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Comments: I have worked at the Beaver Creek nordic center for the last 18 seasons and if this plan goes through, it would mean the end of nordic sports in McCoy park. Myself and my fellow nordic instructors have more experience with this pristine location than anybody else. Period. We work 7 days a week in the winter and nobody visits the area in the summer because it is a huge elk calving ground for what is left of our local elk population. If you want to know something about McCoy Park, ask one of us.

The site plan that I have seen will make access very difficult for nordic customers. They will have to hike way up a hill (the Aurora trail) and more than a mile to the actual trail system. Most of our customers come from sea level and are not in very good shape, so they wouldn't be able to make the trip. I certainly could not teach cross country skiing on that terrain.

The pristine back-country-like experience would be ruined by two lifts and lots more people. The noise and commotion would certainly drive out the wildlife. On any given day I can see tracks from a wide variety of animals and even the occasional feather marks in the snow where a bird of prey has swooped down. It is a huge elk calving area in the spring for our local stressed herd: will they come back? All of this natural splendor of that would be lost if two big machines and thousands of people flood the bowl.

In my educated opinion, Beaver Creek does not need more beginner terrain. It is my belief, and most of my co-workers agree, that BC will actually lose business when they take away the one amenity that brings many families to BC: the nordic center. A majority of our customers do not like to downhill ski and brought their family to BC just because of our nordic system. If we can not offer the same quality product, they will go elsewhere.

There is no other nordic system like this in the USA and few in the world. We are at a higher elevation and are currently free of any development. It is "lift-served back-country" access unlike anywhere else. It would be a loss to the global nordic community.

The vast majority of USFS acreage leased to ski companies (probably 99%) is already devoted to downhill skiing. Removing one of the only nordic centers would be a detriment to our community and a loss for Colorado. Please deny this request and keep the WRNF a land of many uses.