

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 4/11/2018 6:43:24 PM

First name: Kaia

Last name: Borgen Moritz

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Mr. Fitzwilliams,

I am writing to offer my support for the approval of the Golden Peak Improvement Project.

My family and I have been members of the Vail Community for 50 years and participants in Ski and Snowboard Club Vail (SSCV) since the 1980s when the athlete numbers averaged around 150. Over the past 30 years, SSCV has experienced robust growth commensurate with the increase in the overall Eagle County population. Virtually every institution and organization in this valley has experienced this same growth closely followed by the need to update existing facilities to continue to deliver quality services and programming. This is true of the Vail hospital, the various recreation and metro districts as well as the Eagle County School District.

Ski and Snowboard Club Vail is the oldest non-profit organization in Eagle County and started by the very same pioneers who had the vision to put a ski area at the base of the Gore Range. Over the course of the past five decades, SSCV has impacted the lives of over 15,000 children and their families; hundreds of coaches; and inspired our community with world-class athletes like Mikaela Shiffrin and Lindsey Vonn. The lessons of goal setting and hard work have helped launched the aspirations of doctors, attorneys, inventors, community activists and entrepreneurs, many of whom still call Eagle County home. Ski and Snowboard Club Vail is not a private interest for a small group of elite families; SSCV is a youth development institution that serves 700 youth every season with a three-prong mission. CHARACTER. COURAGE. COMMITMENT. The proposed enhancements will positively affect future generations of young people in our valley by nurturing a love of outdoor living and cultivating the values that fuel this unique mountain community.

When I was a child and teenager racer at SSCV, Golden Peak was my second home. That still holds true today for our young club members. On any given day these kids, some as young as 6, are jockeying for space with the Burton Open preparation, World Cup teams, University teams, local high school teams, Vail Devo Team, race events organized through 3rd parties, the Children's Ski School and the ticket-holding public. Crowding everyone onto the same acreage that worked in the 1980s (and 60s & 70s) is no longer safe or efficient. The addition of a surface-lift and trails will help decrease the existing skier traffic on Chair 6 and Chair 2, not increase it. This safety and buffering is in the interest of all parties involved.

The balance between responsible development and conservation always straddles a fine line. The Borgen and Moritz families have supported many environmental causes and organizations in this beloved valley and throughout Colorado. We trust the National Forest Service will perform the necessary due-diligence in order to mitigate and address any environmental concerns associated with the project. Therefore, we offer our support and hope the project is approved without further delay.

With appreciation,
Kaia Borgen Moritz