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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Gentlemen,I am responding to the Lift 7 proposed action as submitted by Telluride Ski Company in your letter of April 28, 2025.I have owned at the Base of Lift 7 for 32 years and used that lift every ski season since then. It is indeed in need of replacement for safety reasons. I have heard that it is one of the oldest lifts left in Colorado.My concerns are about the movement of the lift and towers on the Telluride side. The area to the south and closer to the hill was subject to a landslide in 2023. A large boulder came tumbling down and hit a building. It could have killed someone if it had happened a different time of year. Because of this, an environmental and geological determination should be required to make sure this area is safe from any future landslides.The area is currently zoned as open space and the idea of not removing the foundation from the old lift or any metal implements which could be harmful to passerby's, does not seem to fit in with the open space that we have all come to enjoy. Removal of all remnants of any of the old lift should be required.In addition, there are wetlands both delineated and seasonal fowl ponds in the area. We get ducks every year. I've seen bear, deer, elk, cougar, and marmots in the area besides different birds. These are all important for our forests ecological balance to the area. Grading of this area would remove all of this open wetland and grassy meadows.It is known here in Telluride that the Telluride Ski Company wants to develop the area around the lift. I believe getting your approval for this lift change is the first step to rezoning their land so they can build a hotel on the space vacated by the current lift. The Ski Co and the Town of Telluride are busy with plans to increase the density with development on this and the surrounding lots.I think improvements to the ski mountain, widening trails, replacing outdated lifts, and clearing the beetle kill trees are beneficial to the health of the ski resort and forest.Please take this all into consideration when making your decision.Respectfully,Madelaine Whiteman