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Comments: Allowing the expansion of Mission Ridge Resort is a vital element in the resort's efforts to remain viable and compete with other ski resort both locally and abroad. By allowing Mission Ridge to expand under current ownership, it has the best chance of retaining that special ethos and experience that comes from local ownership and support. I fear that the resort's long term viability will be seriously threatened if it cannot expand and compete. Ultimately its fate will then likely be either closure or sale to one of the mega-corporations buying up ski resorts all over the continent. Either way, Wenatchee loses. Having the resort owned and run by one of these companies will surely stifle or altogether eliminate the home-town feel for which MR is known and cherished. Price increases will surely be driven by stockholder expectations. Instead, by allowing current ownership and management to build on the existing legacy, everyone stands to win. The MR experience is preserved. More people are attracted to come to MR to experience a bigger, better, more up to date version of the resort. More jobs will be created. And from an environmental standpoint, if the demand for and on ski and snowboard resorts is to be met, it makes more sense to allow an existing resort to expand into adjacent land than attempt to build an entirely new resort elsewhere from scratch. I respectfully urge the USFS to support Mission Ridge's current expansion proposal.