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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am a full-time resident of Waterville Valley. I reviewed the DEIS and attended the June 26, 2026 public information session.

I support this project. The National Forest's "land of many uses" mandate reflects a public that is not monolithic. I am not a skier, but I recognize that thousands of winter recreationists depend on a viable WVR, and that responsible expansion of an existing, permitted ski area is fully consistent with the Forest's mission and far preferable to permitting new development elsewhere.

The fiscal context matters. The DEIS notes that the town's upcoming wastewater treatment plant replacement "will be crucial to accommodating higher flows." What it does not convey is the scale: a \$117.2 million capital project (Black & Veatch, October 2025) projected to drive the local property tax rate from \$9.96 to as high as \$23.62 per thousand by 2031. In a community facing a 137 percent tax rate increase, responsible resort growth is not optional. It is essential. The Final EIS should recognize that connection explicitly.

New Hampshire's no-income, no-sales-tax fiscal model depends on a robust tourism economy. WVR's winter visitation has declined 26 percent since the 2000s while national ski visits rose 16 percent. Closing that gap benefits the region and the state.

On lighting, I ask the Forest Service to ensure the Record of Decision establishes a practical framework. Much of the detailed design will appropriately flow through the Town's Planning Board, but early direction from the Forest Service would give both the resort and the Planning Board a useful starting point, and help protect the nighttime view of the mountain that defines the character of this valley.