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First name: Anita

Last name: Merrigan

Organization:

Title:

Comments: An expanded amount of terrain for skiers corresponding with increased revenue for the ski resort sounds like a great thing, and it may well be, but is the disenfranchisement of our precious raptors and other wildlife worth it? That seems to be the bottom-line question posed by the proposed development.

At least we're posing the question and deliberating over it here in Routt County, Colorado, which is a lot more consideration than nonhuman species would get in most places on earth. That's a good thing. But is our concern real?

Erica Dickerman, U.S. Forest Ranger, stated that "striking a balance" between human activity and nature is the goal. She stated, "....by concentrating development there, it helps to preserve more remote places elsewhere." Is this merely wishful thinking or is there actual scientific data to back up this statement? It sounds like a statement that makes us feel better but may bear no relationship to the reality on the ground.

In my opinion, it is imperative that Ranger Dickerman provide a detailed, scientific analysis to support her contention that further mountain development will help save our forest residents in more remote areas. If there is insufficient scientific data to support this contention, then the project must be shelved.

When are we humans going to stop disenfranchising and crowding-out nonhuman species? Human beings are made of earth and nonhuman species yet carry an attitude that earth and her bounty exist merely to serve us. There is little acknowledgment by humans that nonhuman species have a right to life apart from their "usefulness" to humans.

If we humans want an ongoing existence on earth we must start to respect earth and her bounty for many reasons, not the least of which is that we're made of these things. Maybe such respect should start right here in Steamboat Springs, Colorado by stopping this proposed expansion and yielding to the welfare of our precious, nonhuman Steamboat Springs residents.

After all, the damage that we've done to earth's atmosphere from carbon pollution threatens the ongoing viability of ski resorts worldwide. Have you heard that there are record temperatures worldwide this year, including in the Arctic? So we're going to disenfranchise our local wildlife in order to host a few more skiers for a few years until skiing is no longer possible due to global warming?

Hopefully the residents of Steamboat Springs, the ski resort management and the U.S. Forest Service can squash their giddiness over more ski terrain and higher profits long enough to take a deep breath and sober look at the negative consequences of the proposed expansion. Lives are at stake.