Data Submitted (UTC 11): 5/17/2018 4:11:31 PM
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Comments: Every four years the world comes together to celebrate the gathering of nations. Sports makes this happen. There is no other time wherein representatives from nearly every nation come together in joy, hope, and unity. The Olympics allow us to move mountains and bridge gaps like no other event. We need to look no further than what is happening with North and South Korea.

In order for this to happen, athletes from around the world give their blood, sweat, and tears over years of training. More importantly, the grand majority of these athletes train on their own dime, for events that will bring them and their country glory and pride, but no financial freedom.

What do these athletes ask for? Training support. In our country, its the creation of facilities to use, and generally money from corporate sponsors. With these two elements, these men and women go to work on our behalf, and on the behalf of the nations of the world so that we can briefly enjoy moments wherein we can imagine a peaceful unified world.

Vail is a unique place that offers these athletes a facility to train. Golden Peak is where it happens. This training includes age ranges of young 10 year old hopefuls, all the way up through the Lindsey Vonns and Mikayla Shiffrons of the world. Simply put, Golden Peak is one of the premier ski training areas in the world.

And to that end, Ski Club Vail has done its part to rebuild its training facility at the bottom of Golden Peak in order to create the best indoor training facility in the world. Obviously, that needs to me matched with the best on snow facility in the world.

How does this get accomplished? A national and international ski training site? By the US Government itself, allowing for use of its own land to be used to accomplish its own goal and purpose. As it is the government that creates, supports, and puts forth a national Olympic ski team, the government should itself allows for the growth of the team and its training facility by allowing for the use of land wherein the athletes can train. Where else can this training take place, and how? The people of Vail have done their part in creating a the world class indoor Ski Club Vail center, its time to match that with a grant of land for on snow training.

Now, this is not just a US Olympic training site, people from around the world come to Vail to train. On any one day, skiers in uniform train from around the globe. My favorite I recently rode up the life with was a man from Jamaica, whose one goal in life was to be the first Jamaican Olympic downhiller. What a special opportunity this is to support our national ski team, and ski teams from around the world. Does this not fit into the goals of our public lands? Is this not in the end a public purpose? A national purpose? How else do we support our Olympians?

On the other side of the coin, playing devils advocate, I own property in Vail that looks out to Golden Peak. Golden Peak is a special place, and in late September, there are few places in the world as pretty as Golden Peak when its aspen groove is illuminated with the changing of the leaves. Certainly, these runs would effect this.

Having reviewed the plan, I still feel strongly that the beauty of the land will still be kept in tact, and that the importance of the purpose of the proposal is not only a positive use of land, more importantly, it is a wonderful national and international use of our public lands for a great public purpose.

Public use of public land seldom results in the broad public gaining a benefit. With the growth of the Golden

Peak ski training area, we have a unique opportunity for people in every corner of the country to see and feel the results of the use of public land. Not only that, the use of the land will reach around the globe.