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First name: Frank

Last name: Mulcahy

Organization:

Title:

Comments: To the U.S. Forest Service,

I am writing in strong support of the proposed Waterville Valley Resort Expansion Project.

My perspective comes from more than two decades as a member of the Waterville Valley community and as a long term New Hampshire property owner. During that time, my family has built much of our lives around Waterville Valley and the White Mountains. My wife and I largely raised our three children here. They learned to ski here, hike here, bike here, swim here, and develop a deep appreciation for the outdoors here. Today, all three are Eagle Scouts, something that grew out of a childhood immersed in New Hampshire's outdoors and public lands.

Beyond my family's personal connection, I have had the privilege of serving on the Board of Directors of the Waterville Valley Academy/BBTS ski club for the past ten years and previously on the Waterville Valley Foundation Board. Through those roles, I have seen firsthand how important Waterville Valley is-not only as a ski resort, but as a community that develops young athletes, supports families, and introduces people to a lifetime of outdoor recreation.

I have also spent much of my life enjoying New Hampshire's public lands. I am an avid skier, hiker, mountain biker, camper, hunter, and have served as a Boy Scout leader for the past fifteen years. Recreation and conservation are both deeply important to me. They are not competing values; they depend on one another. Responsible access to public lands creates generations of people who value, protect, and advocate for those lands.

That is why I support this project.

The proposed gondola is far more than a ski lift. It creates broader public access to the White Mountain National Forest for skiers and non-skiers alike, including families with young children, seniors, and visitors with limited mobility who otherwise may never experience the beauty of these mountains from higher elevations. It strengthens Waterville Valley as a true four-season destination, expanding opportunities for hiking, sightseeing, mountain biking, dining, fall foliage, and year-round recreation while reducing reliance on vehicle trips between the village and the mountain.

Waterville Valley occupies a unique place in New Hampshire. Unlike many mountain destinations, it was built around the idea of a complete outdoor community where families can spend a week hiking, biking, swimming, skiing, fishing, golfing, and simply enjoying the White Mountains without constantly getting back in a car. That character is rare and worth preserving.

At the same time, preserving a community does not mean freezing it in time. Over the past two decades, recreation throughout New Hampshire has continued to evolve. To remain vibrant for future generations, communities like Waterville Valley must also evolve thoughtfully. I believe this proposal accomplishes exactly that. It strengthens public recreation while respecting the natural resources that make the White Mountains so special.

I appreciate the extensive environmental review that has been conducted and support moving forward with appropriate mitigation measures to protect wildlife, water quality, and forest resources. Good stewardship means carefully balancing conservation with responsible recreation-not choosing one at the expense of the other. I

believe this project reflects that balance.

As someone who has spent more than twenty years living, volunteering, recreating, and raising a family in Waterville Valley, I believe this project is in the public interest. It will improve access to our National Forest, strengthen an iconic New Hampshire community, and help ensure that future generations have the same opportunities my family has had to experience and appreciate the outdoors.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Respectfully,

Frank Mulcahy
Center Harbor, New Hampshire