

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 7/23/2020 4:26:06 PM

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Comments: The environmental impacts of this proposed expansion are vast.

They range from impact just beyond the boundaries for the new expansion to the State of Colorado as a whole. Today, skiers ignore the boundaries of the existing resort. They impact the wildlife that have already been displaced. They leave their waste behind...outside the limits of the already large resort. Tomorrow, they will ski outside the boundaries of the LARGER resort that opened space to accommodate their previously illegal/illogical/unsafe behavior. Tomorrow they will spread their impact on the wildlife and environment beyond the legal and logical limits of the resort. People who want extra adventure will always seek it and there will be a price.

Adding new lifts creates impact on the soil and land that cannot be undone. Expanding to areas where there has been limited impact before will change those areas, too much in my opinion.

Construction of the lifts will add pollution and waste the environment. Areas where the only waste had to be carried in my people will now see waste and debris created on site and hauled in by truck/helicopter/machine. Despite best efforts, there is no such thing as completely clean construction and there is no way to completely and adequately restore the land after. Look at the ski runs on the mountain today...they are obviously not native or restored...it's a patchwork of apparently random stuff.

The ski resort itself is already at capacity in the world of support services. The resort food services, rest rooms, gathering places, shopping and support are already at capacity. More skiers require more support facilities on the mountain base. This requires more construction.

More skiers require more water. More skiers create more waste. More skiers require more food and other support items (clothing, tickets, etc) These all create more waste. The waste requires transportation. Transportation creates air pollution and more.

The City of Steamboat Springs is already at capacity on most winter weekends. More terrain will allow more skiers. Those skiers will need to be housed and fed while they are in the area. Where are those resources going to come from? At what environmental cost?

More skiers will need more transportation. There is limited parking...at best...to support the current ski population. Where will the new parking come from and at what environmental cost?

People who come to Steamboat to ski come from all over the world. They get here by bus, plane and automobile. The extra trips to the area from all over the world will displace some of the pollution from other areas, which results in the overall global net being zero, but the local pollution and environmental impact from the travel will now be here and impacting local populations, people and wildlife and plants.

These skiers who need accommodations will require people to provide them those accommodations. Those workers need to be housed and fed and they need transport and other support services.

There is limited (I'd say really non-existent) housing for low wage earners in Steamboat. That means these employees will need to seek housing elsewhere. This requires commute to Steamboat and to the ski area. More people require more food, shelter, water, energy. all of these needs equal impact on the environment.

And, well, there is a shortage of people in the region to fill these jobs so the people who fill these jobs will be

imported from other regions and will only be here for 6 months out of the year. The support systems built for them will exist 12 months out of the year doubling the environmental impact of the infrastructure but only being of any benefit for 6 months.

I am NOT against skiing. I used to ski. I am not against Steamboat Resort. I think they do a great job with the niche they are filling now. I am not against Steamboat Resort being able to take full advantage of the facilities and land they have today.

I write against expansion. The resort and the role it fills in Routt County and NW Colorado is JUST fine as it is. It's not too big and it's not too small. Adding to it will be too big a burden.

The burden circle touches every inch of new land they ski on. The land they ski on is burdened by the construction of the new runs and lifts.

The runs and lifts are fed by people in an already congested base area. That base area needs to be supported by transportation. ETC ETC.

Though it looks like on 3.16 mile long gondola line and 650 acre expansion...the impact is regionally significant and cannot be supported at this time.