

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 7/31/2023 10:25:18 PM

First name: Ashley

Last name: Babcock

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear USFS,

I'm writing to object against the Alta Chutes proposal in Jackson Hole Mountain Resort's Recreation Enhancement Project. Jackson Hole Mountain Resort is probably the most unique ski area in North America with its challenging terrain and chairlift access chutes. The plan to make the Alta Chutes "more usable" is a terrible idea, as it would diminish some of the best ski runs accessible via chairlift of any resort anywhere. I understand that JHMR wants to make the mountain more accessible; however, JHMR does not understand that by doing so, they are making themselves less unique and special. Not to mention the damage it would create to the natural environment. The soul of skiing is in part due to interacting with the elements, including waiting longer to be able to ski some runs during low snow years, and artificial enhancement of some of the best runs ruins them. I recognize that I am an expert skier who can enjoy these runs, and that's okay. Not everyone needs to ski the Alta Chutes. It gives them something to work up to.

Additionally, I object to the North Hoback Woods project as well. JHMR has been felling old growth trees at a noticeable rate each year since I started working there, and we live in a time where we need as many trees as we can get. Justifying cutting down a huge portion of old growth trees to justify an extra trail feels extravagant. People who ski at the upper mountain don't need us to turn it into Disneyland.

Thank you for reading,

Ashley