

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 6/12/2020 2:58:59 AM

First name: Ronald

Last name: Bliss

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Sirs:

I am writing to oppose the Ice Creek expansion project until new access for backcountry users can be engineered and constructed.

I have greatly enjoyed accessing our public lands both at the ski area (20 years of season passes), and in the backcountry behind Purgatory. I am an avid skier, at the resort and in the backcountry. I also snowmobile in the backcountry behind Purgatory on a regular basis. I access the backcountry via the forest road and snowmobile bypass. The current snowmobile bypass is extremely steep and south facing. Beginner riders often cannot make it up the first climb due to the grade and poor snow coverage. When I invite new riders they are greatly intimidated by the first climb on the bypass. Most end up crashing or letting a more experienced rider take the sled to the top while they hike up.

Adding a ski run, to this area, will essentially lock out access to the backcountry and prevent use of public lands.

I want the resort to be successful; but, I do not want there expansion plans to cut off access to tens of thousands of acres of public lands during the winter months.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Ronald S Bliss MD