

File Code: 2720; 1950
Date: November 9, 2018

Dear Interested Participant,

The White River National Forest has released a Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) that analyzes the Vail Mountain Resort Golden Peak Improvements Project, along with a *draft* Record of Decision (ROD). Vail Mountain Resort (Vail) operates under a special use permit from the White River National Forest and is located on the Eagle-Holy Cross Ranger District. Individuals who submitted timely and specific written comments during the scoping period (March 30, 2017 through May 1, 2017) or Draft EIS comment period (April 6, 2018 through May 21, 2018) will have eligibility to file an objection to the draft ROD under 36 CFR §218.8.

As identified in the draft ROD, the Selected Alternative includes the following elements: construction of one surface lift and approximately 42 acres of new ski trails for women's Downhill and men's Super-G courses, moguls course, and skier cross course; relevant lift operating buildings, race start buildings, equipment storage, fuel storage, and maintenance building; infrastructure to support snowmaking on new ski trails; an access road for construction of new lift and ski trails as well as staging areas and logging decks for construction materials and timber removal; and vegetation removal and surface smoothing/grading for new ski trails and drainage management. All proposed projects would be located within Vail's existing Special Use Permit area. The specific elements of the Selected Alternative are described in detail in the draft ROD and Chapter 2 of the FEIS.

The FEIS and draft ROD are available for review/download on the White River National Forest website at <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=47937>. Hardcopies may be reviewed at the Forest Supervisor's Office in Glenwood Springs and the Eagle-Holy Cross Ranger District office in Minturn.

Objections, including attachments, must be filed via mail, email, hand-delivery, express delivery, or messenger service (Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., excluding federal holidays) to: Objection Reviewing Officer, USDA Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Region, 1617 Cole Blvd. Building 17, Lakewood, CO 80401; Fax: 303-275-5134 to the attention of Objections; or Email: r02admin-review@fs.fed.us. Electronic objections must be submitted in a format such as an e-mail message, plain text (.txt), portable document format (.pdf), rich text format (.rtf), or MS Word (.doc).

Objections must be submitted within 45 calendar days following the publication of a legal notice in the Glenwood Post Independent. The legal notice is anticipated to be published on November 9, 2018. The publication date in the newspaper of record is the exclusive means for calculating the time to file an objection. Those wishing to object should not rely upon dates or timeframe information provided by any other source. The regulations prohibit extending the time to file an objection.



Thank you for your interest and participation in this important project. For additional information concerning this decision or the Forest Service objection process, contact: Max Forgens, Mountain Sports/Special Uses Administrator at (970) 827-5157 or mforgensi@fs.fed.us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Scott G. Fitzwilliams". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "S".

SCOTT G. FITZWILLIAMS

Forest Supervisor

cc: Max Forgens