

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 5/2/2017 5:35:02 AM

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Title:

Comments: In regards to the Golden Peak expansion as proposed by the USFS seems to adequately address the need for an expansion that would benefit the racing community. There are many reasons that an expansion on Golden Peak would greatly enhance that particular community. Future International racing events, that have presently been located in Beaver creek, would now be able to be hosted on Vail mountain which would no doubt help support the economy of Vail. The identified areas of conflict with the recreational skier will seemingly be mitigated for the time being, but it only seems logical to assume that these areas would continue to be used when Golden Peak was not available.

My family came to the Vail Valley in it's early years and Golden Peak has always held a special place in our families enjoyment of the mountain. The biggest concern I have about the expansion would be the visual loss of the front side of Vail Mountain. Golden Peak has always stood out as a natural feature that enhances the beauty of the Vail Valley and the surrounding mountains. The golden waves of quaking aspens in the fall on an undisturbed mountain top overlooking the Vail Valley is something that so many people have cherished and appreciated throughout the history of Vail. We should all carefully understand the cost of development of this beautiful mountain to yet another ski run which could be visual loss to the community. It is my hope that the community of interested users as well as the USFS will weigh out the benefits to the seasonal interest of ski racing versus the long term visual loss to the Vail community during the seasons that follow.

Thank you for your consideration,

Buck Elliott