

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 7/28/2023 4:58:13 PM

First name: Dan

Last name: Long

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I would like to express my frustration around JHMR's proposal to expand operations into the Rock Springs basin, and in particular-their proposal to install via ferrata routes on Rock Springs Buttress. Rock Springs Buttress has a long-standing, established use by the rock climbing community utilizing both traditional and sport climbing routes. The area offers the highest quality rock among local day-climbing sites and is relatively easy to access currently.

Allowing JHMR to expand operations into Rock Springs basin and Rock Springs Buttress will allow the resort an outsized footprint in a part of the Forest that it already dominates. Once JHMR infrastructure is in place it is easy to see that they will likely be able to limit access or require fees to access an area that has historically remained open to the public as public land.

JHMR already has existing via ferrata infrastructure inside of their current operational boundaries, and the potential expansion will only serve the resort-not the community at large.

Plans to allow additional ski infrastructure to the south of the current boundary will further disrupt existing high-alpine habitat three seasons of the year, and will expand the reach of side-country skiers-expanding the impact beyond the current Rock Springs/Cody Peak terrain. This area already sees relatively high skier-day activity for an out-of-bounds area and the lack of existing infrastructure does help to self-select for skiers of a certain ability level and a requirement for an added degree of personal responsibility.

Adding additional infrastructure will not only change the character of some truly unique locations of the BTNF.