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First name: Carl

Last name: Luppens

Organization: Nordic Land Company

Title:

Comments: The Vail Gold Peak expansion is very important to enhance recreation use for children. The expanded ski run is virtually adjacent to a major interstate highway and a very dense urban area. It is appropriate to concentrate high intensity use like this in such an area. The expansion is essential for ski racer safety.

We have donated 1,000's of acres of conservation habitat that is significant elk calving grounds in the SE corner of the Flattops. Ski runs do not harm wildlife and the resulting open areas improve elk, lynx, hare and other animal's habitat immensely.

The pine beetle debacle has shown that we must divide up forested areas for long term health.

We are back-county skiers, mountaineers, hikers, campers, horsemen etc. and can use the remote areas but most people only use the National forest where it is proximate to the urban interface, like in ski areas. Please expand the opportunities for healthy recreation for children. As you probably know, Nordic and Alpine racers are consistently great students, great citizens and very responsible. They are some of the better young people out there.