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Comments: I want to express my concern over the expansion of the Mission Ridge Resort. There are a number of reasons for this.

First, I understand that the expansion will alter the landscape in ways that will be less habitable for a number of the wildlife creatures who call this home, and so I speak on their behalf. Wild land is more valuable to these beings than buildings and ski runs. In a landscape that has become increasingly overgrown with the spread of roads and infrastructure, it seems more valuable to retain places that are unspoiled by human activity.

Second, ski resorts frequently restrict access to the public, despite special use permits that necessitate freedom for users on this public land. This happens both physically and socio-economically. With regard to the latter, condos and ski lifts enhance the disparity that already exists in our country and places another obstacle in the way of ordinary people enjoying the simplicities of nature. Physically, I have experienced resorts as yet another form of "private" land that creates a barrier for use by restricting activity to certain times or activities, or gives preference to users who are "paying to be there." We need more land that is, in every sense of the word, "free" for all to use.

I hope that these thoughts are helpful in stirring conversation about this expansion, and that thoughtful decisions are made about the future of this special place and those who interact with it. Thank you.