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Title:

Comments: My first encounter with Winter Park Resort came in the 1970s. I was a ski school director in Wisconsin when the story of Hal O'Leary and the new National Sports Center for the Disabled began to impact ski instruction nationwide. My skiing days started very young as my dad was a 10th Mountain/Camp Hale veteran. My interest in ski resort design and function started early as well, as we ventured to explore newly developing ski resorts as they were taking shape (visits to Crested Butte in 1966, Vail 1967, Jackson Hole 1969, Telluride 1974, etc.). I also watched some of the most historic resorts enter the modern age, such as Aspen and Sun Valley. I'm a retired Level 3 Certified Instructor (Devil's Head, Cascade Mountain, Tyrol Basin, Winter Park) and a former Ski School Assistant Director and Director (Devil's Head, Cascade, Tyrol Basin). Today I am a homeowner at the base of Winter Park Resort and Executive Board President of the Winter Park Village Company Master Association (WPVCMA).

I still take great interest in ski resort design, especially as it serves new skiers to the sport. I also respect our sport's footprint on the natural landscape as my dad was an early ecologist and student of Aldo Leopold, an American writer, philosopher, naturalist, scientist, ecologist, USFS forester, conservationist, and environmentalist. He was a professor at the University of Wisconsin where my dad attended college and took every one of Leopold's classes. Leopold's groundbreaking concept of Land Ethic is something I value and appreciate.

I am extremely impressed with the management of Winter Park Resort and the design put forward in the 2022 Master Development Plan and this 2025 Project List (EA #66200). With the possibility of three access points (Mary Jane base, Winter Park Resort base, and the Town of Winter Park/Cooper Creek base), the link to regional transportation (Governor Polis' Denver train initiative and the recent development of the Cooper Creek transportation center), and the use of intrinsic terrain that attracted the early pioneers of skiing to this mountain a hundred years ago, it is a natural location to expand and provide the platform to serve the growing number of people in this country interested in spending time in the natural environment. The ability to serve large numbers of visitors, both summer and winter, in and around the defined permit area of Winter Park Resort, without having to break new ground in designated Wilderness Areas or highly sensitive terrain is beneficial to all. The possibility of increasing access to the sport via the train from Denver while also helping to elevate the growing pressure on the I-70 corridor is also a major environmental win.

When it comes to welcoming and serving new visitors to this outdoor environment, the functionality of the Discovery Park Learning Area is a major positive development. I have seen and experienced how some resorts have often had to shoehorn a beginner area into places by disturbing the natural landscape in very negative ways. But from what I have seen, the Discovery Park location at Winter Park is a nearly perfect natural fit, a great place for beginners, and provides easy access for those to move up as their skills increase. The lift configuration in and out of the Discovery Park area is a great asset and will serve skiers and riders well.

To imagine the ability of someone traveling from around the world by plane and train to within 300 feet of the gondola that takes them to near perfect beginner terrain is unheard of in the global snow sports industry.

Finally, I just want to mention how Winter Park's historic place in the ski instruction world is such another great asset. Starting with the pioneers who established great programming here, people like George Cranmer, George Engle and Hal O'Leary, even back to the early vision of the City of Denver, the Arlberg Club, and the dream of Winter Park, to today's highly respected National Sports Center for the Disabled, Winter Park Competition Center, and the Winter Park Ski School, the personnel and programming are already in place to serve new skiers/riders and make this great vision a reality. The authentic landscape and culture of Winter Park Resort is

attracting a whole new generation of explorers, summer and winter, to the forest and mountains of Colorado.
What a great place for the U.S. Forest Service to partner with the Winter Park organization to carry out the USFS motto of "Caring for the land and serving people."

Respectfully submitted,
Alfred S. Jackson