

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 8/1/2026 8:07:25 PM

First name: B

Last name: Mitchell

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Please see trailing comments.

RACS - installation of remote avalanche control system towers would be a permanent development that would have a significant effect on the visual quality of the outstandingly scenic A-Basin and Loveland Pass areas (the setting). Operation and maintenance would require more frequent and recurring use of helicopters and other equipment and machinery in these areas presenting a variety of adverse effects (access closures, noise, scenery, solitude, habitat, wildlife, etc). There are relative cost, efficiency, safety and other resource tradeoffs for use of RACS vs current avalanche mitigation methods (hand routes, avalaunchers, etc). If use of RACS are approved, scenic integrity should be maintained to the greatest extent possible.

Parking - any increase in vehicle parking would have a significant, adverse effect on the quality of the visitor experience at the ski area, as well as for scenery, habitat, wildlife, noise, watershed, and other resources. Any increase in parking would also worsen traffic, congestion, and air quality along local roads, highways, in communities and otherwise.

The existing capacity of chair lifts, lodges, restrooms, etc are typically at a comfortable level during low to moderate use periods like weekdays. However during peak periods like weekends, holidays, new snow (e.g., high to very high visitation), and with existing parking availability, lift line wait times already become very long. Lodges and restrooms also already become over crowded during periods of high visitation. Each are further impacted when any chairlift, lodge, or other facilities are closed or delayed due to mechanical, weather, and other factors. Adding any parking would directly degrade the visitor experience to the area which would likely become poor to very poor during high visitation periods considering the existing capacities of lifts, lodges, roads, ski runs, etc. In other words there would be unacceptable levels of change, decreases in safety, worse circulation (e.g., for roads, ski runs, ski lifts, lift lines, visitor arrivals), and an overall degradation of the existing visitor experience.

Arapaho Basin currently provides a unique, quality visitor experience in an outstandingly scenic alpine setting. If any increase in parking were approved it should be very limited in scope (50-150 spaces maximum) and confined to the Upper, Upper area, or to modest improvements of exiting lots. Limits should also be considered for when, where and how parking fees can be utilized (does the operator intend to continue and/or increase the use of fees in existing, or at potential future parking locations). Development of the Moose Hollow area for parking should not occur at all as it would significantly degrade the quality of the visitor experience, and adversely impact other resources listed above, not improve them.