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Comments: I write in support of the Golden Peak Expansion.

This project benefits the youth of the Vail Valley. SSCV is the oldest not-for-profit in the Vail Valley and has seen growth in membership from approximately 150 in the mid-eighties to over 650 members at present. The majority of membership is area youth.

I have read through all the letters in support and opposition. One concern is increased congestion. The expansion will actually reduce congestion. It will spread out the training currently occurring on Gold Peak with the additional surface lift being utilized. It will bring the Moguls program to Gold Peak from the current training site on Cookshack, this will allow for public utilization of that trail and greatly enhance our Moguls program which produced four Olympians in 2018. The expansion will also shift SSCV use of other trails such as Black Forest and Whippersnapper. So the expansion benefits the public and reduces congestion on public trails and Chair Six. Reducing congestion is one of the most significant benefits of this project. Not only will this provide for more space for the public on trails currently used and reduce congestion on Chair Six but importantly will reduce congestion within the current training venue associated with the five-fold growth in SSCV membership over thirty years and restrictions due to weeks associated with the Burton Open preparation and actual event. Reducing the congestion of the main training venue most significantly benefits the younger children involved.

The amount of acreage involved in the expansion has been cited. Over time the scope of the expansion has been greatly reduced in scale eliminating a chairlift and significantly reducing the amount of clearing involved. This reduced scope also helps to address the concerns regarding erosion and run off. With the current project there is only one surface lift involved which reduces the visual impact.

The higher elevation of the expansion coupled with state of the art snowmaking will allow for greater assurance of early and late season operation. This addresses comments regarding recent warming trends with weather as it provides for more efficient snowmaking leveraging the windows of colder temperature during those periods. This expansion will provide greater assurance to teams from the US and other countries to train at Vail during the early season period when this makes a positive impact on local hotels and restaurants. It also will allow for the majority of SSCV athletes to train close at home and thus provides a positive educational impact during the early and late seasons.

Snowsports and Vail are inextricably associated. The Golden Peak expansion supports involvement by Vail Valley youth wintersports and are necessary for us to strive to be the best.

We are appreciative for the thoughtful and thorough process of the USFS review. Constructive comments during the period have led to healthy discussion and revision of the project. Representing SSCV I thank all who have communicated support and constructive concerns. Thank-you to the Forest Service and Vail Resorts staff involved in this process. This is a project which has been envisioned and worked on for over thirty years.