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Comments: As a Vail resident and as the father of 4 SSCV athletes, I would like to express my strong support for the Golden Peak expansion project.

The purpose of this project is to expand the training terrain available to local athletes. Given the significant increase in the number of SSCV athletes since the establishment of the training facility some 30+ years ago, the training arena has become highly congested. Often times there are four training courses next to each other to accommodate the number of athletes training at a given time. And even in these situations, there are groups of athletes unable to train. Aggravating the matter, about one third of the venue is closed for about half of the season due to the Burton US Open.

With these constraints on the Golden Peak training arena, SSCV and other local teams need to use other trails at Vail (Whipper Snapper, Black Forest, and Cookshack) and Beaver Creek (Bear Trap). This has increased the interaction of the skiing public with SSCV athletes and other local clubs, which at times has been disruptive. The Golden Peak expansion would significantly reduce the need for SSCV to use these other venues, which in turn improves the quality of Vail's guest experience and enhances the quality of training for SSCV athletes.

Importantly, the Golden Peak expansion project will reduce congestion on Golden Peak. SSCV does not plan to increase significantly the number of athletes in its programs. So, a similar number of athletes will be spread out across a much larger venue. Moreover, since there will be a new lift serving the upper portion of Golden Peak, athletes training on this upper section will not be returning to the base of Golden Peak after each run, which will lessen the traffic at the base of Golden Peak.

In addition, this project should not materially impact parking or road traffic. Again, SSCV does not plan to increase its membership significantly. Rather, SSCV needs additional terrain to serve its kids' training needs more safely and effectively.

In closing, I strongly urge the Forest Service to approve this important project - so that SSCV and other clubs can better serve the kids of Vail valley, giving them the opportunity to develop the character and confidence to succeed in life.