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Comments: To call the plan to go to the top of Gold Peak an expansion is a bit of a misnomer, it's really the completion. The original plan called for two lifts to serve Gold Peak, the clearing for the profile of the upper lift is still visible today. The plan changed when they came up with the idea of serving the bottom of Prima with what was known as South Six.

While longevity doesn't always spell insight it does imply a certain amount of commitment. It's been my privilege to spend almost fifty years skiing and competing on Gold Peak, first as a junior ski racer and then as a parent.

During the sixteen years I spent on the SSCV Board of Directors we were in fact always two years away from completing the project. To be at this stage in the process is truly exciting.

I support the Gold Peak completion for the following reasons:

SAFETY

The Freestyle training area on Cook Shack mixes athletes with the public above and below the venue in an area that is congested to begin with. Bringing those athletes back to Gold Peak will be safer for all involved.

Events such as the Burton Open presently necessitate the use of Giant Steps for Alpine training, again mixing athletes and public above and below the training area. temporary training venues are not protected as completely as the permanent areas at Gold Peak, adding to risk for the athlete that may go off course.

FIS HOMOLOGATION

Over the years ski racing has moved from Vail to Beaver Creek and the former finish area in the village has been filled with Gondola One and the Mountain Plaza building. The completion will allow for the vertical drop needed to host World Cup events in Vail once again.

EXCELLENCE

While the training area as it exists now is one of the best in the country, it can be better. The planned improvements will make Gold Peak one of the best training venues in the world.

COMMUNITY BENEFIT

Early season training will improve and bring additional athletes to town in November, an otherwise very quiet time in town. The international teams that come to train spend money and help put Vail and Colorado on the map at the right time of the year.

In closing I might add that the completion of Gold Peak will be a lasting benefit for generations of athletes to come.

