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Comments: I am writing in unequivocal favor of the Monarch expansion. I have followed the planned expansion for over a decade since it was first being discussed. The ski area has made a thoughtful and holistic approach to the expansion. Monarch has also continued to build capacity and infrastructure to accommodate increased usage appropriately. Cat skiing operations have been in the vicinity of the proposed area for some time now with what appears to be no negative impact. The expansion of a lift and trails would not be a significantly larger step in an area already with recreational use already taking place. Proposed trails and gladed skiing appear to address wetland areas, and cutting of trees for new trails will not have any greater impact than other tree thinning efforts in the greater Monarch pass area in recent years to mitigate wildfire risk. In addition, Monarch has stood out as a leader in private enterprise working to help mitigate wildfire risk by taking on tree thinning in its' current area at its' own expense, which I believe demonstrates their desire to be an active steward of the forest in that area. Lastly, increased skier visitation and profitability of the ski area will translate into an economic boost for the surrounding area via tax revenue, additional jobs, and ancillary business increases. This expansion is a well planned project that should be approved.