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First name: William

Last name: Farrell

Organization: ST United (Soccer Club)

Title: Vice President

Comments: Dear Forest Service,

Thanks for your time and consideration regarding the expansion of the ski mountain at Monarch. I represent a tight knit group of men who make an annual pilgrimage to ski, usually in February. We look forward to this wonderful journey, to the call of the wild. Although Monarch isn't the Alaskan backcountry, our group does celebrate the wilderness setting; the quiet snow covered glens, the white snow crystals swirling in the wind, the fresh air, the adrenaline and pure bliss of skiing down the mountain with the best of friends.

We love Monarch and the ski community. I do sometimes bring my family on a separate trip and I appreciate the authenticity of Monarch, the character of the resort and affordability that it offers. It is a last shining gem in a corporate ski world.

I am not the world's best skier. I am often cautious and I ski slowly through the trees, stopping to listen to the silence and to see the smiles of my bros. Over the past 10 years we have skied almost every run and it has been wonderful. The thought of the backside opening up is totally awesome and a new lift being built makes me smile, as I sit at work, here in Oklahoma.

I trust the Forest Service will make the best decision, balancing land management, use and conservation, with a little recreation thrown in. I have always been impressed with the Forest Service's professionalism and purpose. I worked with the USFS in North Carolina in the Linville Gorge.

Godspeed and let it snow!!