the Board of the Northwoods Condominium Association (NCA), I am writing as a concerned owner (and not on behalf of the NCA which is submitting its own comments) to comment on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed expansion of the Vail mountain ski racing course, with parts of the expanded terrain directly above Northwoods.

I have reviewed the findings by the firm CTL/Thompson, Inc which was hired by the NCA to analyze for potential hazards caused by the proposed expansion and if adequate measures are being employed to prevent these hazards from causing any catastrophic damage to Northwoods. I wish to incorporate that report and its findings by reference to my comments. In several sections of this report, the findings suggest that the potential for catastrophic damage to Northwoods is heightened by the added water runoff due to snow making and snow storage activities. When a warm spring causes a rapid snow melt, the added water runoff from snow making and snow storage is problematic for Northwoods. Not only am I concerned about the heightened risk of catastrophic damage but also about the potential for this to affect owners' property values. The records show that each year the temperatures are warmer thereby enhancing these risks.

I'd like to know that either the activities that are causing these heightened risks are going to be curtailed or moved or that material mitigation will be required to address these risks. The CTL/Thompson, Inc findings suggest that one of these actions will be required to protect Northwoods and its owners.

Thank you for your time and I look forward to your response. Please add my name and email address to the list of Interested Publics.

Richard Michaux 
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