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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Bell Mountain Lift is my favorite lift on Aspen-Snowmass terrain. It is historic, and provides a glimpse into skiing's past, as well as a history lesson on what was considered "extreme" terrain during skiing's formidable years.

Unfortunately I did not get the opportunity to ride Bell Mountain this year, or even last year, as it sat dormant during the spring ski season, and even during the busy peak holiday season. I was informed by lift attendants that staffing issues were to blame for Bell Mountain not operating. It is confusing that SkiCo cannot find the funding to staff the existing chairs, but can afford multi-million dollar ski lift construction that will then be fully staffed. The operating dates and times of both Little Nell and Bell Mountain have been inconsistent and not transparent the previous two years - please take this into account when looking at rider data.

Additionally, I would like to see the proposal go through a full Environmental Assessment, as the proposed towers do cross a sensitive wetland area. SkiCo has also recognized the critical wetland environment, as they have closed it off in the summer time and routed trails around it. Construction in this area would have a detrimental impact to the environment and the wildlife that depend on the habitat.

While we cannot always live in the past and must accept that some change is necessary, SkiCo has neglected to operate, maintain and offer consistency with its existing lifts. Before the proposed new lift is considered by WRNF, I would like to see SkiCo operate and collect data throughout the season on the existing infrastructure.