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First name: Kaia

Last name: Borgen Moritz

Organization: Borgen Family Foundation

Title: Trustee

Comments: Dear Mr. Fitzwilliams,

I am writing to offer my support for the approval of the Golden Peak Improvement Project.

My family and I have been members of the Vail Community for 50 years and participants in Ski and Snowboard Club Vail (SSCV) since the 1980s when the athlete numbers averaged around 150. Over the past 30 years, SSCV has experienced robust growth commensurate with the increase in the Eagle County population. Virtually every institution and organization in this valley has experienced this same growth followed by the need to update existing facilities to deliver quality services and programming. This is true of the hospital, the various recreation and metro districts as well as the Eagle County School District.

Ski and Snowboard Club Vail is the oldest non-profit organization in Eagle County and started by the very same pioneers who had the vision to put a ski area at the base of the Gore Range. Over the course of the past five decades, SSCV has impacted the lives of over 12,000 children and their families; hundreds of coaches; and inspired our community with world-class athletes like Mikaela Shiffrin and Lindsey Vonn. The lessons of goal setting and hard work have helped launched the aspirations of doctors, attorneys, inventors, community activists and entrepreneurs, many of whom still call Eagle County home. Ski and Snowboard Club Vail is not a private interest; SSCV is a community institution with youth development at the core of its three-prong mission. CHARACTER. COURAGE. COMMITMENT.

When I was a child and teenager racer at SSCV, Golden Peak was my second home. That still holds true today but for a much greater number of Eagle County children. On any given day these kids, some as young as 6, are jockeying for space with the Burton Open, Battle Mountain High School Ski Team, Vail Mountain School Alpine and Tele Team, Vail Devo Team, race events organized through 3rd parties, the Children's Ski School and the ticket-holding public. Crowding everyone onto the same acreage that worked in the 1980s (and 60s & 70s) is no longer safe or efficient. The addition of a surface-lift and trails will help disburse the existing Golden Peak traffic, not increase it. This safety and buffering is in the interest of all parties involved.

The balance between responsible development and conservation is always a tricky balance.

The Borgen and Moritz families have supported many environmental causes and organizations in this beloved valley and throughout Colorado. In the case of Golden Peak, we believe the benefit derived for many generations to come outweighs the visual or ecological impact. The National Forests are a treasured asset - what greater use than to create a venue that will be used to teach our children appreciation for the outdoors, a love of sport and the core values that fuel this unique mountain community.

With appreciation,

Kaia Borgen Moritz