

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 8/9/2020 10:46:10 PM

First name: Vickie

Last name: Rosenzweig

Organization:

Title:

Comments: there are many aspects to this proposal that are questionable to our environment and wildlife and to the quality of life of the people who live in Steamboat Springs. My first concern is the number one issue of this expansion proposal, that being ; what is the actual need of this expansion, With the ski industry long term still on the decline and the amount of acres that will be disturbed and the huge amount of excavation, pipe laying, water and sewer relocation and removal of boulders and trees, realignment and expansion of roads , is all of this really necessary just to give the ski tourists a better experience? I find the necessity points of this proposal insufficient and unnecessary to the skiers who are now enjoying the existing terrain . How many complaints of an inadequate skiing experience have the ski company received that would instigate such a proposal. Have there been a record of visitor complaints as to the horrible experience these skiers have to endure due to the existing facilities. I doubt there are many. Why in this era of declining ski days due to climate change and economics does the ski company insist that there is a need for this expansion. I feel that this proposal must prove to the forest service and to the public that the need for this expansion outweighs all of the destruction of habitat, and detriment to the environment. The excuse of expanding the ski experience in to the fish creek area is also very weak as to say the expansion would stop people from going in to areas to ski out of bounds where they shouldn't be skiing anyway.To say this would benefit the ski patrol so rescue services would be easier accessible is ridiculous as people should not be going in to that area in the first place. It is too steep and dangerous due to avalanches to allow people in there in the first place. Also nothing is mentioned in the whole proposal as to what will be happening in the summer months. Will there be more mountain bike and hiking trails constructed in to the back country that would impact calving areas for elk and moose habitat? What about bike trails that will cause impacts with elk and deer movement in the back country? Look at the nightmare created with traffic jams, illegal camping, and recreation activities on Buffalo pass due to creation of mountain bike trails. What will be considered non motorized recreation? Electric bikes included? The ski company will not be constructing all of this expansion just for skiing in the winter. It would not be economically feasible. This will lead to many more people all over the backcountry in the summer impacting wildlife and native flora. In conclusion I feel that the ski company must first convince the public and the forest service that there is an undeniable need for this expansion due to complaints and decline in ski visits due to the existing ski area being so inadequate to visitors. Also one needs to know the impact of summer activity and if the expansion is that necessary due to the impact it will have on the backcountry. How much is just too much of biking trails already existing in the Steamboat area that causes an impact on the local quality of life and impact on elk, deer, bear, and moose habitat and movement. If anything I feel there is enough concerns that an EIS should be required to review the necessity of this project and impacts that will occur due to summer activity.