

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 9/25/2023 6:23:32 PM

First name: Colin

Last name: Desmond

Organization:

Title:

Comments: It is practically impossible for a Front Range-based family of moderate means to recreate in the I-70 corridor during the winter anymore. With the explosion of visits to that corridor, and coincident increase in prices, it is in the public's interest to have an alternative area to ski that's affordable, family-friendly, community-focused and not completely overrun by out-of-state tourists. Monarch is and has shown itself to be that place. By supporting this terrain expansion, the Forest Service would be supporting such a future for the state.

From an environmental standpoint, having such options away from the I-70 corridor means less people stranded in traffic, wasting gas, stressing those infrastructure assets, etc. On the 285-side, even with the expansion, I can't see so many more people being interested in Monarch given its lower vertical terrain / lack of fancy hotels / etc.

Please support Monarch, one of the state's greatest local ski mountains!