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First name: Trevor

Last name: McConnell

Organization:

Title:

Comments: To whom it may concern regarding the Monarch ski area expansion proposal. In short this project is long overdue. Monarch has been a long standing steward of not just the recreation alpine skiing market, but also the stewardship of the forest and surrounding area. I am all for the expansion! The area is not at all a high use area by back country travelers, such as myself. In fact by opening this area up, Monarch ski patrol would be that much closer to respond to one of the forests more popular back country ski areas, should the need arise for mutual assistance. In addition, by Monarch ski area operating here, it becomes by nature, one more fire break (multiple fire break) areas that in fact help to protect against the possible spread of wildfires. Monarch ski area is also LONG overdue for an expansion! The parking lot has been expanded, the base area operations but not the inbound lift service. On our more popular days, Monarch is very congested and needs more skiable terrain! Finally, to not allow Monarch ski area to expand would seem unusual as compared to the large giants in the industry who operate in this state. Both Epic and Inner Mountain have had a number of excepted expansions over the last decade. It would seem wildly unfair to continue to allow the largest ski operation in the state to expand but not allow Monarch to do so. In a time when every federal entity needs more revenue, why would you cut back on potential forest service revenue (through permitting and leasing) from an organization with a long track record of being good stewards?? Thank you for your time and consideration regarding these comments.