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Comments: We have concerns about water quality impacts to local streams within and downstream of the project area as a result of the proposed development. Some streams in the area are already impaired. We also have concerns about unstable soils and the impacts this proposed project may have on those soils. We note that this project represents an intense modification of the project area. It involves extensive management actions, not only to create the new training facilities but also to maintain those for the long-term. We hope that the USFS will consider extensive BMPs to ensure valuable resources in the area are protected. Important resources include wildlife, water quality and quantity, soils, scenery, and others.

Another issue deserving consideration is that the USFS is contemplating approval of a project to improve and expand snowbased recreation on public lands. Yet the project involves intensive development and maintenance activities with potentially substantial climate-related impacts. New lifts, snowmaking machines, pipelines and booster stations, as well as increased grooming and new on-mountain diesel storage facilities all suggest that this project will involve significant use of fossil fuels. The emissions from these activities should be disclosed, considered and mitigated to the extent possible. After all, the project is intended to ensure a better experience for racers and skiers at Vail Mountain for the long-term.