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First name: David

Last name: Maynard

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Arapahoe Basin has operated on US Forest Service land for almost 80 years. Since 1946 it has been a place for people to experience the environment of Colorado's high country. Over the years countless people have been dedicated to protecting the natural beauty and unique wildlife of the mountain. However, operating a ski area for so long on one mountain has done its damage. The various layouts of chairlifts, roads, parking lots, snowmaking systems and other infrastructure have all left their mark.

Arapahoe Basin's proposal cites improvements to employee safety, guest experience, and early season conditions. It does not in any way propose to improve the environment. This proposal includes many separate projects that could each have its own impact on the environment at Arapahoe Basin and in the Snake River watershed.

Parking lots in the proposed areas would completely destroy a section of forest that is habitat for many of our local species as well as a section of wetland. The upper upper last chance lot as well as the aptly named moose hollow are both important areas for our wildlife to travel safely without being forced onto the highway. The proposed adjustment to the areas SUP would allow Arapahoe Basin to acquire land that can logistically be turned into a parking lot in exchange for land that cannot.

Snowmaking expansions in the Beavers would disturb 1.6 miles of previously disturbed terrain, with the Loafer and Davis trails only recently starting to recover from the 2018 terrain expansion. The 1.6 miles of snowmaking infrastructure in the Montezuma Bowl would be in primarily undisturbed areas. These systems require ground disturbance and trenching not only for the original installation, but also periodic maintenance.

Removal of the 25 percent withdrawal limitation would allow Arapahoe Basin to take more water from the headwaters of a currently struggling river system. Using the snowmaking infrastructure and water limits now in place Arapahoe Basin regularly has the earliest opening date and the longest ski season in North America.

Remote avalanche control systems are located in particularly undisturbed places. The Montezuma Bowl and the East Wall are two of the least developed areas of Arapahoe Basin. These areas support a large part of the mountains wildlife populations.

The pedestrian overpass poses very little environmental disturbance and allows for significantly improved guest experience.

The staff operating Arapahoe Basin pride themselves on being leaders in the ski area sustainability movement, and being thoughtful stewards of this exceptional mountain environment. It is the responsibility of the Forest Service to hold them accountable to those values.