



File Code: 2720; 1950
Date: May 1, 2020

Dear Interested Party,

The White River National Forest is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) to review the proposed Bergman Bowl Enhancement Projects at Keystone Resort (Keystone). The proposed projects are located entirely within Keystone's existing special use permit (SUP) area and operating boundary and are consistent with Keystone's Master Development Plan. Since 2003 Bergman and Erickson bowls have been managed for public skiing by Keystone Ski Patrol. Avalanche mitigation (including explosive use) and other infrastructure is used to support the operation of this area as part of Keystone's existing open terrain network. At this time, the terrain in Bergman and Erickson bowls is primarily accessed by snowcat services and hiking/skinning.

Based on the EA, I will determine whether or not to approve all or part of the proposal, including:

- Construction of a detachable chairlift in Bergman Bowl and associated infrastructure and utility improvements to serve approximately 555 acres of ski terrain;
- Construction of 13 ski trails in Bergman Bowl and 3 ski trails in Erickson Bowl, requiring approximately 73 acres of tree clearing, 19 acres of grading, and glading within 40 acres;
- Installation of 22 acres of snowmaking coverage on proposed beginner and intermediate ski trails in Bergman Bowl;
- Construction of a 2,200-foot road, intended to provide access to the bottom terminal of the proposed Bergman Bowl lift;
- Construction of a 1,000-square-foot ski patrol facility near the top terminal of the proposed Bergman Bowl lift; and
- Expansion of the Outpost Restaurant to provide approximately 6,000 square-feet of space for guest services including restaurant seating and restrooms.

The purpose of the proposed action is to respond to a proposal by Keystone that will better meet the demands of destination visitors and families while appealing to the needs and desires of Keystone's day-use clientele. Implementation of the proposed Bergman Bowl lift is needed to better utilize the existing terrain within Keystone's operational boundary and SUP area, and to reduce overcrowding by redistributing skiers from the front side of the mountain. The proposed Bergman Bowl terrain enhancements are needed to increase the terrain variety at Keystone for a range of ability levels, while providing an above tree line skiing experience that does not currently exist for lower ability level guests. In addition, the proposed chairlift and terrain enhancements are needed to help improve skier circulation between key terrain pods at Keystone.

An interactive story map highlighting the proposed action and preliminary findings is available at: <https://bit.ly/2R3yZgp>.



The formal notice of proposed action (NOPA) is available for review online at: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=58011>. Additional information regarding this action can be obtained from Forest Service project leader Sam Massman at samuel.massman@usda.gov or by phone at (970) 309-3268.

How to Comment and Timeframe

Specific written comments on the proposed project will be accepted for 30 calendar days following the publication of a legal notice in the *Post Independent*, on May 1, 2020. The publication date in the newspaper of record is the exclusive means for calculating the comment period. The regulations prohibit extending the length of the comment period. Please note that this period is serving as both scoping and the sole comment period for the proposed action.

Written comments (regarding Forest Service questions and concerns) must be submitted by:

Mail:

Scott Fitzwilliams, Forest Supervisor
c/o Sam Massman, Project Leader
Dillon Ranger District
PO Box 620
Silverthorne, CO 80498

Electronic:

<https://cara.ecosystem-management.org/Public//CommentInput?Project=58011>

Note: the name and mailing address of the person submitting electronic comments must be included.

It is the responsibility of persons providing comments to submit them by the close of the comment period. Only those who submit timely and specific written comments will have eligibility to file an objection under CFR 36 § 218.8. For objection eligibility, each individual or representative from each entity submitting timely and specific comments must either sign the comment or verify identify upon request. Individuals and organizations wishing to be eligible to object must meet the information requirements in CFR 36 § 218.25(a)(3). Names and contact information submitted with comments will become part of the public record and may be released under the Freedom of Information Act. Electronic formats accepted include email, PDF, word documents, spreadsheets, most images, etc.

Sincerely,

X

SCOTT G. FITZWILLIAMS
Forest Supervisor