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Title:

Comments: To Whom It May Concern:

We are hereby voicing our objections to the proposed ski area expansion outlined originally in the Steamboat Ski Resort EIS 1.19.18, and now in the Steamboat Resort Improvements Project #58336 plan. Specifically, we take special exception to the expansion into Fish Creek and Pioneer Ridge. I have attached our full rebuttal, our petition, which we just launched in the past 48 hours and received 150 signatures stating they are against this expansion, and comments left on our website and social media channels. NOTE-We will post another update on Monday 8/10/20 per your designated due date on this page. There's confusion in the community as some were told 8/7 was the due date vs. the 10th. As such, I'm posting the larger information today .

Since the USFS and the Resort are largely ignoring public comment on this subject, we have commenced a public ad campaign to highlight these issues. Our intent is to fight this expansion every step of the way by illustrating a lack of oversight by USFS thus far and the impacts forthcoming. The USFS can expect to be included in a long, drawn out legal battle over an ill-advised expansion on their watch. USFS might want to rethink their position on this situation.

As a community, we still believe the 2018 EIS represents an improper overview of environmental impacts, a truncated review of alternatives; a lack of meaningful analysis on secondary and cumulative long-term impacts; substantial and potentially unacceptable impacts to the Burgess Creek drainage; and insufficient details on mitigation to compensate for unavoidable impacts on the environment. The recent proposed updates to the SSRC 2019 Masterplan only make this situation worse.

As such, we have compiled a response to the SSRC EIS outlining the negative impact the proposed Pioneer expansion will have on the surrounding ecosystem and community as a whole. The expansion makes no sense to anyone who lives in the community. Expanding into an area which has multiple species threatened by further development is clearly an act against sustainability. This is laid out in no uncertain terms in the new 2019 Masterplan, where several species are identified to be high-risk.

Further, from a community standpoint, increasing human traffic deeper into the surrounding backcountry of the existing ski area will only lead to more rescues in even harder to access terrain. This greatly impacts the resources of Search and Rescue, the NFS, and other community resources.

Based on the data supplied by the ski area, we are not convinced that SSRC cannot accomplish its growth goals within its existing footprint and should look to alternatives for any type of expansion to meet clientele needs.

We are organizing fellow groups who will fight this expansion by legal means if necessary, money is no object. We hope the USFS and the resort look at other ways of addressing clientele needs.

Sincerely,

The Collation for the Canyon