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Comments: Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed expansion of Mission Ridge Ski and Board area. I support the creation of viable economic opportunities for local areas and certainly tourism is better than an extraction industry. However I also have some concerns:

1. It will be extremely important to protect the existing natural beauty of this area when building roads, logging to increase space for development. Be careful not to create erosion via road construction and keep the road design limited rather than zig-zagging eyesores across a previously beautiful hillside or meadow;
2. What about climate change and erratic snow pack? Potential snowmaking is possible( and water is a concern) but warming temperatures may make that difficult. How about expanding biking and hiking trails for spring, summer and fall use as well / and keeping the natural beauty so people want to use the area in the summer as well; don't forget Nordic ski trails!
3. Any construction for lodging, conference center, restaurant, etc. should be designed and developed for minimal impact to the natural area and in line with the rural and remote feel of the place. All buildings should at least in part use renewable power technologies and green building;
4. Impact to available water and aquifer recharge needs to be addressed. Any development to this area needs to address sound water usage;
5. The area and buildings need to be designed in a firewise manner with consideration given to fire fighting and evacuation if the area will be used during summer months;
6. No ATV or snowmobiles please! Keep it enjoyable and an escape from noise, pollution etc.

Thank you for your consideration of these important issues.