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Organization: SSCV

Title:

Comments: I write in support of the Golden Peak Expansion Project.

My understanding is Ski and Snowboard Club Vail is the oldest not-for-profit organization in the Vail Valley. Club membership has grown from 150 members to currently number over 600. Our club predominantly serves Vail Valley youth engaged in snowsports. We provide over \$300,000 in financial aid annually.

Expansion of the current training area is necessary and desired to provide adequate (and safe) training space for area youth participating in snowsports. It will make for a safer training environment, reduce use of other areas on Vail Mountain such as Black Forest, Whippersnapper, and Cookshack thereby consolidating training on Gold Peak. It is also highly desired to provide the level of quality training necessary for the club to achieve it's vision of being a leading youth development organization in the community and the premier snow sports club in the world. Please read the comments posted by Mikaela Shiffrin in her letter supporting this initiative.

The planning for this project has taken place over many years and the time has come for these improvements be made. The membership growth in SSCV is closely associated with the growth of the Vail Valley and space which was once appropriate is now inadequate. It is important to keep in mind this project primarily will benefit area youth.

The training on Gold Peak in November brings international teams to Vail and provides revenue to area businesses during a period of little activity.

There have been concerns expressed regarding increased traffic but there are no plans at this time to increase SSCV membership numbers. The expansion will relieve congestion on the hill and should not increase vehicular traffic.

The project has been significantly reduced in scope from the original plan with only one new lift currently planned rather than the original three. There also has been a commensurate decrease in acreage which will be cleared. Vail Resorts has taken measures to address the concerns regarding erosion in a proactive and effective manner.

There is not any valid reason why the current finish area would need to be expanded as it currently meets the needs of top level competitions including speed events. There have also been concerns regarding increased congestion at the base of Lift Six but the expansion would provide for more training to take place on the trails and lift higher on Golden Peak thus reducing congestion.

In closing I strongly encourage support of this project. I'd also like to express appreciation to the Forest Service for the well organized and deliberate process including public involvement.

Sincerely,  
Kirk Dwyer