Data Submitted (UTC 11): 5/18/2018 12:41:48 PM First name: Peter Last name: Lange Organization:

## Title:

Comments: I understand the concerns of those opposing the expansion but I fully support it. First of all skiing is one fo the ways many actually access the mountains and our national forests and that alone has always brought me to supporting ski areas. There is so much benefit to so many people. There is certainly impact that is not ideal but I know those impacts will be mitigated to the fullest possible degree. As to this specific project I can say with certainty that the issue of the Burton open that uses so much of the current Gold Peak resource has been a real determent to quality of the local youth program Ski and Snowboard Club Vail. As everyone knows the snow making system that makes possible the open was paid for by donors mostly a donor to Ski and Snowboard Vail to create a safe and complete training racing venue for our young athletes. To me it is Ironic that by building such a snow making system Ski and Snowboard Club Vail actually created the possibility to have the Burton Open and therefore significantly reduced their access to their best and safest training. It is also true that this gift of the Gold Peak improvement by mostly one donor made possible the opportunity for this local youth organization to rent training space during the early season which in turn help greatly reduce the cost to the athletes to participate in the program. As we face more and more weather challenges to make snow on the existing venue early enough to take advantage of the demand for early training by other groups so has the ability to create revenue that could be used to subsidize our local athletes. This is a real challenge that has contributed to the rapid rise in tuition charged by Ski and Snowboard Club vail. It tis very true some of this revenue source that helps reduce cost would return if the fall venue could be brought to the higher elevations of the proposed expansion. While it is my opinion that producing champion skiers is a terrible reason to expand the venue because very few can become champions, creating safe and appropriate venues to challenge all our youth in the program and keep them involved in healthy activity and expose them to the wonderful potentials of our mountains is a great reason to expand the venue. Again we are so lucky to have the resources to even consider this expansion to benefit kids. Providing safe and appropriate youth programs that promote challenge is a great thing for any group of kids. The environmental cost of the expansion is real and mitigation is important but the benefit of enhancing this wonderful youth program outweighs these costs. My opinion is getting kids off the couch off their electronics to participate in a healthy activity and brings them together face to face participating in a common passion while creating relationships some of which will last a life time is of extreme value to them and to society. If we can create a situation that this occurs, a situation that they actually look forward to, that gets them out of bed early in the day excited we are contributing to the health of our community and by extension our nation. As well as contributing to the development citizens that will appreciate the recreational value of nature. Thank you for considering this expansion.