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First name: Brian

Last name: Nolan

Organization: Beaver Creek Merchants Association

Title: President

Comments:

Scott Fitzwilliams, Forest Supervisor

c/o Max Forgensi, Mountain Sports Permit Administrator

White River National Forest

P.O. Box 190

Minturn, CO, 81645

Dear Mr. Fitzwilliams and Mr. Forgensi:

I am writing on behalf of the Beaver Creek Merchants Association in favor of Forest Service approval of Beaver Creek Resort's McCoy Park Terrain Development proposal.

Most of us are longtime merchants here and we have always been very proud of our strong working relationship with Vail Resorts to ensure we provide a world-class family experience. Beaver Creek has been consistently rated as one of the top family-oriented ski areas in the country, demonstrated by growth in skier visits over the last five years by about 10 percent, with record skier visits in three of the past five seasons.

On the heels of Vail Resorts recently investing in the hugely successful Red Buffalo Park ski zone this winter, it is to be commended that they are further investing in the creation of lift-served ski terrain at McCoy Park - an ideal location for a protected, safe, family ski and snowboard zone. The ski company's continued on-mountain investments are simultaneous to many members of the merchant and lodging community attempting to revitalize the village experience to ensure our families continue to be loyal to our resort in an increasingly competitive market.

Further, while we certainly ask for a comprehensive review, it should be noted that our community has anticipated this terrain development for some time, knowing that the improvements are within the resort's permit area and were accepted as part of the approved 2010 master development plan.

Vail Resorts operates a top-notch team at Beaver Creek and I'm pleased to hear they are already working with you and Colorado Parks & Wildlife to create thoughtful construction plans and any necessary wildlife enhancement. The fact that a Nordic program has been in place and the resort has already committed to respect elk calving closures and no summer activity should make this proposal less challenging than others.

Thank you for considering our support of the two lifts at McCoy Park; again, the proposed improvements are a significant example of Vail Resorts' commitment to invest in its mountain resorts to elevate the experience for its guests and employees - and those of us who are equally investing in our village businesses.

Sincerely,

Brian Nolan

Beaver Creek Merchants Association

Blue Moose Restaurant, Owner

Group 970, Owner

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