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First name: Brandon

Last name: Prehn

Organization:

Title:

Comments: As resource managers it's important to weigh the costs and benefits of any proposed action under a multiple use framework - the proposed actions appear to be mostly benefit with very little cost.

Without a doubt, ski areas are major disturbances in sensitive montane/sub-alpine/alpine zones: they inhibit forest regeneration (Ries, 1996), alter stream geomorphology (David et al., 2009), nutrient cycling, and soil formation processes through multiple disturbance mechanisms (Pintaldi et al., 2017), and modify wildlife behavior due to the extreme density of people which persists year-round (Olsen et al., 2018;). These are only a few of the negative outcomes of the presence of a ski resort, however we accept these trade-offs in exchange for enhanced recreational access and the associated health benefits as well as the cultivation of a societal love of such beautiful ecosystems.

The proposed lift upgrades, mountain bike trails, and road work will certainly contribute to some of the issues noted above, however the plan proposal notes that the acreage of impact will be small and entirely within the existing footprint of CMR.

The bike trails will be installed within the existing footprint of the trail network (between Superbee and Timberline Express), eliminating my concern about expanding the summer visitor use and the potential impacts on wildlife.

With proper erosion mitigation efforts in accordance with best management practices, soil erosion should be minimized. Where erosion does occur, the nature of the intensive management of CMR will facilitate quick identification and response to the issue.

I support the proposal as long as proper precautions are taken against the environmental impacts noted above. Presumably, increasing visitor throughput during both summer and winter months will reduce pressure on other sensitive areas in the region that are not already classified as heavily disturbed/developed in the manner of a ski resort.

References:

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