



Board of County Commissioners

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November 8, 2018

Scott Fitzwilliams, Forest Supervisor
White River National Forest Service
c/o Noel Ludwig, Project Lead
1617 Cole Blvd., Bldg 17
Golden, CO 80401

RE: Proposed expansion of snow making on Vail Mountain

Dear Scott and Noel,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposal by Vail Resorts to expand snow making to higher elevations on the front side of Vail Mountain. We are writing to express our support of this proposal.

As evidenced in the application, miles of new piping and hydrants would be installed to provide coverage on runs that carry significant volumes of beginner and intermediate skiers. Trenching for these pipes would occur in areas previously cleared for skiing, and wetlands and other sensitive habitats would be avoided. Water requirements for the expanded system would not exceed Vail Resort's existing water rights portfolio. This work would occur entirely on Forest Service lands and within the existing ski area boundary, and would be consistent with improvements allowed by the Forest Service Special Use Permit for operation of the year round resort. We do not anticipate the need for further permitting by Eagle County with respect to this proposal.

Vail Resorts has consistently demonstrated its ability to provide facilities and programs of the highest quality. We are confident these enhancements will be designed and installed in a manner compatible with Eagle County's unique mountain environment, and consistent with Forest Service directives for site restoration and stormwater management.

Eagle County supports efforts to enhance recreational experiences for our local communities and for our guests, especially in our shoulder seasons. Higher elevation snow making will provide a more consistent and durable snow surface and a more predictable operating calendar, improving the experience for skiers, and enhancing lodging, retail and other business activity in the Vail area. The use of snowmaking to insure a quality skiing experience is increasingly important due to warmer and drier climate trends in the Rocky Mountain west.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment. Please keep us advised as this proposal works its way through the NEPA process.

Sincerely,

Board of County Commissioners

Kathy Chandler-Henry

Chair

Jeanne McQueeney

Commissioner

Jill H. Ryan

Commissioner