



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

White River National Forest

900 Grand Ave
Glenwood Springs, CO 81601-3602

File Code: 2720
Date: January 10, 2018

David Corbin

Vice President, Planning and Development

Aspen Skiing Company, LLC
PO Box 1248
Aspen, CO 81612

Dear Mr. Corbin,

This letter responds to the Aspen Skiing Company (ASC) January 3rd, 2018 Aspen Mountain Master Development Plan (AMMDP) submittal and ASC's subsequent request for Forest Service acceptance of the AMMDP. My mountain sports staff completed their review of the recent submittal and believe the AMMDP is a conceptual, 'forward looking' document, which helps refine Aspen Mountain's market niche and potential future developments to continue its premier mountain resort status while maintaining its unique character.

It is important to note that if the Pandora project is proposed for authorization as depicted in this MDP, a Forest Plan amendment may be necessary to include the two small National Forest System parcels that are shown within the new proposed operational and permit boundary in AMMDP figure VI-1. Reallocating these parcels from management area 7.1 – *Intermix* to the 8.25 – *Ski Areas, Existing and Potential* designation would require additional environmental analysis consistent with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). In addition, amendments to Aspen Skiing Company's Aspen Mountain Ski Area and Aspen Mountain Powder Tours special use permits would be required.

After careful document review, and consultation with the Forest's mountain sports staff, I accept ASC's AMMDP. I have concluded the AMMDP is consistent with the White River National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan, and national direction tied to the Ski Area Recreational Opportunity Enhancement Act of 2011. However, projects contained in the AMMDP are not authorized as a result of this document acceptance. New projects listed in the AMMDP not authorized through prior decisions must go through NEPA analysis and decision making prior to approval and implementation. I am eager to work with Aspen Mountain's management team to ensure the provision of high quality recreation experiences for all forest visitors.

If you have questions concerning any element of this acceptance letter, please direct your questions to Theodore Broom, the Aspen-Sopris Ranger District's Mountain Sports Lead. Theodore is reachable by email at tbroom@fs.fed.us or by telephone at (970) 404-3159.

Sincerely,



SCOTT G. FITZWILLIAMS
Forest Supervisor

cc: Karen Schroyer, Roger Poirier, Theodore Broom, Monte Luterman

for