

**Comments:** Obviously, as a skier I would favor the Potential Alpine Ski Expansion being approved. What kind of missive do you need to affirm that desire and/or support? Not being a trained environmentalist, a term I hope is appropriate to use here, I don't know the implications of how the expansion would specifically adversely impact surrounding areas, but my thought is that is conjecture based on some level of probability. In terms of the wildlife on nearby land, I suspect they would fare well enough. If you have guidelines to assist in drafting responses, please send them my way. A Prime Timer, and a Happy one at that!

**Comments:** I am very much in favor of adding the proposed ski runs at Mt. Spokane State Park. I learned to ski at Mt. Spokane 50 years ago and ski there about 20 times per year. The proposed expansion will provide low-impact access to more skiing terrain which skiers would very much appreciate.

Thank you for listening. PS-I am also a life-long fly fisherman and have never heard of a red band trout being seen in this area, much less in the Mt. Spokane drainage area.

**Comments:** Mount Spokane has needed more terrain for skiing to compete with all the private mountains in the inland northwest and the area on the north facing slope would be the ideal location. I feel that the area is prone to forest fires with all the dead trees and snags laying around and that the expanded ski area would clean up some of that area. I am hearing about all the old growth trees and the concern to protect them but I ski in that area now and I believe that few old growth trees exist back there and where the chairlift is proposed would not be a factor in harming any old growth areas. Please allow the expansion.

**Comments:** thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Mt Spokane expansion project. We've been advocating for and following this project for several years. My family has been skiing Mt Spokane since 1991 and we've held a season passes for the past dozen years. Now we own a condo. We are huge fans of the ski hill and the park in general. I am so very disappointed in the Lands Council and their opposition to expansion on the "backside". This is not pristine "wilderness" and though it's been largely untouched since the early 1900's, we clearly need to make distinctions between wilderness to preserve intact ecosystems and those areas that can support recreational activities. Winter activities probably have the lowest impact on plant and animal species. I am very disappointed also in XXXX's decision to align with the Lands Council. I have no doubt, the backside will eventually open and we'll be able to ski on expanded terrain. In the meantime, scarce dollar resources are being plowed into legal battles and not back into the mountain. There is a very small, but vocal contingent of opposing voices. The sheer masses just want to ski and enjoy the mountain. In this regard, I'm firmly in the latter camp. Please add my comments to the public record. Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments. And, we did see the elusive Lynx last year. It crossed Hwy 206 near XXXX's house (he's the last property owner before Bear Creek Lodge when traveling towards the mountain). The Lynx stopped on the other side and we afforded a very close look. XXX is convinced she saw a wolf on

one of her hikes. She's well aware of what a coyote looks like. --- I remain "skeptical" though understand that wolves have been seen in Stevens county. Pretty cool. The backside is in relatively poor shape. A century's worth of fire prevention has created an overgrown "dark forest" with a mangle of downed timber. The park, like most "managed forests" would benefit from prescribed fire treatment. I also believe selective logging could help reduce the fuel load and provide for more gladed ski terrain.

**Comments:** I'm opposed to the proposed expansion at Mt Spokane State Park. Adding a lift in this pristine area of the mountain makes no sense. The lodge and facilities at the mountain are terrible. Lodge one is falling apart, lodge two even with the updates is dated and not a comfortable place to be. Chair two does not start at the bottom of the mountain and you either have to hike to the chair or take a children's chair up to chair two. The people of the inland northwest have many choices for skiing and adding an additional lift will not attract more people to the mountain. Fixing the current facilities would have a more positive impact. Many back country skiers enjoy this pristine quiet area without chair lifts and grooming operations. Adding a chair to the back side will destroy some of the best back country skiing in the region. Mt Spokane Ski and Snowboard Park in my opinion does not have the right to force it way against the will of the tax payers that own and pay for the park. This is a state resource that needs to be managed with the purpose to fulfill the needs of all users although the back country users are a limited number, their voices should be heard. The mountain experience will be ruined forever not to mention the big eye sore of a chair lift and clear cut. I use the park year round, the sight of the chair and all the runs cut into the mountain and the associated buildings will leave a permanent scar on the undeveloped side of the mountain. This will hinder the other outdoor recreation year round.

**Comments:** This is unbelievable! We needed this expansion 20 years ago! Many people already use this area to ski and snowboard. I am on my 19th season as a Mt. Spokane Ski Patrol and year after year our patrol performs search and rescues in the PASEA. How much more time and money will it take? Or do we need to lose a life before this wasteful process comes to an end? If I remember right, safety and protection of our public is a primary duty of our government. Time to stop this huge waste of time and money. Approve this expansion before it is too late for someone and we all will regret our overdue action.....

**Comments:** For 20 years there has been a serious effort to expand the ski area at Mt. Spokane. During those 20 years the number of skiers visiting and using the Mt. Spokane ski area has grown. What is called The Interstate, a cat track several hundred yards in length, which connects parts of chair 2 and all of chair 3 skiers to the bunny hill (chair 5), back to chair 2, over to chair 1 and the lodge, has become increasingly congested and dangerous. Opening up the proposed new area will direct many skiers away from this congested cat track and do a lot to enhance skier safety. Year after year a small group of people, under the clever guise of environmental concern, oppose the expansion at every turn. I am 69 years old and personally know many of the opponents to the expansion. I can tell you they all have the

privilege of skiing on weekdays and can enjoy far less crowded slopes than is the case on weekends and holidays. We can live in harmony with and be environmentally sensitive to the proposed expansion. To say that opening the area to winter use for alpine skiing will destroy critically sensitive flora and fauna is a tired argument used as a tool to kill the project. It is a tiny minority of people using the environmental hammer to bludgeon the proposed expansion. I contend it is for selfish and self-serving reasons, not the stated reasons on preventing environmental degradation and destruction. enter my name in support of the expansion.  
Regards,

**Comments:** Please share with all appropriate and interested parties. No more wildlife habitat should be sacrificed to recreation! The wildlife have already lost far too much, which is why so many species are threatened with extinction. Bicycles and ski lifts should not be allowed in any natural area. They are inanimate objects and have no rights. There is also no right to mountain bike. That was settled in federal court in 1996: <http://mjvande.nfshost.com/mtb10.htm> . It's dishonest of mountain bikers to say that they don't have access to trails closed to bikes. They have EXACTLY the same access as everyone else -- ON FOOT! Why isn't that good enough for mountain bikers? They are all capable of walking.... A favorite myth of mountain bikers is that mountain biking is no more harmful to wildlife, people, and the environment than hiking, and that science supports that view. Of course, it's not true. To settle the matter once and for all, I read all of the research they cited, and wrote a review of the research on mountain biking impacts (see <http://mjvande.nfshost.com/scb7.htm> ). I found that of the seven studies they cited, (1) all were written by mountain bikers, and (2) in every case, the authors misinterpreted their own data, in order to come to the conclusion that they favored. They also studiously avoided mentioning another scientific study (Wisdom et al) which did not favor mountain biking, and came to the opposite conclusions. Those were all experimental studies. Two other studies (by White et al and by Jeff Marion) used a survey design, which is inherently incapable of answering that question (comparing hiking with mountain biking). I only mention them because mountain bikers often cite them, but scientifically, they are worthless. Mountain biking accelerates erosion, creates V-shaped ruts, kills small animals and plants on and next to the trail, drives wildlife and other trail users out of the area, and, worst of all, teaches kids that the rough treatment of nature is okay (it's NOT!). What's good about THAT? To see exactly what harm mountain biking does to the land, watch this 5-minute video: <http://vimeo.com/48784297>. In addition to all of this, it is extremely dangerous: [http://mjvande.nfshost.com/mtb\\_dangerous.htm](http://mjvande.nfshost.com/mtb_dangerous.htm) . For more information: <http://mjvande.nfshost.com/mtbfaq.htm> . I am working on creating wildlife habitat that is off-limits to humans ("pure habitat"). Want to help? (I spent the previous 8 years fighting auto dependence and road construction.) Please don't put a cell phone next to any part of your body that you are fond of!

**Comments:** I was on the Mt. Spokane Ski Patrol for 17 years. I retired 2 or 3 years ago. I

skied what is known as the back side of Mt. Spokane more than and other patroller and maybe more that anyone. The new chair, if build, would in part of the 800 or 900 acers known as the back side. In all of the 20 some years that I have skied that area I have never seen what I would call an old growth tree! I am not for or against a new chair but I don't understand why there is such a delay in getting this settled!

**Comments:** I am following the progress of possible expansion of Mount Spokane Ski Area Expansion very closely. I have sent you a email about a year ago and thought it was time to send another one as the ski season inches closer. I have been skiing Mt. Spokane for about 20 years now and other mountains in the Northwest ( Schweitzer, Silver, 49 degrees, Lookout and Canadien resorts as well as Oregon resorts. Mount Spokane is the only resort that has not been able to add another chairlift in all of the Northwest, only because of a few selfish individuals that our using the excuse of "old growth and damage to the mountain", which is a bunch of hogwash. Mount Spokane is a non-profit operation and all of their \$ goes back into trying to improve the mountain facilities, which they have done, especially the last 3 years, but in order for them to compete and attract new skiers/boarders to their mountain, they need this new chairlift and expansion. Currently the mountain gets very congested in the high traffic areas close to the lodge and around chairs 2, 3, and the bunny hill chair. I usually ski the hardest, most advance areas of the mountain, including the backside where the proposed new chair is going, but I am in a very small % of the skiers that do this, because it does require some extra work in getting back to chair 4 via the snowmobile access trail. Sure, I would love to have the backside all to myself and a few of my select skier buddies and enjoy fresh POWDER all of the time, but that is not what the world should be about, just letting a few people enjoy the best snow on the mountain. I am more than willing to share the wonderful terrain that this expansion would allow other skiers/snowboarders enjoy and allow the crowds to spread out and actually diminish the possiblity of more injuries where the congestion is really bad.I encourage you and the Park commission to consider letting this expansion happen. What is really disappointing to me is that the Mountain received approval and they invested in buying the Red Chair from Bridger Bowl and then just a handful of extremists were able to put a stop/hold on the expansion.Thank you for taking the time to read my message and hopefully sharing it.

**Comments:** The PASEA is supposedly now being managed as an NFA, yet alpine skiing is permitted. According to the matrix, alpine skiing is not permitted in NFAs. If the No Action alternative were chosen, could alpine skiing continue to be permitted? Could search and rescue by off- trail snowmobile be permitted? Could the Chair 4 Road continue to be a corridor for existing uses through the NFA? I think you need to specify options for the No Action NFA above the Chair 4 Road just as you have for below the Chair 4 Road. There are no non-motorized trails within the PASEA as your scoping document indicates in the third paragraph. The Chair 4 Road is the only recreational trail. Also there is a discrepancy between the two maps relative to the NFA below the Chair 4 Road. Option 1 shows a bit of NFA at the very north end within the PASEA, while Option 2 shows that area as Resource Rec. Shouldn't both

maps show this area as Resource Rec?

**Comments:** I am still hoping the expansion does not become a reality. I have been skiing Mt. Spo since 1962 and I love it just the way it is. Every other year or so I ask them to even put padding on the chairs on #4. By 1 pm your butt is killing you cause you are just sitting on plywood. Their answer is "We just don't have the money for that". So where does the money for expansion come from? Making the skier comfortable should be #1 priority. We will come back next week if that is done. I'm just glad for the remodel of #2 lodge.

**Comments:** I have lived in Spokane my entire life and skied Mt Spokane since the 1960's. In addition to skiing, our family hikes the park in the summer and, on occasion, in the winter. I would like to see Mt Spokane 2000 open new ski runs on the back side of the mountain. The area is already used by skiers who hike to the backside, ski through the area, and then hike back to the ski area. The area that Mt Spokane 2000 is proposing for the additional ski runs would not impact the use of other winter visitors. The Mt Spokane 2000 organization have been good stewards of the park and continue to support proper care and use of the land. If done correctly, the proposed expansion would increase the recreational use of Mt Spokane (both winter and summer) without negative impacts to the environment. When you hit the link to write a comment, the email address comes up incorrect (adds a second "v" at the end of the address). Must be changes or the email will not go through.

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**Comments:** I have lived in Spokane my entire life and skied Mt Spokane since the 1960's. In addition to skiing, our family hikes the park in the summer and, on occasion, in the winter. I would like to see Mt Spokane 2000 open new ski runs on the back side of the mountain. The area is already used by skiers who hike to the backside, ski through the area, and then hike back to the ski area. The area that Mt Spokane 2000 is proposing for the additional ski runs would not impact the use of other winter visitors. The Mt Spokane 2000 organization have been good stewards of the park and continue to support proper care and use of the land. If done correctly, the proposed expansion would increase the recreational use of Mt Spokane (both winter and summer) without negative impacts to the environment. When you hit the link to write a comment, the email address comes up incorrect (adds a second "v" at the end of the address). Must be changes or the email will not go through.

**Comments:** Can you send the formal notice for the scoping comment period for the Mt Spokane ski area EIS scoping. I found the notice in the Spokesman Review but I would like to see the exact language of the notice. I copy the notice in the Spokesman for your information.

**Comments:** I noticed the Spokesman says the deadline is December 21 and your notice says December 12. Which is correct? I would surely think yours is correct, but a lot of people including me received notice through the Spokesman.

**Comments:** I heard about the scoping period and googled for the State Parks notice. Did not find it. I did see it the Spokesman Review hard copy delivered to my door - date about November 13- it was in a community short listing called *In Brief* with the headline "Driver allegedly admits drinking" I found the online listing and here is the link <http://m.spokesman.com/stories/2013/nov/13/in-brief-driver-allegedly-admits-drinking/> and verbatim text - link provided is not working.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed. It's frustrating to see how just a few people can stall or stop this wonderful improvement to this great outdoor recreational area. This land was donated for recreational use, plain and simple. Once the runs are cleared, there will be summer opportunities for citizens to use the mountain for various recreation. Once the snow flies, there will be additional areas for skiing, perhaps snow shoeing and winter hiking! As a volunteer for the Spokane Parks and Recreation TRS program, we are looking forward to having more area to teach our students with developmental delays skiing and snowboarding. It will leave us more time to teach and coach than standing in lift lines. For the life of me, I do not see how this expansion will hurt this beautiful gem. It simply will allow more people to enjoy the mountain year round! There will be more open areas for wildlife, more ground cover for the animals to forage and live. Please approve this expansion for all of us to enjoy

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed. This continued effort by a small lobby organization continues to amaze me. The Land Council has caused an expensive effort to derail the expansion for thousands of skiers. As an analogy, a golf course expansion is based on the course itself, not the Country Club facility. Most of the members of this lobby have never been to the planned expansion area in the winter or summer. They just like to beat their drums for a lost cause against progress. Let's move ahead to improve the winter recreation of Mount Spokane State Park.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed. Mt. Spokane is our family's ski area because it affords us a close family oriented place to ski together. Thanks for your support!

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed. Let's just get the jackXXX liberals like Murray and McCasslin out of the way and get this thing done!

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed. Do this!!!!!!

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**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed. This is first and foremost a public safety issue. Secondly, as the only ski area in a state park Mt Spokane has the unique ability to provide affordable access to downhill skiing, including a wonderful handicap program. All of the other activities in the park are available in other state parks. Downhill snow skiing is not. I must also say I find it reprehensible that a special interest group is doing everything it can to block the use of public lands by the public. I ask that the intent of the generous citizen who donated the property be honored, not this special interest group that seems intent on locking all citizens out except the privileged few.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed. This seems the obvious choice for greater use of our state park system. Thank you for your attention.

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**Comments:** The short story: Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed. The longer story: I am writing in support of the proposed expansion of the ski area into the north side of Mt Spokane. I am a senior citizen who has been skiing at Mt. Spokane off and on for many years and it is one of the few places that is affordable and easily accessible for seniors such as my wife and I. We believe it is affordable due to the unique non-profit operation of the ski area. It is accessible due to its proximity to the city of Spokane and because of the attitude that they have towards seniors at the mountain. With state finances as they are, it is also a great example of a park that is not paid for entirely by state government, but instead is a source of revenue for the park system because of the rent paid to the state. What extra money that is generated at the resort is reinvested into the resort/park, rather than distributed elsewhere as profits. The Prime Timers senior group that skis at Mt Spokane began with just a few members 10 or 11 years ago and now numbers in excess of 600 seniors. The management of the non-profit ski area, not only helps keep skiing affordable for seniors, it also provides a unique social setting for Prime Timers to congregate that helps keep seniors from becoming socially isolated, As grim as it sounds, as we age, and our friends and spouses begin to die, it is very easy for seniors to abandon their activities and become very isolated. In visiting with other seniors on the mountain and listening to their stories, I have come to realize how beneficial this ski area and the Prime Timers are. And that doesn't even take into account the many benefits of remaining physically active. I believe this is a unique opportunity to make Mt. Spokane even better for those that care about being able to spend time in the beautiful outdoors during the winter - and in the summer as well. The expansion will be into an area previously serviced by a ski lift and will

enhance the recreational experience of thousands of people with a minimal expense to the state, and minimal impact on the environment. Like you, my wife and I hold mountains in high regard. There is nothing quite like being on the top of a mountain, in the sunshine in winter, to make a person appreciate what life has to offer and how fortunate we are. One of the best ways to teach others to respect the environment is to let them experience it firsthand, and Mt. Spokane's ski and snowboard park is very good at doing that. Because of its proximity to Spokane, each week during the winter bus loads of school children from the surrounding area are learning to ski - becoming physically active rather than spending their time indoors playing video games. There is an attitude at Mt Spokane that come not from chasing a buck, but from a commitment to the park and to keeping it available for the people. To keep it competitive, and thus available, it needs this growth. It is the right thing to do for people in the long run. Please share my opinion with the rest of the board. Thank you. Sincerely,

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**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed. This is not about ruining nature, at any level. This is about allowing more people to experience the nature that is Mt. Spokane.

**Comments:** I want to keep my money for skiing in Washington. I go to Idaho because Mt Spokane lacks more area to ski, and lacks the aspect to keep snow early and late season. Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed. Why should a small percentage of acreage be denied public use for only a few? I

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**Comments:** Hello! My name is XXXXX and I am a student at Whitworth University in Spokane. I am presenting a persuasive speech on the Potential Alpine Ski Expansion Area at Mt. Spokane. I have not formally chosen my stance on the issue yet, for I am collecting as much information as possible. Is there any information that you would like to share with me? From your point of view, what is the vital information that I should be sharing with a group of 20 students on this issue? I am utilizing Mt. Spokane's website and [www.savemtspokane.org](http://www.savemtspokane.org) to collect evidence right now. Are there other sites I should be utilizing? What are the pros and cons of the expansion? Any information helps! I am presenting on December 3rd, so I would appreciate any information before then. Thank you so much for your time and consideration!

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed. Thank you so much!! We cannot wait to ski the backside!

**Comments:** I support any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission that allows the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed. Thank you.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed. When standing on top of Mt Spokane, there are hills and mountains and trees as far as the eye can see. Why limit a small expansion (probably less than 1% of the available area) and prevent jobs, enjoyment, and multiple use of a great resource.

**Comments:** Please add my voice to those supporting new ski runs on the backside of Mt Spokane. My wife and I have had season passes for many years and believe expanding the available runs will be a great asset to area skiers.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must NOT ALLOW the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed. This is a pristine area used by many now. It will ruin the only backcountry skiing experience available on the mountain and trash the habitat for animals that call it home now. The management team at Mt Spokane Ski and Snowboard Park are short sighted and cannot even operate the existing facilities well enough to

maximize the current potential clientele. They need to put in a new parking lot, updated chair one facilities, a high speed quad on chair one and better ski school facilities not more area to neglect.

**Comments:** I fully support the expansion of Mt Spokane ski area to include the new chair #6 and the seven runs associated with it. As a frequent back country skier, I enjoy the beauty and solitude of those areas and am convinced that the new runs will not disturb the ecological balance there. Thank you for your consideration.

**Comments:** I previously emailed you about my support for Mt. Spokanes proposed "backside expansion plans. I am now doing so again because I want to reiterate my full support in light of recent legal challenges brought against the plan. Again, Mt. Spokane ski area is an Inland Northwest treasure. It has operated in one form or another for more than 80 years in complete harmony with the community and the environment improving both with its presence. I was able to make my first descent of the backside area last winter and it was gorgeous. Mt. Spokanes plans are both reasonable and necessary for its continued success. Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed backside chairlift and seven runs to proceed. Thanks again for all your hard work on this issue. Please contact me with any questions or comments at

**Comments:** Thank you for your work on Mt. Spokane's "Backside" expansion. I learned to ski in Mt. Spokane's "Mogul Munchers" program when I was a kid. Now I live in Austin and don't get to ski as often as I like. But when I do get up to the Northwest each winter, I don't usually go to Schweitzer or Silver Mountain or, heaven forbid, 49 Degrees North. I go to my hometown mountain, Mt. Spokane. I always loved skiing the backside growing up better snow, better terrain, and fewer crowds. But it wasn't maintained like it should be and rarely open. I hope this new funding will open it up to more skiers and more little guys learning to munch moguls. Please contact me with any questions or comments. Thanks again for all your work. Best regards,

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**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed. It is very upsetting to so much money wasted in repeatedly having meetings and road blocks. We need to get things done instead of studying the crap out of everything!!!!!! Stop wasting my tax money and the Mt ske resorts money on these frivolous

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed.

**Comments:** I write to add my comments of opposition to the EIS-PASEA concerning the

Mount Spokane Potential Alpine Ski Expansion Area. I am a concerned citizen, long-time resident of the region, and a regular user of Mt. Spokane State Park. I have hiked the park, bird watched at the park, ridden my bicycle on the park's road, Nordic skied at the park, and downhill skied at the park. I know and appreciate the park well. On several previous occasions I have emailed your commission to express opposition to the proposed expansion of the downhill ski resort/concession to the north side of the peak. I am sure you have heard from many people on this issue. But given the recent administrative ruling that an insufficient EIS process, and thus a review in compliance with Washington State law is a necessary prerequisite I thought there might be time to try again to persuade the commission that the expansion is unwise. First, there is not a shortage of high quality ski resorts in the Inland Empire—excluding the several just north of the border in Canada that are within a two-three hour drive of Spokane. The list includes Lookout Pass, Schweitzer, Silver Mountain, Bluewood, and 49 Degrees North. Thus there is no true unmet need. Currently in the winter there is recreational ski use of the mountain's north side—by Nordic and telemark (free heel) skiers—I have done both on the north side of the mountain. One need only take the chair lift to the top and step off to the north side. This is in addition to the people who are snow shoeing on the north side of the mountain—again something I have done. So the notion that without extensive tree clearing and the installation of a chair lift on the north side there will be no winter ski access is a falsehood. What will happen is the Washington State Parks and Recreation department as well as the ski area will lose revenue when these individuals quit coming since the expansion eliminated the solitude and majestic views (lift towers) of the peak's north side—which was the draw in the first place. Second, at most the ski area is open four months of the year, but more typically about three months of the year. Does it make sense to remove the last old growth stand in the county and certainly in that park for three-four months of downhill skiing? I am deeply skeptical and should you be as well. The animals that call this area home live there 12 months a year. Where will they go—there is no other old growth to migrate to? A valuable and unique environmental treasure to the region is gone. Third, the proponents argue that economic realities demand it. That is, that without this expansion the resort will not be economically viable, and should the resort not succeed it will be an economic setback to the region. They argue that without the expansion people will not see the Mt. Spokane downhill ski area as a worthy destination. Thoughtful examination of these statements discloses that they are hyperbole. Assume for the sake of argument that the expansion goes forward. Mt. Spokane's relatively low elevation, exposure (affects the amount and quality of the snow) and other logistical limitations will always mean that this ski area is at a disadvantage relative to its neighbors— you cannot move the mountain, change its elevation, etc. Will true regional destinations such as Red Mountain (2.5 hour drive from Spokane versus Mt. Spokane, a one hour drive from Spokane) and Schweitzer (a two hour drive from Spokane), sit back and not make improvements to keep their market share and predominance—no? In this competitive industry Mt. Spokane will continue to be outspent and out-developed by these areas. Also the psychological reality is that when a person wishes to go to a destination, they wish to "get

away." The largest metropolitan area is Spokane, Spokane Valley, and Coeur d' Alene. These skiers, if they want to get away to a destination ski area, are unlikely to consider their own back yard-it defeats the purpose of "getting away." Thus, do the proponents of expansion to the north side really think that people will fly or drive from afar (Seattle, Portland, Missoula, etc.) to sample the destination quality skiing at Mt. Spokane? No, not really-if people are not coming from afar now, does it really make sense that they would because of one or two additional runs on the peak's north side? The economic realities for the ski area will not change fundamentally, but the character of the mountain will change-and tragically. The ski area will continue to be a marginally viable business-that reality will continue-it will not go out of business-there is enough local business to keep it going-i.e., the local populations' desire for quick, cheap, and easy access skiing for after work hours or a few hours on the weekend. Thus, at great ecological expense to the park and region, the Washington State Parks and Recreation department will not receive a commensurate increase in revenue from the expected increased number of skiers. Any increased revenue to the state from increased usage will be marginal-that is a realistic assessment. Is the expansion worth the marginal revenue? No. Will any marginal increase in revenue to the department really rescue the department from its deep budgetary woes (to which I am sympathetic-my wife and I willingly buy our Discovery Pass, and my wife is a citizen volunteer at Riverside State Park)? No. In sum, I hope your commission will reconsider authorizing this expansion for the reasons stated above as well as for the reasons advanced by others.

**Comments:** This project, in one form or another has been in the works for 40 years. Only recently have elitists voiced an opposition to the project. The Lands Council folks have used obstructionist tactics to delay the project, have conducted a disinformation program to confuse lay folk and all the while continue to use the very area which they seek legal protection for personal use such as snow machine or out of bounds skiing. Enough is enough. This is what Parks are for-recreation in all forms including Alpine Skiing. If the Lands Council wants to preserve semi-old growth for all eternity then let them make it wilderness and foot the bill, not the other way around. Once construction is complete the biota goes back to normal. Please allow for the expansion of Mt Spokane in a responsible manner. In addition to being a supporter of this project, I am also the Secretary for SINES. [www.spokanesines.org](http://www.spokanesines.org) and an Environmental Geologist for URS Corporation.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed.

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**Comments:** Our entire family is in favor of the Mt. Spokane Ski Area expansion. We believed it was a settled issue that took years of study and work to prepare. We were very disappointed to hear that a last minute lawsuit by the Lands Council has delayed these critical improvements to the visitor experience at Mt. Spokane. As a former USFS educated in Natural Resource Management, I totally support the expansion of the ski area for environmental as well as recreational reasons. The new chair lift will have a minimal footprint on the mountain, while the small amount of actual timber removal and glading necessary to provide for additional ski terrain will enhance both wildlife and plant species biodiversity. Many species of animals benefit from the forage plants that inhabit open areas adjacent to timbered areas. Many of the current ski runs on Mt. Spokane are covered with huckleberries in the fall. This food source is vital to many big game species and will be enhanced by ski area expansion. Creating open areas and breaks next to what many consider "old growth" timber will provide a much needed fire break to help limit catastrophic fire. It is a fact that many of the timbered areas within Mt. Spokane State Park have been poorly managed and are ripe for a catastrophic fire. High fuel loads, areas of insect infestation and timber diseases have created large segments of unhealthy forest. Any project that will enhance visitor experience while helping to protect the natural resources of Mt. Spokane, such as the already studied and approved Mt. Spokane Ski Area Expansion, should be given the green light.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed.

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**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed. We really want this chairlift. We've been skiing this mountain for 45 years. We believe the current management have been great stewards of this mountain and that this is a positive direction for Mt. Spokane to take.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed. This is a MUST for the safety of snow enthusiasts who appreciate and participate in the outdoors activities of skiing and snowboarding. These activities enrich the lives of young and old alike providing physical, social and mental health. As a community member that began skiing on Mt. Spokane over 43 years ago, I am forever grateful for the enjoyment it has offered my family and me. Please support this much needed expansion for the current and future needs of snow sports enthusiasts by expanding the terrain of Mt. Spokane. Sincerely,

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed.

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**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed. I have and skied at Mt. Spokane over 50 years and this expansion is overdue and necessary for the Mt. to remain a going concern. To compete in this highly competitive market, the Mt. must be allowed to expand. Thank you for your consideration.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed. It has been so long since skiing on the backside was promised. It doesn't seem fair. Please approve the expansion.

**Comments:** You know Lands Council opposes any and all expansion anywhere anytime. Let the truth speak for itself and allow the chair and lifts to proceed. Thank you!

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed.

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**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed. I have lived in the Spokane area most of my life and recreate at Mt Spokane on a weekly basis, year around. I also often backcountry ski in the PASEA. I fully support Mt Spokane's expansion plans for a chair lift and seven runs. Please do not let special interest groups and legal teams speak for the real users of our state park.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed. Geterdone!

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed.

**Comments:** Pls put in new chair u guys have the best mountain why not make it even better loved every time I visit.

**Comments:** This is a request to allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed for Mt. Spokane State Park. Thanks you!

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must consider all recreational users, and unfortunately one of the fastest growing populations is not being taken into consideration, backcountry skiers. When considering how to appropriately move forward with the PASEA area please consider leaving terrain that would provide access for backcountry skiers. Additionally there is not a designated channel for their access to this land. Currently backcountry skiers have to either share space with snowmobiles, snow-shoers, and have recently been asked to not use the side of ski runs. Again, this is the industries fastest developing edge. Please thoughtfully consider how development of PASEA will affect this user group. Thank you,

**Comments:** The red chair will create less crowdedness and help reduce the risk of serious injuries related to collisions. Plus it can create some jobs for people which we all know is a struggle these days.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed.

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**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed. Not only is Mt. Spokane an icon for our city and a go to for most patrons for winter activities...but this installment isn't just for us die hard skiers and boarders. More mountain means more money and more money means more jobs. To look past the benefits and decline this opportunity for a mountain that has worked their back end off for years seems rather foolish.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed.

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**Comments:** Adding the sixth chair "big red" would create a huge economic boost for the park by adding the possibility of more guests coming to the mountain and buying lift tickets.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed. This would be a great addition to an already great ski mountain!

**Comments:** Regarding the Terrain Expansion Project: I have fond memories of Mt. Spokane -- it is an outlet for families and individuals of all backgrounds, classes, and economic levels. It is motivation to explore beautiful Mt. Spokane and appreciate the beauty of the parks that the Washington State Parks works so hard to preserve. An expansion would draw more people in to appreciate this beauty and unique terrain --and while I can see the downfall of over expanding and potentially diminishing the natural forestry and scenery that this part of the mountain provides, the benefits seem to counter this. I don't know the economic specifics, or what the pros and cons are at the legislative level, but I just wanted to mention how profound my memories at Mt. Spokane Ski & Snowboard Park were, and that any chance to expand both the terrain to explore as well as expand the public interest in the mountain seems like a wonderful thing. As many have said: Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed. Sincerely,

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed. I feel like Mt Spokane 2000 is working in the best interest of the State Parks to provide recreation opportunities for all people. Expanding to the backside of the Mountain will increase the number of advance beginner runs, and make the mountain safer for advance beginners. It will also provide terrain for our adaptive ski school to give more independence to their participants by increasing advance beginner terrain. I know lots of people love to ski back there already and it would improve the safety for those skiers.

**Comments:** The available terrain on Mt. Spokane is sufficient enough to leave the backside



UNTOUCHED. The attempt to put the chairlift on the backside will RUIN the beautiful, undefiled area of the mountain where people who are beginner and intermediate don't belong. I, along with many other riders/skiers from the Spokane area do not support this action. We always value the backside for its fresh powder tracks, and for this reason we continue to come to the mountain. Please take my thoughts in to consideration.

**Comments:** we are aware that Mt. Spokane has done its due diligence to assure that the installation of the new chair lift and ski runs will not have any negative impact on the environment. Please assist us with a decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission to allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed, thank you!

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed. The expansion project will help Mt Spokane be more of a destination ski area for the Spokane area and most importantly be more appealing to us regulars. People ski that area now, and by adding the chair and runs it will be a much safer situation. Please give this expansion project a favorable decision.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must stop the proposed chairlift and seven runs from proceeding. This chair is a hazard that was not meant to be reconstructed and the cost it is going to take to fix the lift to get it to properly fit will be outrageous. This money could be better used elsewhere on things like fixing lodge one, or putting it towards lodge two's proposed renovations.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed.

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**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed. Thank you for your time. Mt Spokane is a wonderful resource to the state of Washington.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed.

**Comments:** Please let us put in our new chair lift! The revenue of adding a new lift and expanding our terrain will be immense. Thank you, Proud chair lift

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed. Thank you!

Comments: Uphill Travel Policies... <http://www.ussma.org/resort-uphill-policies>

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed. In fact I see it as the only way to enjoy that part of the forest that nobody else would ever see if it was left as it is. Thank you.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed.

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**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed. Mt Spokane needs the additional terrain to stay competitive. All the other area resorts have expanded over the past few years where Mt Spokane has been unable to. The additional terrain will add more variety to Mt Spokane. More people will visit which means more money for Washington State. The area in question is not true old growth and Mt Spokane has done an excellent job in their planning. they are not going to clear cut the mountain. As a Forest Resource Management graduate, I applaud Mount Spokane for their plan. It also allows more people to enjoy that type of the mountain.

**Comments:** State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed. This is vital to the community and smart use of resources. Additionally, the Mt Spokane organization is a careful steward. Do this. Allow development of the Red Chair and the backside.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed.

**Comments:** Please give serious consideration to the proposal for the Mt. Spokane expansion. The addition will in all likelihood provide an increase in revenue not only from more people wanting to use the park, but also enthusiasts from surrounding locations investing in the commodities available in the greater Spokane area when the travel to use the park.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed. The land in question has been used for nearly 100 years for multiple use. Let us continue to use this area for winter recreation.

**Comments:** keep the lift off the backside of Mt Spokane! It's wonderful the way it is. A little dead fall clearing would be wonderful, but that's it! #saynototheredchair!

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed. I am a lifelong resident of Spokane and have skied, hiked and ridden my mtn bike in the State Park. This proposed ski area expansion is sensible, fair and reasonable. this area is already heavily used due to the terrain, access and snowpack. Lift access in this area will make it much safer so users won't need to be rescued or helped out.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed. The backside expansion would open up Mt. Spokane Ski and Snowboard park to so much more. With the backside open there would be less traffic on certain runs decreasing the risk of accidents on busy days. It would also allow the backside to be ride with ought having to duck the ropes and risk getting lost.. The more terrain a mountain has the more likely guests will come back to ski and ride for generations to come. Mt. Spokane deserves this chair so we should give it to them.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed. Mt Spokane is small, with that expansion it would bring us to a higher level along with adding hours of exploration and fun for everyone, like me, who calls Mt. Spokane home in the winter.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed. I think the concessionaire has more than enough tried to accommodate the environmentalists, the original PASEA was 800 acres they are now only going to use 80 acres!! The state park was set up for recreation including skiing, and there has been no expansion whatsoever, it's long over do!!

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed. Please!!!!!!

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed. Best regards

**Comments:** I am fully supportive of the backside expansion of Mount Spokane, thus opening up public lands for public recreation. Please make a decision in favor of Mount Spokane moving forward with plans to install a chairlift and seven ski runs.

**Comments:** please leave the wild areas of Mt. Spokane as they are!!! Humans have altered the habitat enough already.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed. I'M TIRED OF HEARING THIS PROJECT KEEPS RUNNING INTO BULLXXX OBSTACLES. LET MT. SPOKANE BUILD THIS CHAIRLIFT ALREADY.

**Comments:** Mt Spokane has significantly updated the lodge and undertaken other improvements. What is desperately needed now is more terrain if it is to remain viable in the long-run considering the terrain expansion of all its competitors. Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission should allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed.

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**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed. I think it would help the area and would not take away that much of the land from the animals. It would benefit the ski area , people already ski back there and with a lift I don't think too many would get lost.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed.

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**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed.

**Comments:** I'm writing to ask that the Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission allow the proposed chairlift at Mt. Spokane and seven runs to proceed. Mt. Spokane is a wonderful community asset and a great way to enjoy the outdoors for my family. Thank you,

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed.

**Comments:** NO EXPANSION !! Mt. Spokane can better serve the year around recreating public by keeping the north-side forested areas intact. The region has enough skiable acres without further destroying the Mt. Spokane ecosystem.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed. My family and I have been skiing at Mt. Spokane for quite some time. We also enjoy hiking and camping there. We appreciate the multi-use of the park and we feel the new ski lift would enhance the recreational capacity of the park. Thanks,

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed. This Ski hill is in need of new terrain and the proposed addition will not damage the ecosystem. This proposed addition of another Chairlift and additional runs will not only benefit the operator, but all users of the resort! I strongly recommend your approval of the request to expand the resort!

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed.

**Comments:** I'm writing to ask that the Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission allow the proposed chairlift at Mt. Spokane and seven runs to proceed. Mt. Spokane is a wonderful community asset and a great way to enjoy the outdoors for my family. Thank you, Steve Watts

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed. Please allow for the new expansion.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed. My family of 3 generations have been skiing on Mt. Spokane since the 1950's. I have been taking ski racers off the back side- where the proposed chairlift is going to be for many years. I have probably guided 1,000 skiers down that run. In fact I named it "Secret Squirrel." I know that environmental groups say that the back side is full of old growth trees. I really disagree with that statement. The vast majority of the trees are by no means old growth. I have skied all over North America and I have seen ski areas carve out expansions in a way that does not harm the environment. I know that Mt. Spokane State Park and the ski area can do this expansion in a way that will do little to no harm to the environment. I along with my family endorse the expansion. Thank You

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed.

**Comments:** The decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission on whether to destroy the last old growth forest in our county must be NO! Mt. Spokane needs to update and upgrade its existing facilities and before expanding anywhere. And if they can do that, then they need to find a place that doesn't destroy the fabulous natural habitat and old growth forest. There are plenty of places to ski nearby without this. Why does the State want to compete with privately owned businesses? It appears that the Cowles family would benefit greatly, as their adjacent or nearby properties would suddenly have their values skyrocket, and they can make millions developing it. They will be the only ones to profit from this unfortunate idea.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed. I'm 52 and have been skiing Mt Spokane since I was a kid. The current management does an exceptional job of promoting everything that is good a about Mt Spokane. I can't even imagine that we would be denied this long anticipated addition to our mountain. Thank you!

**Comments:** I am in favor of the gentle use of the backside of Mt Spokane by installing a chairlift and 7 runs.

**Comments:** I am a member of the 130, all volunteer Mt Spokane Ski patrol. I have been a skier for over 50 years and obviously would like to see the new chair lift on the backside get

built for many reasons. If you look at the history of the Mt Spokane State park, most of the land was given to the state with the intent that it could be further developed for the purposes of recreation by the state. These people were skiers. That being said, I wonder what those people would think or have to say about the current dilemma, delaying further development in what they envisioned so many years ago. It's a shame that a few people with money and lawyers can wreck it for the thousands of skiers that enjoy the mountain. As far as the environment goes, my observations are that the current ski runs provide a habitat for all sorts of wildlife with berries, brush and plants that the wildlife eat and that is why they are up there. The thick forested areas do provide cover for wildlife but not the more abundant food sources that the actual ski runs do for the wildlife. There should be a mix of both. The underbrush and dead standing trees on the back side are a major fire hazard that hasn't seen a fire in a hundred years. The development of the ski runs I would think would provide some fire breaks and roads to access the area in the event of a fire. I would think the State Park would welcome that.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed.

**Comments:** I support the expansion of Mt. Spokane Ski Park including the addition of the proposed chairlift and 7 runs.

**Comments:** I am a strong supporter of the proposed chairlift and seven new runs on Mt Spokane. Mt Spokane is a vital resource for recreational opportunities to the local region. The ski area is a central part of that recreational outlet and its ability to expand and grow to meet a growing population base will be key to the long term survival of the ski area. Thank you,

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed.

**Comments:** I am in full support of the backside expansion at Mt Spokane State Park. I have skied at Mt Spokane for over 30 years, and also enjoy recreating there in the non-winter seasons. This expansion will greatly improve the skiing experience, and as an avid supporter of this small, locally supported resort, I urge the state to allow this expansion to proceed. Sincerely,

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed. We have always supported the Mt Spokane Park staff and their plans as forward thinking and acting on behalf of the Public. Mt. Spokane Ski Patroller-1972 to

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow

the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed.

**Comments:** Now the Mt Spokane ski area is less than optimal because it is dominated by black runs with little for those who ski green and especially blue groomed runs. The additional lift will allow the mountain to be enjoyed by many less advanced skiers. This expansion would allow Spokane skiers easier access to skiing and compete well with the more distant 49, Silver, and Lookout. Please approve this project., PSIA Certified Alpine Level 1 Instructor.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed.

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**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed.

**Comments:** I support this new chair lift and runs. Adding these items would bring new revenue to the Spokane area!

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed. As Mt Spokane has waited for an expansion for a very long time!!! Thank you Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed. Please allow the expansion! We love Mt. Spokane!

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed. Mount Spokane Ski & Snowboard park is a valuable asset to our community providing healthy recreation for all ages and the disabled as well. I've read the comments put forth by opposition to this project stating that irreparable harm to the habitat will endanger the animal life on the mountain. As a lifelong hiker, skier and conservationist I know this not to be true. In the winter most all animals are in hibernation or have moved to lower elevations. What's left after the snow melts amounts to mountain meadows where the ski runs are located. Please consider recreational opportunities that this expansion brings. Thank you for your consideration....

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed.



**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed. I have hiked and ridden horses all over the State Park over the course of 30 years. My familiarity with the mountain and adjoining peaks, ravines, and drainages makes me particularly qualified to express an opinion concerning the matter of the environmental impact of an additional chair lift on the north slope. For example, in the summer time, I hike up chair three and down the adjacent run to the bottom of chair 4 and either back up the face of 4, or the blue run on the other side, or along the CAT road on the back side and then up to the top of Chair 2 from all of the ascension points. I see more deer, elk and moose tracks on the grassy slopes than I do in heavy timber. Very few people frequent this area during the summer. Most of the huckleberry pickers frequent on the south slope and near the lodges. So, some tree clearing for winter ski runs on the north slope will likely enhance the summer range for these animals. During the winter, deer and elk range in lower altitude and the moose tend to stay higher. But all around the mountain, ample timber stands and habitat exists such that the herds will likely stay the same if not increase. Ample habitat will remain to support all species of flora and fauna and other wildlife such as bobcat, rabbit, squirrels etc.. As the population increases, the demand for ski runs will increase. In my opinion, its best to carefully and thoughtfully plan for the future. It is better, in my opinion, to increase the capacity of this resort rather than risk another competing resort consume additional land with infrastructure to have the same skiing capacity.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed. any positive impact will greatly outweigh any negative impact.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed. Regards,

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed. To the best of my knowledge, Mt. Spokane Ski & Snowboard Park has jumped over every hurdle and through every hoop needed to ensure the approval of this expansion. While the majority of local outdoor enthusiasts support this initiative it has been thwarted by a vocal minority, aka Inland Lands Council. It is very obvious that Mt. Spokane Ski & Snowboard Park did their due diligence prior to making significant capital expenditures associated with this expansion. Mt Spokane has over 80 years of skiing history and it is my hope that this expansion will help sustain another 80 years of skiing. As a 40 plus year user of the park I ask for the commissions final approval of this much needed expansion. Sincerely,

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must "NOT" allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs. Our lands and wildlife will thank you for generations to come.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow

the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed . MT. Spokane needs to keep up with the other Hills in the area, it's been way to long for not adding more terrain. We are a family of six and can't wait for the new chair.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed . MT. Spokane needs to keep up with the other Hills in the area, it's been way to long for not adding more terrain. We are a family of six and can't wait for the new chair.

**Comments:** While I love the idea of expanding the park, old growth trees must be protected. Any decision must make provisions for this. Thank you.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission should allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed. This is a responsible move that would add great benefit to the recreational growth of the ski area.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed. As a 30 year season pass holder to Mt Spokane, I encourage the Wa St Parks to approve this development

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed.I very much appreciate your consideration. Your approval would benefit both the Mt. Spokane skiers and the economy of the area.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed.

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**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed. My kids grew up skiing on the mt and were in SSRA. Now their kids just signed up for lessons (ages 4&6) and we would like to continue this family experience. As their grandma, I'm now on the prime timers so I can continue for my enjoyment.

**Comments:** I believe that the red chair would help improve your mountain. This thing about wild life is bs they thrive on the mt and will the same with new runs. The runs will help them easy way for vegetation to grow. Please allow this for them and the Spokane area.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow

the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed. I believe There Is Room Enough for Nature, The Sierra Club, And a Few Acres Of Ski terrain in The vast Forests Surrounding Mt Spokane. Gazing At The Beautiful wilderness And Panorama Of Mountains Visible From The Summit last Weekend Convinced Me of This Fact. Skiers Worship The Mountains and Belong There Along With The Other Wildlife. Please Allow This Relatively Small Increase In Skier Habitat. Thanks And Happy Holidays,

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed.

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**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed. Expansion of the ski area will enhance winter use of our beautiful State Parks!

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed. We all need to support this non-profit ski area that so many enjoy.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed.

**Comments:** I am an active skier and have had a season pass at Mt. Spokane for 35 consecutive years. My children and grandchildren all have season passes too. I was highly involved in the concession agreement preparation prior to State Parks awarding the ski resort concession to Mt. Spokane 2000. I don't use Mt. Spokane State Park much in the summer with only 2-3 day trips into the park. I also snowshoe once a week from the snowmobile parking lot in the winter.

I was deeply disappointed by the court action that requires State Parks to do a complete EIS in order to proceed with the ski area expansion, particularly after the announcements were made about the approval and after the acquisition of the new chairlift by the concessionaire. Mt. Spokane needs more intermediate terrain in order to attract customers with lower skills. This need exists at Mt. Spokane than other competing ski areas in the region who have more intermediate terrain. Mt. Spokane has the most advanced terrain in the region as a ratio of advanced to intermediate. I am a 45 year certified ski instructor and capable of making this determination. Mt. Spokane would improve the guest experience and increase use of the State Park with more intermediate terrain and also with intermediate terrain located on the top and northwest facing slopes where the snow conditions are better, longer into the season. It will enhance ski teaching such that it moves intermediate classes away from the base and away from lower runs on the mountain closer to the main lodge.

I strongly support State Parks action to proceed with the expansion of the ski area, the installation of the new chairlift, and the addition of 7 new runs on Mt. Spokane within Mt. Spokane State Park.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed. CURRENT runs sometimes are crowded and can cause accidents. We need the extra area and lift.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed.

**Comments:** I am a user of the Mt Spokane facility and a user of State Parks across the State. This area is currently used by back country skiers and will be a seasonal use of the area. This expansion allows a local business to stay competitive and open state park areas to more users. If there are sensitive areas that need protecting, design protections into the approval. Mt Spokane is a great family ski area used almost exclusively by WA residents. Please find a way to protect valuable resources and allow a new chair lift in this area.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed. I will ski the backside regardless, but I think it would be much safer with a few trails to get to the cat track at the bottom. I think the safety issue is important.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed. The new lifts will make Mt.Spokane more competitive with larger terrain. A little disruption on that part of the Mountain will not hurt the environment but open it for all to enjoy.

**Comments:** STOP THE EXPANSION!

**Comments:** The proposed chair lift and run expansion at Mt Spokane will ruin the idealic forest on the NW side of the mountian, and will eliminate the only advanced skiing at the resort. It is bad for the mountian, bad for the skiers and, surpisingly that the concession doesn't see it, bad for the resort itself. Do not allow this unspoiled section of forest to be bulldozed by greedy, short- sighted and unscruplous developers. Thank you.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed. Please!!!!

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed. We LOVE everything that Mt. Spokane does and we feel very grateful to have such an amazing place to go. We want to see expansion with the new lifts and believe it is a great way to celebrate what Spokane is all about!!

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed. We love the Mt and want it to grow and expand with this new lift and runs. We believe in growth!!

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed. This will ensure that the area remains competitive in the ski industry.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed. Mahalo!!

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed. I believe improving the ski area that is the closest to the metro area of Spokane is in the best interests of the population and the natural environment (saves on travel to further destinations). Mt. Spokane is an excellent steward of our lands. Thank you,

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed. I don't think this will harm the environment. People are already skiing back there. Not me but I would like to because I am now a Prime Timer (age 72) Thank you for your time.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed.

**Comments:** The proposed expansion of the Mt. Spokane ski area is a great utilization of resources and a great plus to the Spokane community. Expanded capacity, terrain, and

facilities will enhance the desirability of Spokane as a place to live and raise a family.

**Comments:** I am an avid skier at Mt. Spokane. However, I am opposed to the proposed expansion which would include a chairlift and seven runs.

**Comments:** My parents first started skiing on Mt. Spokane, in areas near the proposed new lift and runs, in the late 1930's through the Spokane Ski Club and other organizations. My father went on to become the first American ski instructor on St. Spokane. I started skiing on Mt. Spokane in 1955 and have hiked and skied in the proposed area. I fully support this expansion and see it as consistent with the existing uses. Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed. Thank you

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed. The backside of Mt. Spokane has already been serviced by a lift in the 30's, 40's and 50's. There is no old growth to be damaged. I am all for protecting old growth timber. Let's first find some, and protect it. The proposed ski area expansion has none. Let's get more people to enjoy the Park. More people coming to Mt. Spokane just may have the effect of showing people what a beautiful resource they have next door to 650,000 people, and this may help them to understand and provide stewardship to their own environment.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed. The addition of a new chair opening up more area to skiing will be great. Thanks,

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must NOT allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed. Mt Spokane Ski Area has neglected the runs on the front side of the mountain creating dangerous conditions on several runs.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed.

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**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed.

**Comments:** Mt. Spokane Ski Area must be allowed to expand onto the backside of the mountain. The environment has not suffered at all from the past 70+ years of active skiing and other recreational uses. In fact, the area has thrived and been carefully shepherded by those who use it. Adding the new chairlift and trails will help the economy and benefit the State Park. Don't fall for the radical lunatic fringe noise clamoring to deny the expansion. Responsible use is necessary and appropriate. Deny this and more people will simply drive further, burning more gas, to spend their money in Idaho or Canada instead. Wasteful and short-sighted. Support Mt. Spokane!

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed. There is no better way to preserve our environment than to allow the citizens to enjoy it. People readily care for and respect that which brings them joy. Make the wise decision and allow this reasonable expansion request. Thank you for your time.

**Comments:** I do NOT support the expansion of the ski area. This is old-growth timber and vital habitat for wildlife, both of which are increasingly scarce and should be protected.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed. THIS MTN NEEDS THIS TO COMPETE WITH THE SURROUNDING MOUNTAINS

**Comments:** I support the expansion of Mt Spokane Ski Area to the fullest extent.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed. This expansion will be enjoyed by way to many people; to not continue it would be to crush thousands of dreams!

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed. Either pay for the lift or let them install it.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must NOT allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed. The 279 acres where the development would occur is one of the largest unbroken tracts of subalpine habitat left in Spokane County. Expansion robs future generations of experiencing all of the positive benefits a natural habitat has to offer. Please stop the expansion before you destroy this for everyone

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed. Spokane is struggling economically. As a business owner an improved and expanded ski area would help me recruit high quality applicants to my business. My family has had season passes to Mt. Spokane since we moved here 7 years ago. But we now find that we go to Schweitzer for long weekends because Mt. Spokane has a limited number of runs and my kids are "bored" with the mountain.



**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed. I would like to see Mt. Spokane expand and put in the chair lift on the Northwest part of the Mt. The Mt. Sp. people have jumped all the hoops, let the work begin. .

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed. Thank you for your consideration,

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed. Please stop the delays and approve the expansion. Thank you

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed. I want the best for all. I love skiing on Mt. Spokane. The State Park department have done a wonderful job keeping the roads open. They operators of the ski area are great!

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed. I feel it is vital to our county to maintain and develop future our local ski area. Thank you.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed. Moe people will use the park and development can be done to minimize impact. thanks.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed.

**Comments:** At this point in the process, I mean really, Why not !? Lets increase our growth .

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed. Allowing this to move forward will give Spokane residents a richer recreational experience of having access to natures habitat. This will

enrich the lives of those that want to explore the mountain. A joy skiers look forward to on top of a ski hill with God's creative scenery.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed. The best interest I'm serving the local spokane area

**Comments:** Mt. Spokane is the only really local ski mountain which is still affordable for families. In order to better serve the local community, the expansion project which includes the proposed chairlift and the seven new runs, would provide enough space on a mountain which is now crowded during peak season. In addition, longer runs need to be developed for more advanced skiers to accommodate both the mountain's race team and keep income from skiers local.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed. I absolutely love this mountain and have been skiing and mountain biking here for years. I can't stand to see the potential to enjoy more of this hill ruined by groups that are more interested in getting their way than letting people enjoy more of a place they love.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed. This will allow for more enjoyment of the mountain. And give more space to it's users.

**Comments:** I respectfully ask that the proposed new Red Chair and new runs be allowed to go forward. I love the mountain and natural surroundings as do all involved. I have followed this project from the beginning and I believe it has been developed in a thoughtful, conscientious manner. I am a member of Prime Timers and have enjoyed Mt. Spokane summer and winter for many years. I think this is the best solution for the most people in our area. Thank-you for your consideration of my opinion.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed.

**Comments:** The Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must NOT allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed at Mt. Spokane. Sorry, Brad, but I cannot agree with you on this issue. As a Mt. Spokane skier since about 1968, I believe the PASEA is an irreplaceable resource in its current natural state. When other area resorts have added terrain, the local backcountry skiers were able to move to adjacent peaks, but Mt. Spokane backside is the only remaining part of the 13,900 acres of this park with suitable terrain for backcountry

skiing. According to the December 2013 issue of Outside magazine, "These days everybody wants to head out of bounds. The obsession with all things back-country led to an 85 percent increase in sales of alpine touring gear in the past year, and resorts are doing everything in their power to capitalize on the surge." (<http://www.outsideonline.com/adventure-travel/north-america/The-Best-Out-of-Bounds-Skiing-whistler-squaw-jackson-hole.html>) Turning this area into lift-served terrain would be irrevocably turning your back on one of the fastest growing segments of the skiing market. We have more than enough groomed intermediate terrain. We have more than enough places to set up racing gates. We should not irreversibly destroy the best tree skiing on the mountain by cutting runs! Mt. Spokane 2000 should sell the red chair and use the money to complete the much-needed renovations of the lodges and parking areas. Please, Mr. Kline, do not permit this short sighted plan, which would cut down old growth forest, destroy animal habitat, and permanently limit the diversity of skiing opportunities within Washington's largest state park. Sincerely,

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must NOT allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed. We are excited about the proposed expansion and fully support it. Thanks.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed. Spokane area NEEDS this expansion! Please move forward.

**Comments:** I would really look forward to a new chair, bigger mountain, and just more runs at my Spokane. My friends and I go up every week and weekend it is open. This proposed opportunity would be a good choice for the state and to keep up with competition. If you guys passed this new chair, my Spokane would make more money, and which would lead to more land to ride. It's just a suggestion but maybe they could pay a certain amount every month for letting them have this land. Just please please put the red chair in. It would be a huge impact on mountains in the north west.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed. And now for my own words. This ski area is a treasure for the Spokane community. It provides a lower cost alternative to other ski areas in the region providing people with lower incomes an opportunity to enjoy winter sports. I consider myself an environmentalist and I believe the expansion has a negligible impact environmentally. As long as the runs are properly cut in regards to drainage during the non-winter months, we will have increased enjoyment of this fabulous State Park. And, once people "discover" an area they tend to return to enjoy it during the other seasons. Please approve this expansion. It's good for Washington State Parks and for our local community. Sincerely,

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed. The lift will give Mt. Spokane more access to the best northern exposure of the mountain. This means there will be access to the best snow conditions and some of the best fall line the mountain has to offer. As a weekly skier at Mt. Spokane, I can say there is a sense of excitement about the place in anticipation for a new chairlift. As the closest ski area to Spokane, new terrain will only increase attendance from skiers that might have otherwise traveled to other nearby ski areas. Looking forward to seeing that new lift running!

**Comments:** XXXX the red chair!

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed. I would have preferred the original amount of runs that were proposed in the beginning, but this will be sufficient. I live at the bottom of the mountain and the fire hazard alone is reason enough for the runs. Please think of safety.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed. We need to keep inexpensive skiing options available for the entire region.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed.

**Comments:** My family and I love the outdoors and having such wonderful resources as Mt. Spokane SP nearby helps make living here so wonderful. We love the affordable skiing - it allows my wife and I and our 4 children to be actively outside throughout the cold winter months. I believe that any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed. Dear sir, The new chair over the backside side is long overdue and a much needed enhancement for Mt. Spokane. I find it absolutely outrageous that it has taken this long. Based upon the facts of the permitting process. Please take a long hard look at the amount of land under consideration and the size of the State Park! Litigation and adjudication have slowed the process. Please push this through so that all who visit this great area to ski and ride may enjoy what has turned into a very small piece of land when you look carefully at the initial request. As a long time skier this is the best snow on the Mountain. It is North Facing and protected from the harsh winds on the front side. Additionally it helps make the mountain competitive with the much larger expansions that have taken place at the local resorts. We are asking for very little when you

look at the size of the State park. My main regret is that the expansion is not TEN times the current request. I am 100% in favor of the expansion for the red chair.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed. This chair will bring prosperity and happiness to all who sit upon it.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed.

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**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed.

**Comments:** I have been skiing at Mt. Spokane since 1960. I clearly remember what the mountain looked like then and I appreciate the fact that now my children and grand children can ski on the same mountain that I skied but with so many improvements. Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed. Spokane and Spokane Valley's skiing families want and need Mt.Spokane. We are so fortunate to have great skiing so close to home and the only way it will survive is to remain comparable to Schweitzer and 49 degrees North.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed. We really enjoy skiing Mt Spokane and think there should be more runs to compete with other local ski areas.

**Comments:** despite being an avid skier I do not support the expansion of Mt. Spokane ski area. The interests of multiple winter users, not just skiers, is important to the entire community and the loss of unique habitat would be unrecoverable.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must NOT allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed. There are few backcountry areas left

close to Spokane that are so easily accessible. Let's not monetize anymore.

**Comments:** I support the proposal to add a chairlift and seven runs to the back side of the Mt Spokane Ski Area. I believe this addition will greatly enhance the ski area's appeal and greatly improve the skiing at Mt Spokane, the closest and most convenient ski area to the city of Spokane. I respectfully ask the Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission to allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed. Thank you for your consideration.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed. I have skied on Mt. Spokane since 1968. I have enjoyed it in the glory days of the baby boomers as kids and young adults filling the slopes and the bleaker days in the 80s and 90s. The mountain has so much more to offer if the PASEA is responsibly developed per the existing plans. The sidecountry experience is not for all and it is certainly not where I will take my four year old granddaughter as she learns to ski. Let's open up the potential of Mt. Spokane for greatness and affordability for the middle class residents of the Spokane area. Respectfully.

**Comments:** expanding the mountain is in the best interest for the people of the pacific northwest. Bringing more people to our mountain and our city is something that will benefit all. Not to mention competition of surrounding mountains such as Schweitzer, Mt. Spokane needs this to stay great and have as much terrain as possible for all the skier and snowboarder enthusiasts out there.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed. I have skied this mountain for twenty years and feel that the whole expansion is a GREAT idea.....

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must preclude the proposed chairlift and focus on improving the existing facilities. The proposed development is bad for Park resources and distracts from the needed improvements at the ski area.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed.

**Comments:** Spokane is an exceptional place and Mt. Spokane is an amazing resource. Mt. Spokane could sorely use some more terrain to spread out crowds and make it more enjoyable and safer. Please approve the expansion to make Mt. Spokane and our area an even more desirable place to live and work.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the

proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed. It will bring more tourists to the park during the winter.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed. Mt. Spokane is a great park to ski at with not being such a long drive home when you are tired but it needs more runs to compete with other ski resorts.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed. I have toured the expansion area and firmly believe that the ski area will not significantly affect wildlife or the environment.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed. It is beneficial to Mt. Spokane to add more lifts to remain competitive with the other resorts in the area. The runs do not impede wildlife to a great degree and will create revenue for the park itself. As an avid snowboarder it excites me greatly at the prospect of expansion for Mt. Spokane.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed. I have had family season passes at Mt. Spokane for the last 40 years. As an older skier, I would love to have access to the whole mountain as was intended by the original property owners. Currently, the area being discussed is accessed by skiers, but they do not have protection of Mt. Spokane Ski Patrol. I ask that you consider opening the area to skiers with that protection. Thank you for your consideration.

**Comments:** I have been a long time environmentalist - since the early 1970s in Seattle - and want our ecosystem to be sound and intact. With that said I think it would be very wise to open up the back side of Mt. Spokane with the new chair lift and runs. Fewer of our young people are going to the woods and thus nature is not real. Skiing is one way to open up their minds to nature's wonders and the impact of ski areas is minor while the return value is huge. Skiing made me an environmentalist. Thank you,

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed.

**Comments:** I am opposed to the proposed ski area expansion in Mount Spokane State Park for both environmental and recreation impacts.

1. Sub-Alpine Fir habitat exists on Mount Spokane. It is elevation dependant and will not expand naturally. The logging will remove some of this habitat – never to return.

2. It is also the habitat for the Dusky Grouse (formally Blue / Spruce Grouse). I observe this bird species throughout the winter near CCC Cabin -immediately adjacent to the proposed expansion. Tracks are visible all over the higher elevation of the backside. The impact of fragmentation of this habitat with ski runs and continuous Interruption by skiers is not known- but it will impact. Other avian species- Three-toed Woodpecker, Black-backed Woodpecker as well as the Northern Goshawk may be Impacted.

3. I once counted over 200 tree rings on a downed Hemlock on Linder Ridge. There is old growth in the State Park.

4. Snowshoe hiking will be prohibited inside the expanded ski area boundary. Public snowshoe hiking increased significantly in the last 3 years (my personal observation and anecdotal). Snowshoe hiking was not as extensive 10 years ago -was it even considered as competitor for recreation (see below)?

5. One chairlift exists on the backside of the mountain. Backcountry skiers access and use this chairlift as the way back to the summit. That area remains underdeveloped. Why more chairlifts?

I am not opposed to multi-use of the State Park. It is; however, a State Park and not a ski resort. I grew up and learned to ski on Mount Spokane during the 60's. I skied both Nordic and Alpine through my college years. Retiring from the Army, I returned to my hometown. I started snowshoe hiking in 2000. Both the *current* Ski area as well as the Nordic area prohibits snowshoeing. I understand this.

There is one direct snowshoe trail from public parking to the summit. It parallels the current ski area boundary from Bald Knob and remains outside the ski boundary. Hike into a downhill area and a ski patrolman will ask you to leave. The converse is not the same. Skiers are not prohibited from skiing out of boundary Into the snowshoe trial area.

Once the summit hike is reached on snowshoes- an alternate descent down the backside to the CCC Cabin is a great way to return. There is a marked trail for this. From the CCC Cabin a snowshoe hiker can access the remainder of the backside down to Blanchard Creek. I do this a lot. The proposed ski area starts at the CCC cabin. Expansion will eliminate the entire backside area for snowshoe hiking.

Approval of the expansion is a mistake -one that cannot be reversed and will eliminate winter hiking in a great part of the Park as well as remove scarce habitat in the county.

Thank You for your consideration

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed. Generally, I support wilderness preservation, but the Mt Spokane expansion is not wilderness, and being within a state park, fits the mission of parks to serve the recreation needs of the people.



**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission regarding the Mt Spokane expansion must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed. As a member of the Spokane Mountaineers, and a skier who learned the sport in 1968 on Mt Spokane's rope tow, I am confident of the good land stewardship of the resort management. I have hiked the mountain numerous times in summer and used its winter recreation for decades. Lets get this done responsibly and be able to accommodate our growing population in the Northwest.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed. While I understand the need to protect nature, I support this expansion and am more concerned with the clear cutting happening around the ski resort on private land. I have skied the back side area at my own risk and prefer that it be developed so that skier safety can be improved with regular ski patrol sweeps.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed. I am totally in favor of the project!

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed. This needs to happen for Mt. Spokane to stay competitive in the crowded inland nw ski resort market and to enhance the ski experience for those of us who ski there.

**Comments:** Mt. Spokane has posted a Comments link regarding the proposed new expansion. Rather than utilize that link I decided to email you directly. I will keep this as brief as possible because I am sure you are receiving quite a few emails regarding this issue.

I cannot support the expansion and installation of the new chair at Mt Spokane. As a season pass holder I feel that the purchase of the new chairlift was a bad decision by the resort and that they now are trying to get the lift installed by any means necessary. There are other infrastructure improvements that should have been considered when making this decision i.e. improvement of current lifts. Would it be nice to increase the acreage of the area, sure, but skier traffic at the area does not warrant the need for expansion. I know this debate centers around the old growth forest that would be the site of the new lift and trails, however I don't think the additional energy consumption and human traffic in these areas have been given consideration. It is my opinion that all of these factors combined do not make a legitimate case to move forward with the expansion.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed. I have been biking, hiking and huckleberry picking for years in the area which is included in the ski area expansion. Mark me down for complete support of the expansion. I cannot see any adverse long term effects of using the expansion area during the winter season and could add another reason for people to use the park during other seasons which could lead to increased sales of the Discovery Pass. Bottom line the park needs all the revenue it can generate to stay open.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed. Please consider this position, as was the intention of the land when it was donated to the state. Our Developmentally disabled ski program will be greatly improved with the added runs to train our student/athletes for Special Olympics. Thank you!

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed. We need more ski area up there. I would ski there more often if it had more runs.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed.

**Comments:** I request that the scoping for the proposed EIS at MSSP include the following four areas:

1. ***Please address all of the concerns raised by the Washington Dept of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)*** in its letters to the Commission dated January 29, 2007, February 29, 2007, March 14, 2008, February 12, 2012, January 10, 2013, and any other correspondence between WDFW and the Commission and MS2000 that is appropriate for consideration. Please pay special attention to the seven (7) points/concerns raised by WDFW in its March 14, 2008 letter. Also please note that WDFW does ***not*** favor expansion of ski lifts and groomed trails into the PASEA, but it does support upgrading existing facilities at MSSP, presumably including the lodge.
2. ***Please address the statements/concerns of the Department of Natural Resources' WA Natural Heritage Program (WNHP)*** in its letter of February 15, 2007. Please note in the scoping process the WNHP's continuing support for the proposed Blanchard Creek Natural Forest, and its general support for the study of old-growth/special forest types that the WNHP completed in 1993 for State Parks.
3. ***Please address the statements/concerns by the Spokane County Hearing Examiner (April 9, 2013)*** in his reversal of the timber harvest permit in the proposed expansion area. Please note especially the Examiner's concern regarding the

inadequate attention given to defining wetlands within the proposed expansion area.

4. ***Please address work done by volunteers/others*** that demonstrates the presence of old growth forest within the proposed expansion area. This work may have been done before and/or after the initial issuance of the timber harvest permit.

Were the PASEA expansion to move forward there would be unavoidable impacts on sensitive wildlife species and other fauna, and a significant degradation of an exceptional mature/old growth forest of statewide significance, as defined by the Washington Natural Heritage Program. I request that the scoping process address how State Parks can mitigate for the loss of these ecological values, and how the loss or degradation of these values is compatible with State Parks' stated priority for stewardship of its lands.

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in the scoping process for the EIS proposed for the possible expansion of downhill skiing in the PASEA at Mt. Spokane State Park.

**Comments:** Thanks for the additional info.

Yes, during construction there is the strong possibility of introducing invasive plant species, which is why we have a sound plan for controlling it during and after construction. It is a small book actually...won't bore you with it tonight, but can send you a copy if you like.

On the elevation piece, I did not know that you only back country skied from the top of the mountain down to 5,200 feet. You seriously only ski the top 686ft? If that's the case, the good news is, the proposed lift and trails will only take up around 25% of the PASEA above 5,200. But please think about the tens of thousands of people who don't know how, or can't afford back country gear that will enjoy that 25%.

I'd also like to encourage you to ski below 5,200. The ski area's groomed trails go down to 3,900 and we enjoy good skiing for the whole season on most years. I ski back country down to 4,200 on a regular basis, all season long...I'd go lower, but I'm too lazy to climb back up too far!

Thanks for listening.

**Comments:** I can agree with you on some of your points, but I'm not buying it on others. I heartily agree with management of the forest for its health and fire prevention. It is good for both animal habitat and backcountry skiing. Clear cutting ski runs and building a lift are different things altogether. They are bad for animal habitat and backcountry skiing. I am also concerned that the machinery used for the clear cutting and construction of lift and runs will help spread the seeds of knapweed and other noxious weeds, which heavily infest most of the developed, but not the undeveloped portions of the mountain.

Regarding opening up "a whole new part of the mountain, for back country skiing and riding," and "some amazing routes off the Mt. Kit Carson ridge and down through the south drainages," you've got to be kidding! Do you think I started skiing here yesterday? The tallest neighboring peaks are Beauty Mountain at 5207 ft and Mt. Kit Carson at 5249 ft. Mt. Spokane stands at 5886 feet; its south facing slopes are only occasionally skiable below 5200 ft due to inconsistent snowpack at lower levels. (And yes, I know about the snowshoe and snowmobile trails, but those sports do not need the same depth and consistency as

alpine skiing.) Therefore, I stand by my previous statement that the PASEA is the only remaining part of the 13,900 acres of this park with suitable terrain for backcountry skiing.

Thanks for sending in your Comments. I apologize for I disagreeing as well, but respect your opinion.

As a back country skier myself, I can relate to your opinion, but you have to see the bigger picture.

The PASEA area is large and can accommodate both formal trails and some sweet gladdened skiing. 2/3<sup>rd</sup> will be left as side-country. Under proper forest health management, the side country can be cleaned up, removing hazard trees and the ladder fuels, while leaving the optimal amount of dead standing snags and course woody debris for habitat. Right now, it is very difficult, if not impossible to ski much of the PASEA because it has not been managed for forest health. If left as is, DNR believes there will be a catastrophic fire.

But, the real bonus I see for backcountry folks is this will open up a whole new part of the mountain, for back country skiing and riding. I only have so much "legs" in a given day, and can only range out as far as they could take me. The new lift will make even more terrain accessible. I have scoped out some amazing routes off the Mt. Kit Carson ridge and down through the south drainages. All-in- all, this is going to create a lot more options.

**Comments:** The Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must NOT allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed at Mt. Spokane.

Sorry, but I cannot agree with you on this issue. As a Mt. Spokane skier since about 1968, I believe the PASEA is an irreplaceable resource in its current natural state. When other area resorts have added terrain, the local backcountry skiers were able to move to adjacent peaks, but Mt. Spokane's backside is the only remaining part of the 13,900 acres of this park with suitable terrain for backcountry skiing. According to the December 2013 issue of Outside magazine, "These days everybody wants to head out of bounds. The obsession with all things back-country led to an 85 percent increase in sales of alpine touring gear in the past year, and resorts are doing everything in their power to capitalize on the surge." (<http://www.outsideonline.com/adventure-travel/north-america/The-Best-Out-of-Bounds-Skiing-whistler-squaw-jackson-hole.html>) Turning this area into lift-served terrain would be irrevocably turning one's back on one of the fastest growing segments of the skiing market.

We have more than enough groomed intermediate terrain. We have more than enough places to set up racing gates. We should not irreversibly destroy the best tree skiing on the mountain by cutting runs! Mt. Spokane 2000 should sell the red chair and use the money to complete the much-needed renovations of the lodges and parking areas.

do not permit this short sighted plan, which would cut down old growth forest, destroy animal habitat, and permanently limit the diversity of skiing opportunities within Washington's largest state park.

**Comments:** I support the new expansion at Mt. Spokane. The addition of the new chair and 7 runs will be beneficial for the community and economic health of the region.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed. There definitely needs to be an expansion on the terrain park, open it up a bit so you can hit more things in one run.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed. This will enhance the skiing experience and help Mt Spokane continue to be the best and closest ski hill in the region to the city of Spokane!

**Comments:** As a 50 year and year round user of Mt Spokane I ask you to Approve the new chairlift and most of the runs. The health of our populace depends upon fresh air and exercise, and the expansion will help motivate people to use the mountain more year round. Lets add some summer hiking and mountain bike trails from the top as well.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed. I have gone back to skiing after a number of years away from it, and consider Mt Spokane the only close ski area. I strongly support adding the chairlift and 7 runs, as it is the Alpine skiers that have a big impact on the financial support of the whole Mt Spokane Park. Mt Spokane is never going to be an end destination resort, and I feel that to compete with the other local resorts it is vitally important that some expansion of the ski resort area be done so that at least the skiers can consider Mt Spokane competitive with 49 degrees north and Schweitzer. Thank You for your attention.

**Comments:** We are totally opposed to the expansion of the snow park. Why do we want to remove the last remaining first growth forest in the entire area for a few skiers and a few dollars? This would bring many more people up the mountain on a highway that is already crowded, and also the toll to wintering wildlife near the highway would be very detrimental. More drunk drivers, more wrecks, etc. Let's leave some of our natural area for people who enjoy hiking and the outdoors. Over 90% of this mountain has already been logged. Enough is enough. Thank you.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed. It would be a great expansion for the ski resort and us skiers.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed. Mt. Spokane is the main easy getaway in the area for residents. I have raised my family and now my Grand kids there. Activities we enjoy on the mountain in the summer months are picking Huckleberry's, biking, hiking and always with a picnic lunch. There is NO problem being alone, enjoying nature and all the wildlife wonders. The existing lift chairs do not interfere with any of our activities. In fact the maintenance trails add to the ease of travel and safety of our summer visits. When we have

visiting friends we always refer them to the Bald Knob camp site. It is never crowded and they always are extremely satisfied upon leaving. However Mt.

Spokane during the ski/snowboard season is a different story. It is unsafe because of overcrowding and more advanced riders traveling at higher speeds along with the beginners. Chair lift lines are also frequently long, sometimes upwards of 30 minutes. I have two Grand kids, 5 and 6 years old and have to slide behind them on the cat track between chairs 2 & 3 to help maintain their safety. Allowing the Red chair upgrade to proceed will help reduce these problems by allowing advanced riders a place to go. Ski Patrol resources will also be better utilized as they will not have to rescue riders already using that area and getting lost. Current upgrades to the lodge were needed and have been greatly appreciated, however lets not stop there. Mr. Kline please do the right thing and allow the Red Chair to proceed. Thanks

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed.

**Comments:** I'm not sure what your point is. Do I know that north facing slopes have better snow? Absolutely, that's ski area management 101, and one of the major reasons this part of the mountain should be classified as Recreation, and skiers of all types should be able to enjoy it.

Is it your opinion that only back country skiers should be able to use terrain with a northern aspect?

**Comments:** It would be a most wonderful if the Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission went with the decision to allow a chairlift and seven runs to be added on Mt. Spokane. More sunlight will provide more grass to feed the animals and a larger area in which they may frolic. The addition will be welcomed by the animals and increase fire suppression efforts.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed. This is an important and 100% necessary step for Mt Spokane to continue to provide an amazing experience for the residents of Washington and visiting neighbors. The expansion will help accommodate the growing number of guests and will give our mountain the opportunity to be able to compete with surrounding resorts. We all look forward to the day the red chair finally turns.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed. I have been a skier at this mountain since 1973 and have longed to explore that part of the mountain. This mountain is my habitat and as an old man I feel that people who have never been to the mountain and do not cherish it as much as I do should not be claiming the rights of animals in order to keep it from me. I have taught 8 grandchildren to ski on this mountain, and we want to improve it and pass it on for posterity. Please do not keep us old people from finally exploring our habitat.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed. In order to compete with other areas we need the additional runs and chair. The area is already being used by skiers and boarders but it is especially difficult to monitor this area or to reach any injured or missing skiers (35 years to patrol experience and several all night searches and rescues)

**Comments:** If you expand the mountain where will people park? Ski school in a tent? 35 plus min wait for a cheeseburger? I worked at Tamarack Resort in Idaho, the lesson learned you cannot expand when your infrastructure is not adequate. There is a reason why resorts are getting rid of riblet chairs not installing them.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed. My Family loves to go to Mt Spokane to ski,hike,snowshoe, a new chair will bring more people to see the beauty of Mt.Spokane

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed. It Will benefit the whole area ! Opening up the area will be Better for The wildlife and the people who would enjoy the new area and keep up with the other ski area's

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed. We need change to bring more funds to the state. Please allow this small change to happen so big changes for Spokane's future for small families.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed. Isn't it about time!

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed.

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**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed. The park has always been treated well and deserves to expand and draw more people into its beauty. (while preserving the park - a happy balance)

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed. The expansion will provide much needed intermediate terrain. The current area simply does not have slopes which can be developed for

the majority of the skiing/boarding public, they are either too steep or not steep enough. Anyone who has skied or boarded Mt. Spokane will readily agree with my statement. Thank You for your consideration.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed. We skiers have waited way too long for this approval. The back side is just a mess of deadfalls and brush. A great forest fire hazard. At least the new ski runs should alleviate some of that hazzard.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed. This will allow for the optimal public use of the area and provide the greater good to the area's citizens.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed. I haved lived in the Mt. Spokane area most my life and have skied Mt. Spokane for almost forty years. The management at Mt. Spokane has done an excellent job with everything that has been asked of them. Our Mountain deserves the opportunity to expand and meet the the needs of our growing popularity. The area that this chairlift will serve is already being used by many people. This proposal will help make this area safer for everyone and reduce fire danger in the off season. The families and people that enjoy Mt. Spokane deserve this expansion

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed.. Please let Mt Spokane have there new runs.. they are a company providing a service to the community and sometime you need to expand.. people ski back there anyway..

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed.

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**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed.

**Comments:** I just wanted to place my input as a rider and someone who's conscious of the environment, the chairlift won't cause any issues with that type of ecosystem. To start, the area



has already been logged within the past century, rendering it inorganic and holding little growth value. The area is already receiving high contact with humans, it doesn't stop skiers if it's out of bounds or not, I can recall seeing fresh powder on that side, dropping in and having a wonderful run until I got to the last stretch where I base scratched my skis on a log that had been cut but not properly dealt with in the prior season. The area is already abused by humans but not even kept up with, not to mention the loads of motorized sporting (awful for any environment) that goes on year round. We have already devoted a large portion of the mountain to skiing, we should aid what the inevitable future of this beautiful place is. So from my opinion, there is no good reason to stop the expansion, allow people to have fun.

**Comments:** The Washington Parks and Recreation Commission **should not approve** the expansion of Mt Spokane Ski and Snowboard Park.

I have been a supporter of Mt Spokane for over 60 years. My father, Lloyd Andrews began taking me there in 1950. He was also a state senator in the 1950's and was instrumental in moving the ski area from the west side of the mountain to the east side. At the time the operator of the concession supported this decision due to the considerable lack of snow and poor weather conditions on the mountains west side .

It appears ironic and inconsistent at this time that the current operator would want to return to the west side of the mountain where conditions have not significantly improved. This is a sensitive, high elevation area that is slow to regenerate after logging operations. Poor soils, limited growing season, subsurface water flow further prevent development and stability of such an area. Any logging and heavy equipment operations would likely increase sediment flow into fish spawning streams. The degradation of wildlife habitat on the highest point in Eastern Washington is of great concern as well.

With so many environmental and safety risk factors, lack of public support, questionable motives, and minimal financial gain it would be to the Commission's benefit to deny this expansion. The long-term consequence of such a poor investment would fall on the Washington State Park and Recreation Commission.

As a lifelong patron of Mt Spokane State Park and business owner it would be more helpful to offer a new family friendly lodge that would serve public interest now and in the future.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed. Please let this happen. Thank you!

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed.

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**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed. I have been a volunteer member of the Mount Spokane Ski Patrol for seven years. When people are lost or injured in the proposed area of expansion, it becomes a significantly more urgent situation. Consider the 'Golden Hour', public safety and logistics. If a guest suffers significant injury, higher level life saving care must be delivered within one hour. This is the 'Golden Hour'. The current access to the proposed expansion is difficult to negotiate on the best day because of deadfall, natural drainages and tree density. Reaching an injured person within the golden hour is compromised. The expansion will reduce response time and save lives. This is also a public safety issue. The Mount Spokane Ski Patrol is an all volunteer Patrol. When we are called to find or rescue guests we also put ourselves at risk. If we are injured on duty, any medical care or disability coverage is our own responsibility. Risking the professional livelihoods of 130+ volunteers could be reduced by allowing the expansion. Logistics is another major area of concern. When a person is lost or injured in the proposed area, we have to find them before we can help them. This can be very difficult. When the scenario develops, Resort Mt. Management, Ski Patrol and the Park Ranger are activated. In extrapolated situations the sheriff's department, air guard and white knights (snow mobile club) will get involved. This creates more risk to rescuers, strains resources and costs taxpayer dollars across the board. Please allow the expansion to move forward. This will allow for improved search and rescue, save lives, reduce risk and reduce the overall cost to taxpayers.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed.

**Comments:** One can NEVER undo ruining the intact ecosystem on Mt Spokane, but one can ALWAYS return to this area AFTER they have upgraded or repaired ALL of the other dilemmas and obstacles facing the Mt. Spokane ski area. How about a better septic system, better lifts, better parking, better lodge(s), or better roads BEFORE any discussion about so-called new terrain! Ultimately, this is a State Park first, and a ski resort second.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed. From what I understand the area that this is to be, is the same area that was open to skiing many years ago. Including a chairlift. If this is so why is it so hard to install another and open it back up for skiers and snowboarders?

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed. Thank you for your attention.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed. The people who support the expansion are good people and truly care about the health and well being of the mountain. After all it is in there best interest to make sure it benefits all the people of the state of Washington. Thank you

**Comments:** I love skiing at Mount Spokane. I learned to ski there, and I taught my daughter

to ski there, and I plan to teach my son to ski there this winter.

However, one can NEVER undo ruining the intact ecosystem on Mt Spokane, but one can ALWAYS return to this area AFTER they have upgraded or repaired ALL of the other dilemmas and obstacles facing the Mt. Spokane ski area. How about a better septic system, better lifts, better parking, or better roads BEFORE any discussion about so-called new terrain!

Ultimately, this is a State Park first, and a ski resort second.

Any other viewpoint would suggest that a unique and seasonal user group is somehow superior to the entire spectrum of Mount Spokane users, or that somehow the mountain is more important in the winter than it is in the spring, summer and fall.

Thanks for your time, and your consideration of the long-term future of ALL of Washington's recreational opportunities and natural resources.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed. I have been a volunteer patroller for the last 13 seasons for Mt. Spokane and believe the addition of the new chair will improve the safety of the skiing public by having patrol presence in an area that is already being utilized. There are times where that "Golden Hour" is vital and patrol access to any injured guest is vital. Thank you.

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**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed. The safety of the people skiing in this area

has been put off long enough. The neglect for the fire danger due to all the dead wood in this area has been put off far too long. Please allow the chair lift improvements and cleaning up of the forest by cutting new ski runs go forward. Please put an end to the needless delays by a few special interest groups.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed...people ski this out of bound area in the hundreds each day the park is open and we have regular search and rescue's in this proposed area at great cost to the state ... Please allow this project to proceed

**Comments:** This letter is to express my opinion that the park commissioners when considering the upcoming Mount Spokane Potential Alpine Ski Expansion Area Land Classification should vote to classify the area above the chair 4 road as "Recreation" and allow the installation of a new chairlift and seven runs as proposed by Mount Spokane 2000.

It is also my opinion that this classification should occur right away and should not be subject to lengthy public Comments periods. The court decision reversing the park commissioner's previous classification was supposedly due to procedural errors and had nothing to do with the public Comments periods. It was very clear and quantifiable that the majority of the public was and still is in favor of Mount Spokane 2000 expanding the ski area. If this current land classification ruling is open to more rounds of public Comments more time and money will be wasted refuting fatuous Comments like those brought up in Lands Council's November 4, 2013 letter addressed to the Parks and Recreation Commissioners penned by Mike Petersen.

In that letter he claims, among many statements, that state parks are "missing the opportunity to serve the public who enjoys.....mountain bikers, hikers, students .... and visitors....." He goes on to state that if these users were better served that "This could generate significant revenues for Washington State Parks". How can he make such a claim? Does he have any data that supports this? Has he or his organization offered up a business plan on how these missed revenues will be captured?

Another of Mr. Petersen's claims needs some critical review when he states "Schweitzer Mountain, Lookout Pass and 49 Degrees North, ....have significant summer recreation such as mountain biking, a zip line, disc golf, geo-caching, hiking, summer lift tickets, weddings and other group activities." thereby inferring that Mt. Spokane doesn't. Mt Spokane has a public road to the top of the mountain (the other

ski areas don't) thereby eliminating the need for "summer lift tickets". Mt Spokane currently has mountain biking, geo-caching, hiking, weddings and other group activities and Riverside State Park offers disc golf. None of the other areas Mr. Petersen mentions has a zip line nor do I see how a zip line "could generate significant revenues for Washington State Parks".

It's obvious by Mr. XXXX Comments that he hasn't been up to the mountain in the last two years as he knows nothing about the updates made to the Lodge, lifts and runs. Clearly The Lands Council has no knowledge about the Mount Spokane 2000 concession agreement which specifically **excludes** summer activities and is therefore not something for which MS 2000 has any responsibility.

Mr. XXXX letter is a great example of the same old emotional pleas and inane Comments that were made during the previous public Comments periods and will be made again if this classification decision is open to more public Comments. The time for public Comments has passed and for the economic well being of Washington State Parks it's imperative that the land classification of the PASEA be made to "Recreation" and be made right away.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed. I think it is an excellent use of public lands and good for the economy of Spokane.

**Comments:** I am writing in support of the upcoming Mount Spokane Potential Alpine Ski Expansion Area (PASEA) Land Classification. I feel that the area above the chair 4 road should be classified as "Recreation" and that Mount Spokane 2000 should be allowed to install a new chairlift and seven new runs.

I am also hopeful that this action could be carried out right away and should not be subject to public Comments periods. Past public Comments about the PASEA showed that an overwhelming majority of the public was in support of Mount Spokane 2000 expanding the ski area.

I feel that it is in the best interest of the public and Washington State Parks that the land classification of the PASEA be made to "Recreation".

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I feel that it is in the best interest of the public and Washington State Parks that the land classification of the PASEA be made to "Recreation".

**Comments:** I am writing to express my complete opposition to any expansion of the ski area within the boundaries of Mt. Spokane State Park. I have been a resident of Spokane for most of my life and even learned to ski at the ski area within the park. I still occasionally snowboard at the park and trail run there during the summer. I base my opposition on the following:

- The ski area was, and still is, badly maintained when compared to other resorts in the area. The ski lifts are slow and out-of-date, the lodges are in disrepair, and concessions are third-rate. The existing ski area has sufficient capacity for current demand making expansion unnecessary. The cost involved would be better spent on improving the current facilities. The ski area is not turning away people due to a lack of acreage or lift capacity.
- Expansion of the ski area would necessarily involve destruction of large swaths of forest, some of which can be classified as old-growth. This forest

provides wildlife habitat that would be lost forever. Despite what many Commenters have said, wildlife will not simply “adjust” - some will die out or leave.

- I am reprinting the remarks of one Commenter as they better express most of my concerns: “The Advisory Committee was missing two main ingredients - a wildlife biologist and an environmentalist. Mountain bikers, runners, hikers, campers, snowmobile users, backcountry horse people, snowboarders and skiers - the basic groups on the Advisory Committee, are recreational users. Their main purpose on a committee is to request more trails, more area, and more facilities from the park. Who requests the need for areas of dense vegetation for certain birds, or untouched alpine creeks, or high-altitude wetlands for moose or huckleberry thickets for bears? The state has to give the creatures who live there now first rights even though they can't speak for themselves. Mt. Spokane didn't belong to the Cowles family when the Indians were the only inhabitants of the area. They just "acquired it" from the government or others who took it from the Native Americans. The park is a "state" park, not just a local park for local purposes. It belongs to the citizens [and wildlife] of the State of Washington and its future needs to take that into consideration.”

Thank you for soliciting input from the citizens of Spokane and its surrounding area.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed.

**Comments:** I'm writing to you asking you to stand by the classification of this beloved area as "recreational use" and that the long planned and well thought out expansion of our local ski area be allowed to move forward with the addition of a new chair and multiple runs.

I'm not an avid alpine skier at this point in my life, but I am a lover of Mt Spokane and I use and enjoy its beauty and solitude all year long. I hike, mt bike, cross country ski, snow bike and berry pick and on occasion still alpine ski. My love of the mountain is multidimensional and while the opposition claims to represent people like me, it's just not true. I rarely, if ever, see anyone in the area that would be transformed so I'm confused who the opposition really is because they certainly are not regular users.

My request, as an outdoorsman who has lived in Spokane for the better part of 58 years, please allow the will of the people, the majority, to proceed and make our park a better place. Thank you.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the

proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed.

**Comments:** As an avid skier, hiker and mountain biker, and an advocate of Mt Spokane State Park, I wish to express my strong opposition to the proposed expansion of the developed ski resort onto the north and west facing slopes of Mt Spokane. Not only does this impact one of the few remaining old growth timber areas in Spokane county, and disrupts the natural wildlife corridors in the area, but the entire plan makes no economic or recreational sense. Creating new intermediate runs and installing another old, slow chairlift will not draw any additional skiers to the area, and will likely turn away expert skiers who enjoy the north and west slopes as they are currently. Further, the greatest negative impact of the development on recreation will come in the summer, when the current pristine forest will be permanently disfigured by the clear cuts and the obtrusive idle chairlift towers. Intrusive development of natural areas also always leads to the spread of noxious species, such as knapweed, which crowds out native plants. I strongly encourage Washington Parks to declare the north and west slopes of Mt Spokane as a permanent Natural Forest.

**Comments:** Thank you for another opportunity to Comments on the Mount Spokane Potential Alpine Ski Expansion Area (PASEA) Land Classification.

In general, I support the expansion to include in installation of a Riblet Double Chairlift and seven new ski runs. I believe that the expansion provides for the greater good of our community.

I would like to see in the determination of significance for the defining of the scoping for the new environmental impact statement that includes steps to mitigate any harmful erosion that could affect downstream fisheries habitat of the native Redband Trout. This statement would pertain to the construction phase and ongoing safeguards and periodic inspections by agencies of the state of Washington once the project is completed. In addition, any removal of large first and second growth trees should be minimized and be subject to the review of the respective state agencies.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to Comments on this important step pertaining to the further development of the Mt. Spokane Ski and Snowboard Park.

**Comments:** I am writing to post my opposition to the ski area expansion on Mt. Spokane. This gem, in the backyard of those of us who live in the Spokane area, represents a unique park, ecosystem and natural area for all to enjoy, all seasons of the year. I believe that the destruction of the sensitive north side forest will forever change the quality of the park for the benefit of the few skiers and boarders who use it only seasonally.

**Comments:** I was on the Mt. Spokane Ski Patrol for 25 years and have skied at Mt. Spokane since 1955. During this time I have become very familiar with the entire mountain and have seen where people ski on a regular basis. The area of the mountain above the Chair 4 Road is all skiable terrain and many skiers presently ski there. This portion of the mountain should be classified as recreational, consistent with the rest of the ski area.

The skiing public do not know when they cross from one area classification to another and they expect all the terrain to be managed consistently. These areas of the mountain are not currently patrolled and this has resulted in many lost skiers and increased safety risks to ski area guests.

Mt. Spokane ski area is a wonderful recreational area that should be optimized so that more of the growing number of local skiers can enjoy it. We need to help keep Mt. Spokane equivalent to the many nearby ski areas that are adding expanded skiable areas and new lifts. Increased ski area usage and the resulting revenue to the State Park are what we all should be working towards in these tight fiscal times. It's time to move forward with the proposed improvements to the ski area at Mt. Spokane.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed

**Comments:** I have written to you in the past about expanding the Mt. Spokane Ski Area with 1 new chairlift and 7 runs. Mt. Spokane is a state park, not a wilderness area, and this minor expansion fits in perfectly with the state park mission. I urge you to approve it. Thank you for your time.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed.

**Comments:** December 5, 2013 I am aware of the difficult position you find yourself in, but I also have faith in your skills to find a solution that will work for the people and our beloved Mt. Spokane State Park. We all love Mt. Spokane and all of us want to enjoy it, recreate in it, and preserve its beauty for our children, grandchildren, and the generations to follow. In your quest to find the right solution for the benefit of posterity, I firmly believe any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission concerning the fate of Mt. Spokane must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed. I know in your heart, you recognize this, too. Otherwise, we wouldn't have travelled this far or put this much effort into the process to get it right. Please keep up your good work for us all. Thanks for your hard work and due diligence. I hope you and all the people at the Washington State Parks have a Very Merry Christmas. Sincerely, - Along, long time Washington State resident and avid skier.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed. We are puzzled as to why this project is being reviewed all over again. We recall attending several hearings over the past 2 years, and WA State Parks had approved the expansion. Land donations to the park by the Cowles family were for the purpose of creating a recreational area for the residents of Spokane. The land donations were not made for the purpose of forming a wildlife sanctuary, as noble a gesture as that might be. WA State parks should respect the intentions and wishes of the land donors. Furthermore, the proposed area for development of ski runs and a lift line used to have a ski lift and runs. We



believe that it was the Selkirk Ski Club who used to have a rope tow in the proposed expansion area. The area is not old- growth timber, and could stand to be cleaned out. There is, currently, a lot of downed wood, which presents a fire hazard for the park. Development of the PASEA would aid in removal of some of this hazardous fuel.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed. This Mt Spokane ski area is the only such snow sport facility site affordable for many of the lower income families of Spokane like our children and grandchildren.

**Comments:** I'm 65 years old and have been an avid skier at Mt. Spokane since college days in the sixties. I've taught my sons and my wife to ski at Mt. Spokane and urge you to allow for the proposed expansion. This is a beautiful ski area and will only be enhanced by the addition of the proposed chairlift and 7 new runs. PLEASE support this...I don't have many years of skiing left. Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed. Thank you for your consideration.

**Comments:** We think the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission should proceed with the proposed chairlift and ski runs on Mt Spokane.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed. The new runs will enhance the mountain and reduce congestion.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed.

**Comments:** I belong to the "special interest group" referred to in the E-mail and also to the Spokane Prime timers. As a long time skier and hiker on Mt Spokane, I am opposed to any expansion of the Alpine ski area. Put the money in to a new lodge instead. Thank You

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed. What other park provides so much value so close to the city of Spokane. I support the expansion.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed. It is sad and such a waste that a project that would benefit so many has to be delayed. The project benefits skiers and would benefit wildlife by having grassy area to feed on. Please let this project proceed without further delays and costs. It is time for positive government action. Thanks

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed.

**Comments:** Everyone in my family enjoys Mt Spokane and what it has to offer, Nordic and downhill skiing, hiking, mountain biking, huckleberry picking etc. Lets improve those healthful, outdoor activities and not allow a special interest few to stop what the majority of us would like to see happening on the mountain. Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed. I have been skiing at Mt Spokane for over 33 years and have yet to see any large wildlife on the proposed ski area expansion area the snow depth is too deep in the winter. Please allow the proposed lift and additional runs to proceed as it will attract more skiers and allow the ski hill to survive the ever increasing competition from the other area ski resorts who continue to expand their facilities. Thank you.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed. Further please do not allow a small special interest group to deny access to thousands of local citizens for their enjoyment of "Our" State land.

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**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed. This expansion is going to be a positive for the community and the Environment !! Special interest groups should not take President over the wishes of the majority Thank you

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed. We have been anxiously waiting for this expansion for many years. Please resist these last minute attempts to derail this much needed improvement to Mt. Spokane.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed.

**Comments:** The expansion of the ski area is definitely not a good idea . Am strongly against it . This development would drastically reduce available wild life habitat and further endanger

local wild and endangered species ... with already too far an encroachment with noise/ light / people / road and off road traffic ...and there always seems to be even further disruption / destruction beyond stated boundaries . Washington cannot stand to lose more wild life habitat

**Comments:** I am in favor of permanent protection of the West slope of Mt. Spokane. My life has been centered around the mountains and forests of Eastern Washington. You could say I have a landscape view of the area, having lived in Republic, Spokane and Cottonwood, ID.

I have also traveled by train from Moscow, Russia to China. Imagine communities dotted among the land. Some places are wild, others totally decimated or being developed. Now imagine moving through this space and realizing it is all one large landscape. Each part affects the others. This is the North American continent as well.

Mt. Spokane is a rare and important feature among the rolling flats and river country. Look outside, what other mountain can you see? It is part of a much wider landscape, one that is consistently being encroached upon. Not only the old-growth but simply an intact forest in this area is something we should value and desire to live with, now and in the future.

As climate warms the last thing we should do is make space for another ski slope in a low elevation forest.

Thank you for taking time to read all of the Comments. I wish you a happy winter.

**Comments:** Please do not allow ski resort development to take down the last of the old-growth forest on Mt. Spokane. There is so little of it left. Let's leave that much alone. Otherwise, when do we stop? When the last tree is gone?

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed.

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**Comments:** As a resident of Spokane valley I strongly support the expansion of the Mt Spokane Ski area as designed in their conservative and well thought out approach. The entire plan can be designed around the old growth forest and create a unique opportunity for the people of the region to interact and enjoy one of our most precious resources. The ski area will

not only bring much needed financial support to the area but will allow our ski mountain to gain the much needed room required to make it a more attractive ski alternative. As one of only two ski areas in the NE part of Washington we desperately need this expansion to compete with the much larger and well equipped Idaho resorts. Please support our community and our ability to enjoy our natural resources and approve this expansion. Thank you for your service and time,

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed. It is very important that we get better cold snow terrain. Thank you

**Comments:** I've been skiing at Mt.Spokane since 1952 Or 1953. I now live at the far west end of Spirit Lake and get my drinking water from the lake. For years we have used the State and Inland Empire Paper Company lands for recreation, both summer and winter. I know the area very well and have been skiing the new impact area for years, using chair 4 or chair 1 to return after some traverse or walking.

I don't believe there will be a significant adverse environmental impact from allowing the proposed new lift and trails.

There is already a substantial human presence in the proposed expansion area. My experience is that wildlife is not as sensitive to that presence as many people believe. My neighbors and I have seen lynx, fishers and wolves near our homes-in a subdivision on the lake, not large acreage lots.I remember one morning the ski lift opening had to be delayed to allow a moose cow and calf to clear the area. They were using the groomed packed trails rather than struggle through deep powder. A ski patroller discovered a cougar den with mother and yearling cubs just off one of the chair 4 groomed trails.

There obviously be some minor impact, but the presence if skiers 6 or 7 hours a day, 5 days a week for whatever number of weeks in the winter the new lift served area will be open, doesn't constitute a **significant** adverse impact.

Nearly all the significant old growth vegetation will remain. The proposed mitigation measures are well designed to protect the environment during construction.

For these reasons I urge the approval of a plan allowing the ski area expansion.

This is an opportunity to expose more people to the great outdoors, which ultimately increase awareness and support for our parks system. It increases mountain safety, creates jobs and increases sports tourism. Open up more of Mt. Spokane!

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed. I know there are concerns re: environmental impact, but I don't believe these are severe enough to negate moving ahead with a project that

will benefit the Spokane skiing community.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed. We have been skiing at Mt. Spokane since the early 1970s and our three children learned to ski there. Area skiers would benefit greatly from expanded terrain. Mt. Spokane is one of the most affordable ski areas in the Northwest and additional terrain would make it even more desirable with minimal impact on the environment. Skiers are good stewards of the environment and are entitled to have access to resources as much as any other citizens. It is very frustrating that special interest groups can stop any project indefinitely through the courts. The original project plans have been scaled back dramatically to try to satisfy the objections of the naysayers, but they are never satisfied with a compromise.

**Comments:** I am a native of Spokane, and I learned to ski at the age of three at Mt. Spokane Ski and Snowboard Park. My upbringing in this beautiful area made me a lifelong advocate for quiet non-motorized winter recreation, namely backcountry skiing, and for preserving our local wild areas for generations to come. We are so blessed in Spokane to have Mt. Spokane State Park, and to have its irreplaceable old growth and unique species. I strongly urge you to consider the following in the EIS of the proposed ski area expansion:

The **Spokane County Critical Areas Ordinance** requires mitigation and compensation of impacts caused by development. The loss of the largest stand of old growth in Spokane County cannot be mitigated or compensated for, therefore it should not be allowed.

- A **Master Concession Plan** was to be part of the Mt. Spokane Master Facility Plan, but has never been completed. Without a hard look at the economic and social impacts of the operation of the ski area, it will be impossible to know if installing a new lift and runs makes sense economically.
- Address **concerns raised by the Spokane County Hearing Examiner** when he ruled against a timber harvest permit earlier this year.
- Analyze all the **concerns raised by the Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)**.
- Analyze all the **concerns of the Department of Natural Resources' WA Natural Heritage Program** who favors protection as the Blanchard Creek Natural Forest.
- **Consult with WDFW and US Fish and Wildlife Service** on focal species, lynx, wolverine, and goshawk. A habitat management plan is required, as are surveys for rare and sensitive plants.
- A **qualified biologist** should be consulted to delineate the location and impacts of the proposed development on wetlands and water courses. What are the impacts of snow-making to the above?

- Analyze the **impacts of leaving logging debris**, which can attract pine bark beetle and spread white pine blister rust?
- Analyze the **impacts on a rare species**, Grylloblatta now that an “independent expert” has determined that the populations deserve International Union for Conservation of Nature “Endangered” status. They have been found within the flagged line of the proposed chairlift.
- Analyze the **impacts on clearing, grading and exposing soil** that could result in noxious weeds, sedimentation into Blanchard Creek, and damage to riparian area vegetation.
- Analyze how **expanding into the west side of the mountain will extend the season** and bring in more skiers when they have an underutilized north-side lift.
- Analyze and determine the **cost of adding intermediate runs** to the existing footprint as opposed to creating new ones.
- Analyze the **impacts of the loss of key corridors and core wildlife areas**. How will they be mitigated? What about direct loss of habitats for sensitive flora and fauna, can they be mitigated? What is the mitigation for the loss of biodiversity?
- We support and want analysis of a **no-action alternative** that will designate the proposed ski expansion areas (PASEA) area as Natural Forest Forest.

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**Comments:** Please, do not destroy more forests for the sake of recreation. We are Spokane, Washington. "Near nature. Near perfect." But not if we keep destroying our lands. Part of the joy of skiing and snowboarding is being up on the mountain and within the trees. Being in the wilderness. Enjoying the sights from the slopes, the sound of the snow, and the smell of the trees. Let's stop being selfish because we are not the only ones living and playing on that mountain.

If that doesn't change your mind, than at least analyze the impacts of clearing, grading, and exposing soil that could result in sedimentation into Blanchard Creek among many other concerns. Analyze the impacts of the loss of wildlife areas. What will it mean for the inhabitants

(both flora and fauna) that are living there. What will become of them? How will night time lights impact nocturnal wildlife? How will it impact the ecosystems that are in place?

I do not want this plan. I do not want an alternative plan. I want to not have any expansion done. Let it be.

**Please consider the following when looking into the ski expansion:**

The **Spokane County Critical Areas Ordinance** requires mitigation and compensation of impacts caused by development. The loss of the largest stand of old growth in Spokane County cannot be mitigated or compensated for, therefore it should not be allowed.

A **Master Concession Plan** was to be part of the Mt. Spokane Master Facility Plan, but has never been completed. Without a hard look at the economic and social impacts of the operation of the ski area, it will be impossible to know if installing a new lift and runs makes sense economically.

Address **concerns raised by the Spokane County Hearing Examiner** when he ruled against a timber harvest permit earlier this year.

• Analyze all the **concerns raised by the Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)**.

Analyze all the **concerns of the Department of Natural Resources' WA Natural Heritage Program** who favors protection as the Blanchard Creek Natural Forest.

**Consult with WDFW and US Fish and Wildlife Service** on focal species, lynx, wolverine, and goshawk. A habitat management plan is required, as are surveys for rare and sensitive plants.

A **qualified biologist** should be consulted to delineate the location and impacts of the proposed development on wetlands and water courses. What are the impacts of snow-making to the above?

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Analyze the **impacts on a rare species**, Grylloblatta now that an "independent expert" has determined that the populations deserve International Union for Conservation of Nature "Endangered" status. They have been found within the flagged line of the proposed chairlift.

Analyze the **impacts on clearing, grading and exposing soil** that could result in noxious weeds, sedimentation into Blanchard Creek, and damage to riparian area vegetation.

Analyze how **expanding into the west side of the mountain will extend the season**

and bring in more skiers when they have an underutilized north-side lift.

Analyze and determine the **cost of adding intermediate runs** to the existing footprint as opposed to creating new ones.

Analyze the **impacts of the loss of key corridors and core wildlife areas**. How will they be mitigated? What about direct loss of habitats for sensitive flora and fauna, can they be mitigated? What is the mitigation for the loss of biodiversity?

We support and want analysis of a **no-action alternative** that will designate the proposed ski expansion areas (PASEA) area as Natural Forest Forest.

How will **night time lights impact wildlife** and can you mitigate those for nocturnal species?

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed to keep people from drugs and alcohol abuse. More places for recreation helps.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed.

**Comments:** your decision must be for a new Chairlift and seven runs. I believe this land was donated for Recreation. Thank you





Chris Bachman  
1829 South Limerick Dr  
Spokane Valley, WA 99037  
chris.bachman@sierraclub.org

December 8, 2013

Randy Kline, Environmental Program Manager  
Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission  
1111 Israel Road S.W.  
Olympia, WA 98504-2650

**Re: Mount Spokane *Potential Alpine Ski Expansion Area (PASEA)* Determination of Significance and Request for Comments on Scope of EIS**

Dear Mr. Kline:

The statement in the opening paragraph of Item E-4 *Mount Spokane State Park Potential Alpine Ski Expansion Area Land Classification Work Plan – Requested Action* dated November 14, 2013, which states “This item advances the Commission Transformation Strategy: ‘Provide recreational, cultural, and interpretive opportunities people will want’ and with the Agency culture and core values.” is not only poorly worded, it is inherently false. This item may give a select group of people what they want, but it is robbing *all* of the citizens of Washington of an irreplaceable old growth forest as well as setting a dangerous precedent for the future of Washington State Parks.

**There should be *no* ski area expansion allowed into the intact forest on the western slopes of Mt. Spokane in Mt. Spokane State Park. Land within the boundaries of Mt. Spokane State Park belongs to the public.**

The entire process of the proposed ski area expansion has been one misstep followed by another. How many tax payer dollars have been spent subsidizing the concessionaire’s quest to own the mountain? It bears stating the obvious here, Mt. Spokane 2000 operates a concession within the boundaries of a state park, they do not own the land they operate on. The land in question is public land. It belongs to *all of the citizens* of Washington. Public interest should be served on public lands. Washington State Parks also does

not own the land, they are tasked with its stewardship, yet State Parks is doing all it its power to broker a deal to clear cut the land. This serves no public interest. It serves only the interest of the concessionaire. The concessionaire behaves as if they own the mountain. The actions of State Parks do nothing to indicate otherwise.

It is the responsibility of Washington State Parks to be stewards of public lands set aside for their “uncommon quality, including state and regionally significant natural, cultural, historical, and recreational resources that are outstanding for the experience, health, enjoyment, and learning of all people.” The key element of this statement is “*of all people.*”

Recreation within the park should remain open to all citizen user groups. Expansion of the ski area into this intact ecosystem shows preference to, and benefits only, one user group, alpine (lift served) skiers. The area targeted for expansion is currently open to skiers and snowboarders that enjoy non lift served recreation as well as to snowshoers and other recreational users. This will change if the ski area is allowed to expand. Non lift served recreation in the expansion area will no longer be allowed. Public land will no longer be accessible to the public. Two-thirds of the alpine habitat on Mt. Spokane has already been irreparably damaged by ski operations. The remaining one-third should remain in its natural state.

**The EIS must address all of the following concerns:**

- The Spokane County Critical Areas Ordinance requires mitigation and compensation of impacts caused by development. The loss of the largest stand of old growth in Spokane County *cannot* be mitigated or compensated for, therefore it must not be allowed.
- A Master Concession Plan was to be part of the Mt. Spokane Master Facility Plan, but has never been completed. The Concessionaire must be held accountable to its prior agreements with State Parks before another agreement is entered into. Without a hard look at the economic and social impacts of the operation of the ski area, it will be impossible to know if installing a new lift and runs makes sense economically. This Master Concession Plan *must* be included in the Master Facilities Plan for Mt. Spokane State Park. The Plan should address the impacts to the entire park and not be limited to the impacts within the proposed expansion area. The park is a contiguous ecosystem, the EIS should view it

as such.

- Address concerns raised by the Spokane County Hearing Examiner when he ruled against a timber harvest permit earlier this year.
- Analyze the potential impacts of global climate change on the future viability of the ski concession, to include the importance of intact sub alpine forest over clear cutting for a few more ski runs that may be obsolete in the absence of snow at Mt. Spokane's elevation.
- Analyze all the concerns raised by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife related to the impacts of endangered species and Washington state species of interest within the boundaries of Mt. Spokane State Park.
- Analyze all the concerns of the Department of Natural Resources' Washington Natural Heritage Program who favors protection as the Blanchard Creek Natural Forest.
- Consult with WDFW and US Fish and Wildlife Service on focal species, lynx, wolverine and goshawk. A habitat management plan is required, as are surveys for rare and sensitive plants.
- A qualified biologist should be consulted to delineate the location and impacts of the proposed development on wetlands and water courses.
- Analyze the impacts of snow-making on the impacted watersheds.
- Analyze the impacts of leaving logging debris on the forest floor, which can attract pine bark beetle and spread white pine blister rust?
- Analyze the impacts on a rare insect species: Grylloblattids, or ice crawlers, now that an "independent expert" has determined that the populations deserve International Union for Conservation of Nature "Endangered" status. They have been found within the flagged line of the proposed chairlift.
- Analyze the impacts on clearing, grading and exposing soil that could result in noxious weeds, sedimentation into Blanchard Creek, and damage to riparian area vegetation.
- Analyze how expanding into the *west* side of the mountain will extend the season and bring in more skiers when they have an underutilized north-side lift. This should be addressed in the Master Concession Plan for MS2000, which should have been completed years ago.
- Analyze and determine the cost of adding intermediate runs to the existing footprint as opposed to creating new ones, expanding within the existing footprint versus moving into the intact forest on the west slope.
- Analyze the impacts of the loss of key corridors and core wildlife areas. How will they be

mitigated? What about direct loss of habitats for sensitive flora and fauna, can they be mitigated? What is the mitigation for the loss of biodiversity?

- How will night time lights impact wildlife and can you mitigate those for nocturnal species?

**It is critical that the native forests on Mt. Spokane remain intact. Permanently designating these lands as a Natural Forest Area will protect this unique area for future generations.**

Sincerely,

Chris Bachman, Upper Columbia River Group, Sierra Club, Spokane, WA

**Comments:** I urge Permanent Protection instead! Protect Our Public lands, water, wildlife, & health! Your attention to this most urgent matter would be much appreciated by all present & future generations of all species.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed. In my opinion, the environmentalists concerns are greatly exaggerated to influence their agenda. For example, this expansion should not impact the moose and elk population. Moose and elk seek lower elevations in the winter to forage. The ski area is well above that elevation. In the summer, the open meadows created by the new runs will provide the forage they require. And, the ski area isn't heavily used in the summer months, allowing the elk to forage in peace. I live on 121 semi- mountainous acres with a current resident elk herd of 11. They love my new meadow on my south slope where I deliberately planted hardy grasses for deer & elk. The slope very much resembles a ski run. Mt. Spokane could also plant these grasses to provide its elk herd with nutrition its now probably not getting. As for moose, you'll find them mostly in the lowlands near lakes and streams year-round. I could more, but I think you get the point.

**Comments:** I believe that the Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission should allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed

**Comments:** I am completely opposed to the proposed ski area expansion. This area should be afforded permanent protection for the unique and irreplaceable ecosystem that it is. Old growth forest is so rare and the habitat that it provides is so vital. Please consider my thoughts.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed. The addition would be a long lasting public benefit and would keep up with the increase population growth of Spokane.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed.

**Comments:** We have been skiing Mt. Spokane for 30+ years. We do ski the out of bounds and had

mixed feelings about "opening it". Mt. Spokane is considered the best local ski hill, offering a close and affordable area for families. The expansion is a positive move toward improvement. Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed. I have been skiing Mt Spokane for over thirty years and the best snow is generally on the northwest slopes, just where the Red Chair is to be placed. The expansion would greatly improve the overall ski experience and extend the quality of snow after a storm. I'm a local business owner and the expansion will also bring additional tourist and their revenue to our area. I'm definitely in support of this endeavor.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed.

**Comments:** As a former Mt. Spokane ski patroller for 31 years with two of those as director I can safely say that the current concessionaire and Ski Patrol are very good stewards of the State Park. As a former Senior Assistant Attorney General I am keenly aware of valuable St. resources such as the State Park. Our local area is in bad need of expansion, has the area in which to safely expand, and must do so to stay competitive with other areas such as 49 Degrees North, Silver Mountain, and Schweitzer who have all moved on. No matter how well we prepare or modify our planned expansion there will be some group that is opposed to it. I am still highly in favor of the planned expansion. The current delay, especially at this late date, has gone on too long in my opinion. Keep up the good work for us in Spokane.

**Comments:** I am in favor of the expansion of Mt. Spokane but with specific concerns that the expansion be done with the balance of people and nature in mind. In this day and age, the more we influence people to get outside the better, especially kids. As Louv, suggested in his book Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children from Nature Deficit Disorder, direct exposure to nature is essential for healthy childhood development and for the physical and emotional health of children and adults. Mt. Spokane is extremely supportive of this No Child Left Inside movement. For example, often when there are snow days, Mt. Spokane's General Manager will have news stations announce that they want the kids to come up and play as soon as it is safe to do so. Taking care of our own species is as important as taking care of other species, so there must be a balance we can achieve.

In the Arctic Center Report: Environment, Local Society, and Sustainable Tourism (<http://www.arcticcentre.org/loader.aspx?id=34801e77-25d5-4b98-9c7c-0c723d84ede9>), starting on page 23 it describes that although ski resorts can disturb diversity with their edge effects, ski resorts can manage edge vegetation to preserve biodiversity. I believe this is just one example that we have the knowledge to expand the ski park in a minimally invasive way. I would definitely encourage investigation in this area of balance among nature and ski park. It would be important to consider what species were there before the ski runs were ever in place and what has happened since that encourage species diversity and healthy organisms as well. It is known that thinning forests can improve habitat for species such as in this report where the organization opts to thin forests to improve species diversity and reduce nutrient competition in trees (<http://www.wclt.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/01/Thinning-a-Forest.pdf>). Detailed awareness of past and present species diversity and health incorporated into planning can make the expansion a "win win" situation.

Although there will be impact in the immediate area, I would suggest to look at the big picture. Getting people outside is vital, and Mt. Spokane is in the perfect position to do so with its kid friendly attitude and close location. Preserving nature is also important, and we are an intelligent enough species that with careful planning can expand a ski resort with the least impact on current residences of the forest. Please consider this balance when making decisions on this issue.

Thank you so much for your time and effort to hear both sides so the community doesn't diverge; it would be nice to see both sides working as a team rather than in court battles.

**Comments:** I have been skiing on Mt Spokane for 36 years, and have taught my kids and grandchildren skiing there. We love the mountain for both alpine and Nordic skiing. I think the addition of another chairlift and 7 trails as proposed will add tremendous benefit to the overall use of this wonderful local mountain resource, obviously for alpine skiing and snowboarding, but also without significant negative impact to the environment or other users of the area for winter activities. Please allow this well conceived and engineered expansion to proceed.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed. I have been skiing Mt. Spokane for 50 years, including 29 years of service on the Mt. Spokane Ski Patrol. It is time for an upgrade with added ski terrain that has all the advantages of better snow-pack, visibility, and wind shelter. Please allow us to keep our mountain financially viable and inviting. Sincerely,

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed. This important addition will make MT Spokane even more popular & will benefit many of our local businesses to help our economy. Thank You

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed

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**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed

**Comments:**

Please make sure that the scope of the EIS for the Mount Spokane ski area expansion include the following:

1) **Mitigation and compensation.** The Spokane County Critical Areas Ordinance requires mitigation and compensation of impacts caused by development. All impacts must be analyzed, but I'd specifically draw your attention to:

- Loss of largest stand of old growth in Spokane County. I do not believe that the loss of the largest stand of old growth in Spokane County can be mitigated or compensated for.
- Impact on nocturnal species. How can you mitigate the impact of the night lights on nocturnal species?
- Loss of key corridors and core wildlife areas. The impacts of the loss of the corridors and wildlife areas must be analyzed. How do you mitigate the loss of biodiversity when the sensitive plants and animals lose their habitat?

2) **Concerns expressed by other officials and agencies** must be examined in the EIS, and I would incorporate those concerns into my request to you:

- Spokane County Hearing Examiner who ruled against the timber harvest permit in 2013.
- Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Department of Natural Resources' Washington Natural Heritage Program  
(supports protection as the Blanchard Creek Natural Forest)

3) **Analysis of the following critical concerns:**

- Impacts on rare species (e.g. grylloblatta)
- Impacts of logging debris. I understand this can attract pine bark beetle and spread white pine blister rust.
- Impacts of clearing and exposing soil. This can cause sediment going into Blanchard Creek and damage the riparian vegetation. I also have personal knowledge of the fact that even the smallest disturbance of the soil results in noxious weed growth (e.g. knapweed which is a danger to both other flora and to fauna as it destroys natural flora which the fauna may depend upon for food)
- Actual impact of expansion on ski area. Is the north-side life area actually fully utilized now? Is additional terrain needed on the west-side or is it already available on the north-side for more intermediate runs?

4) **Economic and Social Impacts of Ski Area.** The Mount Spokane Master Facility Plan was to include a Master Concession Plan - but this has not been developed to my knowledge. We need to know whether adding a lift and new terrain makes economic sense for the ski area.

5) **Consultations Required.**

- Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife & United States Fish and Wildlife - regarding lynx, wolverines and goshawks. A habitat management plan is required as are surveys for sensitive and rare plants. Biologist. To examine the location and impacts of the development on wetlands and water courses as well as the impacts of snow-making.
- 

Thank you for making sure that all of these factors are considered in the EIS. I personally believe that permanent protection for this unique ecosystem is required and would also ask you to analyze a **no-action alternative** to designate the proposed ski expansion area as a Natural Forest.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the

proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed. PS: This type of action by special actions groups is why much of our tax dollars is being spent and wasted!

**Comments:** While I am a strong supporter of protecting our environment; I also have found that as an organization they sometimes go to far in the balance between outdoor recreation and their environmental agenda. Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed.

Comments on the scope of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Mt. Spokane Ski Area Development:

Mt. Spokane is already partly developed as a recreational ski area. This use makes Mt. Spokane available for recreational winter use for greater Spokane area people and families without having to make long, and dangerous drives in winter conditions to ski areas that are much further away. Skiing is a use of outdoor resources, under the "multiple-use concept" that provides access to mountains, clean air, and physical conditioning and well being, not only for skiing, but for summer access and hiking and mtn biking. Not everyone is a wilderness backpacker. Skiing in developed ski areas creates a family activity, with ease of access, restroom facilities, and great experiences and memories. It is better to expand existing areas than to develop new ones. Animals seem not to be bothered much by skiing or a lot of other human activity: we see animals wandering around ski areas, highways, train routes, even into town. Environmental controls can be placed on erosion, and slash and by location of ski runs and facilities that leave stands of forest in strategic places. It makes no sense to strictly prevent development of an existing ski area. Even the more remote forests are criss-crossed with many logging roads and timber cuts, often even more than would be the case in the ski area. The remote forests are greatly impacted by hunting, when hunters go everywhere and kill everything. Approval for Mt. Spokane skiing should be granted, with rules for development and oversight.

**Comments:** Please protect the old growth forest on the west side of Mt. Spokane. Thank you

**Comments:** I am writing this letter in support of the proposed Mt. Spokane expansion project. As a life long resident of Spokane and outdoor enthusiast I can't express in words the amount of enjoyment that has come to my family and friends through the use of Mt. Spokane. Whether it involves snowmobile riding, hiking, biking or skiing this state park is one of the most utilized in the region. This expansion project would help keep pace with the other ski areas in the region. I understand there have been numerous studies conducted to evaluate the environmental impact this project would have but I truly believe it would be minimal in a worst case scenario. I am passionate about our mountain and the environment as a whole and would not be an advocate of this project if I believed it would harm the the wildlife or residents in the surrounding area. I am asking that you give my thoughts and the thoughts conveyed by many others in support of this expansion serious consideration when making your decision



in allowing this project to move forward.

Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed.

If there is anything I can personally do to help the cause or if you have any questions or concerns please don't hesitate to contact me any time. Thank you for your time and consideration and do hope you support the current proposal.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed. I'm puzzled why this approval process is taking so long and costing so much money. Obviously someone keeps throwing a wrench in the works - and to what end? When you consider all the human activities that have taken place on this mountain over the years, it takes some real gymnastics to suggest that this is a "virgin" area. I personally recall the 1960s where the Spokane Sheriff's Posse headquartered out of the CCC cabin and held timed horseback trail rides all over the mountain. Skiing on the winter snowpack provides recreation to many many more people, and I submit, causes far less damage. Please allow this expansion to go forward. retired Mt. Spokane Ski Patrol member and enthusiast who skied back there in the 1950s.

**Comments:** The **Spokane County Critical Areas Ordinance** requires mitigation and compensation of impacts caused by development. The loss of the largest stand of old growth in Spokane County cannot be mitigated or compensated for, therefore it should not be allowed.

A **Master Concession Plan** was to be part of the Mt. Spokane Master Facility Plan, but has never been completed. Without a hard look at the economic and social impacts of the operation of the ski area, it will be impossible to know if installing a new lift and runs makes sense economically.

Address **concerns raised by the Spokane County Hearing Examiner** when he ruled against a timber harvest permit earlier this year.

Analyze all the **concerns raised by the Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)**.

Analyze all the **concerns of the Department of Natural Resources' WA Natural Heritage Program** who favors protection as the Blanchard Creek Natural Forest.

**Consult with WDFW and US Fish and Wildlife Service** on focal species, lynx, wolverine, and goshawk. A habitat management plan is required, as are surveys for rare and sensitive plants.

A **qualified biologist** should be consulted to delineate the location and impacts of the proposed development on wetlands and water courses. What are the impacts of snow-making to the above?

Analyze the **impacts of leaving logging debris**, which can attract pine bark beetle and spread white pine blister rust?

Analyze the **impacts on a rare species**, Grylloblatta now that an "independent expert" has determined that the populations deserve International Union for Conservation of Nature "Endangered" status. They have been found within the flagged line of the proposed chairlift.

Analyze the **impacts on clearing, grading and exposing soil** that could result in noxious weeds, sedimentation into Blanchard Creek, and damage to riparian area vegetation.

Analyze how **expanding into the west side of the mountain will extend the season** and bring in more skiers when they have an underutilized north-side lift.

Analyze and determine the **cost of adding intermediate runs** to the existing footprint as opposed to creating new ones.

Analyze the **impacts of the loss of key corridors and core wildlife areas**. How will they be mitigated? What about direct loss of habitats for sensitive flora and fauna, can they be mitigated? What is the mitigation for the loss of biodiversity?

We support and want analysis of a **no-action alternative** that will designate the proposed ski expansion areas (PASEA) area as Natural Forest Forest.

How will **night time lights impact wildlife** and can you mitigate those for nocturnal species?

**Comments:** Please include my Comments and questions in the scoping for the Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed Mt Spokane Ski Area Expansion.

Of initial importance, please address the many concerns raised by the Spokane County Hearing Examiner when he ruled against a timber harvest permit earlier this year.

Secondly, I must task that you consider the impacts from increased use, activity, traffic, and lights upon wildlife. In order to achieve this, please consult with WDFW and US Fish and Wildlife Service on species including lynx, wolverine, and goshawk. A habitat management plan is required, as are surveys for rare and sensitive plants. Also requisite, would be an analysis of the impacts on a rare species, *Grylloblatta* now that it has been determined that the populations deserve International Union for Conservation of Nature "Endangered" status. This species has been found within the area of the proposed chairlift.

A Master Concession Plan was to be part of the Mt. Spokane Master Facility Plan, but has either never been completed or has never been made available for review. Reviewing, considering, and understanding the economic and social impacts of the operation of the ski area, is critical if installing a new lift and runs makes sense economically.

The Spokane County Critical Areas Ordinance requires mitigation and compensation of impacts caused by development. The loss of the largest stand of old growth in Spokane County cannot be mitigated or compensated for, therefore it should not be allowed.

I request that you also analyze all the concerns raised by the Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife **and** all of the concerns of the Department of Natural Resources' WA Natural Heritage Program who favors protection as the Blanchard Creek Natural Forest.

In order to determine the impacts of the proposed development and snow-making on wetlands and water courses, an independent hydrologist and aquatic biologist should be consulted. ALL of our surface freshwater sources deserve consideration and protection.

It is also important to analyze the impacts clearing, grading, logging, skidding and loading, and leaving logging debris, which can attract pine bark beetle and spread white pine blister rust, as well as the extremely likely yet unintended invasion of invasive species to follow, such as spotted knapweed, hawkweed, etc.

Please consider and analyze the impacts from the loss of corridors and wildlife areas. How will they be mitigated?

I strongly support the analysis of a no-action alternative that would designate the proposed ski expansion areas (PASEA) area as Natural Forest.

Thank you for your inclusion and consideration of my Comments and questions.

**Comments:** I grew up going to Mt. Spokane State Park as a child. My mother was a single parent who worked full time and Mt. Spokane was an easy place to take us kids out for a taste of nature.

Now I am 30 years old and will be having children of my own in a few short years. I would like to be able to take them to see the old growth on Mt. Spokane. It should be placed into a permanent trust where it can be enjoyed accessibly for generations indefinitely into the future.

The trees should not be felled in the name of a commercial enterprise. They are more valuable the way they are, alive and growing.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed.

**Comments:** My family and I are very concerned the Washington State Parks Commission continues to ignore the public and state agencies by proposing expanding the ski area into the extremely rare old growth forest. We visit Mt. Spokane often, in many seasons of the year, and we strongly supports permanent protection for the west side of the mountain.

- Please consider my Comments on the proposed expansion of Mount Spokane ski area. I earnestly recommend the EIS consider the following:
- The loss of the largest stand of old growth in Spokane County cannot be compensated for, therefore it should be saved.
- The Spokane County Hearing Examiner ruled against a timber harvest permit earlier this year. This is hard evidence the area should be protected.
- The Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife has many concerns, which must be analyzed seriously.
- Do ignore a habitat management plan for wildlife such as the lynx, wolverine, and goshawk.
- Logging creates debris, attracting pine beetles.
- Rare species have been found within the area of the proposed chairlift. These must be protected.
- Disturbing soil usually results in noxious weeds and damage to riparian area vegetation.
- Why not just create new ski run on the existing ski sloop.
- Protect wildlife corridors and wildlife habitat areas. Night lights would be a disaster for wildlife.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed. I have been a season pass holder for years and love skiing the north face; but opening this area to chairlift access will allow greater accessibility and enjoyment of the area. Thanks for making outdoor recreation accessible!

**Comments:** As you know, other than Mt. Spokane 2000's proposal to develop seven new ski trails and a new chairlift, there are no other project alternatives proposed for the Potential Alpine Ski Expansion Area (PASEA) located within Mt. Spokane 2000's concession area at Mt. Spokane State Park. Accordingly, given all of the prior public hearings, public workshops, planning sessions, commission hearings, etc. that have occurred steadily since 1999, which culminated with the adoption of the Mt. Spokane State Park's Master Facility Plan (MFP) in 2010, I believe that the scope of action for the upcoming PASEA Land Classification EIS should not include any further planning activities, public workshops, or to the extent possible under SEPA, any further public hearings. The proposed land use has been vetted ad infinitum through a variety of processes, so I think it is safe to say that there are no other reasonable alternatives on the table that would require further planning efforts.

Furthermore, since the MFP is already being implemented, including construction of new trail improvements within the PASEA that would be precluded by a Natural Forest Area (NFA) CAMP classification, I would urge that all of the 279 acres of the PASEA area that Mt. Spokane 2000 proposes to develop be classified as Recreation. Most of this area is already being managed as though it were classified Recreation, and many improvements (vehicular roads, snowmobile, hiking and mountain bike trails, cell phone towers) already exist within this area that would make it difficult to manage under multiple and/or more restrictive classifications.

As always, thank you for all of your hard work on this project.

**Comments:** Mt. Spokane Ski Resort sent me a link, asking me to Comments positively on their expansion plans. I am doing just the opposite.

I am a former longtime season pass holder, ( I didn't buy one this year as my own little protest ) I obviously love to ski.

I am also a lifelong resident of Spokane county. I love this area. I feel I have a good overall perspective of the area. Mt. Spokane has always been popular with me and my family. We also xc ski, snowshoe, mt. & road bike, hike and pick huckleberries up there.

I strongly oppose Mt. Spokane 2000 essentially taking over the top of Mt. Spokane State Park for a few days of skiing. Their success is more weather dependent than area dependent and Mother Nature seldom cooperates these days. There is usually limited operations till the 2 wks of Christmas holiday. January and February can be good but not uncommon to have rain thrown in. By March all bets are off. Skiing can be very good at this time but I am always surprised how attendance drops off. Mt. Spokane has a reputation for some of the worst fog in the area.

The lifts are closed Monday and Tuesday. Wed., Thurs. & Fri. are slow. Saturday and Sunday are busy, along with the 2 wks of Christmas and a couple of holiday weekends and "ski free day." Factor in the weather and the lack of interest in the spring and we come up with very few busy days. Is it really worth clear-cutting 7 more swaths down the rest of the mountain, causing all kinds of problems to our states largest park, for so few days a year of use?

The clear-cuts are ugly.

There is a garbage dump under every lift

This opens more places for illegal snowmobile activity. ( They sneak in at night and when the lifts are closed )

The snow will evaporate and run off quicker in spring. ( The trees protect the snow. That is why the good snow is in the trees )

The runs will ice up a lot quicker. ( Chair #4 is a good example )

This will close off a lot of the park to AT skiing. ( A rapidly growing population ) ( My next ski setup will be AT )

Mt. Spokane is a special ecosystem for this area. ( My first plant identification book I had in college spoke of the uniqueness of Mt. Spokane. I saw a Lynx up there a few years ago )

There is no "terrain" back there. ( There is nothing steep. The challenge is in the trees. Leave them )  
All my ski friends laugh and shake their heads when I ask their opinion of the expansion.( Again, no terrain )

This will not extend the ski season.(Every spring I and a growing number if other people hike up and ski down after the resort closes. I can do this for up to 2 months. The surrounding ski areas all close about the same time not always from lack of snow but because there are other things to do.)

Mt. Spokane ski area is what it is, a small local hill, a good place to learn at a reasonable price. Expansion is not a cure all. A lot can be done within the existing area. What they have now is a bunch of old slow lifts, some in the wrong place. You have to ski through the beginning area to get to #2 lodge, not safe.

The only lines are on the weekend on chair #1 because of the ski racers. This is usually only right after their lunch. Upgrade this chair to a faster triple and no problem. Chair #3 is busy because of the terrain park. Again, just upgrade the lift. I leave 15 min. early and park right in front and seldom wait in a lift line.

There is so much more I would like to say but you get the idea. Mt. Spokane is more than a ski hill. I don't want my kids to tell their kids how special Mt. Spokane use to be.

**Comments:** I am writing this letter in support of the proposed Mt. Spokane expansion project. As a life long resident of Spokane and outdoor enthusiast I can't express in words the amount of enjoyment that has come to my family and friends through the use of Mt. Spokane. Whether it involves snowmobile riding, hiking, biking or skiing this state park is one of the most utilized in the region. This expansion project would help keep pace with the other ski areas in the region. I understand there have been numerous studies conducted to evaluate the environmental impact this project would have but I truly believe it would be minimal in a worst case scenario. I am passionate about our mountain and the environment as a whole and would not be an advocate of this project if I believed it would harm the the wildlife or residents in the surrounding area. I am asking that you give my thoughts and the thoughts conveyed by many others in support of this expansion serious consideration when making your decision in allowing this project to move forward.

Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed.

If there is anything I can personally do to help the cause or if you have any questions or concerns please don't hesitate to contact me any time. Thank you for your time and consideration and do hope you support the current proposal.

**Comments:** Please read my attached letter and plea to save/protect the native old growth forest from destruction by the interests of a few wanting to expand the Mt. Spokane Ski and Snow Board Park. I trust that you will give my letter serious consideration.

Dear Sir,

As a member of the IEBCH who has spent numerous hours and many of the 500 miles we rode on horseback this summer on Mt. Spokane, I implore you to protect this wonderful cornucopia of flora and fauna. We regularly saw a myriad of flowers, some fabulous huckleberry patches, deer, bear and moose (a mother and twin babies) and enjoyed the sounds of the various birds. How thrilling it would be to see other animal species. We count on the streams to water our mounts; the picnic tables by the streams provide a peaceful rest stop in our adventures. There is nothing quite as spectacular and important as the old growth trees found there.

We have enjoyed downhill skiing and spent most of our time skiing in Summit County and Vail Colorado. I believe some similar concerns were raised when ski trail expansion was proposed there. That area was important lynx habitat and steps were taken to protect their habitat. Should Washington State do anything less? Why should one recreational activity performed during just a few months of the year damage/destroy the area so enjoyed by those who visit and appreciate the park in all the other seasons of the year; hiking, biking, orienteering, bird watching, nature photography, horseback/mule riding, wildlife viewing, botanical viewing, and teaching our children about preservation of old growth forests, animal habitats and the diversity of nature. Why shouldn't this important natural area join the ranks of Washington's other National Forests like Colville, Gifford Pinchot, Okanogan, Umatilla, Wenatchee, and Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest (contains four ski areas one of which is Crystal Mountain)? Please consider carefully the following important issues before yielding to the financial interests of a few.

- Determine why the **Master Concession Plan** that was to be part of the Mt. Spokane Master Facility Plan has never been completed. Without a hard look at the economic and social impacts of the operation of the ski area, it is impossible to understand if installing a new lift and ski runs might have positive aspects, makes sense economically or just isn't warranted for many reasons.
- Determine why the **Spokane County Critical Areas Ordinance** which requires mitigation and compensation for impacts caused by development is being ignored. The loss of the largest stand of old growth in Spokane County cannot be mitigated or compensated for, therefore it should not be allowed.
- Determine whether or not the proposed **expansion of the ski area into the west side of the mountain will extend the season** and bring in more skiers when there is presently an underutilized north-side lift in an area where the snow stays the longest. That rationale just doesn't pass the reasonableness test. Why isn't the north-side lift used to capacity? A new lift in the present location of the north-side lift might be the answer; not destroying old growth forests!
- Compare the **cost of adding intermediate runs** to the existing ski area footprint against creating new ski runs that involve the destruction of old growth forest and will have a negative impact on the flora and fauna. Shouldn't the ski area management consider a more cost-effective approach such as reworking existing trails within their present boundaries to make them more usable and enjoyable for the intermediate skiers? Determine if the cost of expanding the ski area should even be a consideration when the impact on flora and fauna is irreversible.
- Determine if **night time lights impact wildlife** and can you mitigate those for nocturnal species?  
Look to the data collected in Colorado for information on this issue.
- **Consult with a qualified biologist** to delineate the location and impacts of the proposed development on wetlands and water courses. Washington has an impressive record of protecting their water resources and this should not be the exception.
- Evaluate the **impacts of leaving logging debris**, which can attract pine bark beetle and spread

white pine blister rust? Address **concerns raised by the Spokane County Hearing Examiner** when he ruled against a timber harvest permit earlier this year. Look at pictures of the destroyed

forests in Summit County Colorado to appreciate the devastation pine bark beetle infestations produce.

- Evaluate all the **concerns raised by the Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)**.
- Evaluate all the **concerns of the Department of Natural Resources' WA Natural Heritage Program** who favors protection as the Blanchard Creek Natural Forest.
- **Consult with WDFW and US Fish and Wildlife Service** on focal species, lynx, wolverine, and goshawk. A habitat management plan is required, as are surveys for rare and sensitive plants.
- Determine the **impacts of the loss of key corridors and core wildlife areas**. What about direct loss of habitats for sensitive flora and fauna? The loss of biodiversity is unacceptable. Can any of this be mitigated or more importantly, can the cost of the impact on the ecosystem be acceptable?
- Determine the **impacts on a rare species**, *Grylloblatta* now that an "independent expert" has determined that the populations deserve International Union for Conservation of Nature "Endangered" status. They have been found within the flagged line of the proposed chairlift.
- Determine the **impacts on clearing, grading and exposing soil** that could result in noxious weeds, sedimentation into Blanchard Creek, and damage to riparian area vegetation.

I strongly support a **no-action alternative and strong protection** that will designate the proposed Mt. Spokane Ski and Snow Board Park expansion and surrounding areas as National Forest. Protecting this area is right and just. Anything less is unacceptable to me and my family!

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed

**Comments:** Our family supports the expansion of the Mount Spokane Ski Area. I believe the proposal is environmentally friendly and allows recreational use in a responsible manner that integrates with nature and follows the mission of the state parks. Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed.

**Comments:** As a skier and outdoors enthusiast, I heartily oppose the proposed expansion of the Mt. Spokane Ski Area. We have several ski areas in our region already, and a couple-hour drive will give any interested skier access to many more lift-assisted areas and resorts. Let's leave the undeveloped areas of Mt. Spokane as they are. Thank you for not caving in to the Mt. Spokane ski area expansionists. Protect the forest for us all, please.

**Comments:** Mt. Spokane State Park has already allowed the present ski area to cover about two-thirds of the summit of Mt. Spokane. The western side of the mountain, that is currently undeveloped, is the only area in Spokane County that contains alpine old growth forests. This part of Mt. Spokane State Park needs to be protected as Natural Forest Area, not logged for ski runs that are only used in winter by alpine skiers. The EIS needs to consider the impact to the other groups using the mountain year-around including snowshoers, cross country and back country skiers, hikers, bikers, bird watchers and other nature lovers, and WILDLIFE. These groups will be negatively affected by logging these rare and beautiful forests.

The EIS for this project must include the following:

1. Mitigation for the loss of old growth forests. Mitigation or compensation for logging of these irreplaceable trees would be difficult, if not impossible. How could these intact forests be replaced?

2. The Spokane Hearing Examiner denied Mt. Spokane 2000, the concessionaire, the permit for logging the new ski runs this year. He included a list of concerns including the loss of wild life habitat and wetland impacts. Please include all of his concerns in the EIS.

3. Mt. Spokane 2000 still has not completed a Master Concession Plan looking at the financial and social impacts of expanding the ski area into Spokane County's only alpine old growth forest. This Master Plan is a requirement of the Concession Agreement.

4. Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife is very concerned with the ski area expansion. Please include all of their concerns in the EIS on the effects on wildlife from this project.

5. A rare insect species, *Grylloblatta*, has been found directly in the path of the proposed chairlift. Please analyze the effects of clear-cutting runs on this species.

6. There are many other concerns that need to be included in this study: the effects of leaving logged trees on the ground, the effect of grading and exposing soil and the growth of noxious weeds, fragmentation of key wildlife corridors, and the impacts to wetlands.

Please protect this rare and important part of Mt. Spokane State Park as Natural Forest Area. The logging of these old growth trees will benefit only one special interest group: Mt. Spokane 2000. The rest of us need to protect this forest forever. Please do the right thing.

**Comments:** I am an avid supporter of State Parks in Washington, especially Riverside and Mt. Spokane, the parks I frequent most.

First of all, I am not a downhill skier but rather a backcountry year round recreationalist—snowshoeing, hiking, mountain biking, X/country skiing. Downhill skiing is all well and good, and there are adequate facilities at Mt. Spokane currently—two lodges, many challenging runs, plenty of parking, etc., but the backcountry up there is significant because of the old growth forests all around the ski and electrical site facilities on top of the mountain.

Old growth forest...as the old saying goes: “They ain’t makin’ that anymore.”

If you build it they will come, but the old growth will go. This is not good stewardship of our State Park’s natural assets but a short term fix to budgeting problems. So please leave it alone for the rest of us to enjoy rather than tearing it out to make a few bucks off skiers.

**Comments:** Thanks for the opportunity to Comments on Mt Spokane Resort's PASEA.

My suggestion for a compromise which would allow Mt Spokane to realistically offer increased terrain for skiing in the area but allow for preservation of alpine environment would be to thin the trees in the PASEA and improve the traverse back to the base of Lift 4.

I strongly oppose placing a ski lift in the PASEA. I strongly oppose any clearing more than thinning. Ski trail clearing would be inappropriate.



The proposed thinning must preserve the ecology of the PASEA and thereby answer concerns of wilderness advocates. Preserve the ecology would mean that animal populations would not be threatened and that plant species would not be endangered.

The thinning would allow for skiing in the PASEA and the improved traverse would allow for access to lift service. Thinning and traverse improvement would also facilitate Ski Patrol activities. "Side-country" skiing has become a big draw for ski resorts. The Mt Spokane ski resort could market this effectively I would think.

Thinning would also be attractive to non-lift-service skiers, assuming that the resort would not exclude them from the PASEA, in which case this proposal would meet with fervent opposition.

**Comments:** As a NEPA specialist, I agree with the EIS Commentss outlined below:

- The **Spokane County Critical Areas Ordinance** requires mitigation and compensation of impacts caused by development. The loss of the largest stand of old growth in Spokane County cannot be mitigated or compensated for, therefore it should not be allowed.
- A **Master Concession Plan** was to be part of the Mt. Spokane Master Facility Plan, but has never been completed. Without a hard look at the economic and social impacts of the operation of the ski area, it will be impossible to know if installing a new lift and runs makes sense economically.
- Address **concerns raised by the Spokane County Hearing Examiner** when he ruled against a timber harvest permit earlier this year.
- Analyze all the **concerns raised by the Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife** (WDFW).
- Analyze all the **concerns of the Department of Natural Resources' WA Natural Heritage Program** who favors protection as the Blanchard Creek Natural Forest.
- **Consult with WDFW and US Fish and Wildlife Service** on focal species, lynx, wolverine, and goshawk. A habitat management plan is required, as are surveys for rare and sensitive plants.
- A **qualified biologist** should be consulted to delineate the location and impacts of the proposed development on wetlands and water courses. What are the impacts of snow-making to the above?
- Analyze the **impacts of leaving logging debris**, which can attract pine bark beetle and spread white pine blister rust?
- Analyze the **impacts on a rare species**, *Grylloblatta* now that an "independent expert" has determined that the populations deserve International Union for Conservation of Nature "Endangered" status. They have been found within the flagged line of the proposed chairlift.
- Analyze the **impacts on clearing, grading and exposing soil** that could result in noxious

weeks, sedimentation into Blanchard Creek, and damage to riparian area vegetation.

- Analyze how **expanding into the west side of the mountain will extend the season** and bring in more skiers when they have an underutilized north-side lift.
- Analyze and determine the **cost of adding intermediate runs** to the existing footprint as opposed to creating new ones.
- Analyze the **impacts of the loss of key corridors and core wildlife areas**. How will they be mitigated? What about direct loss of habitats for sensitive flora and fauna, can they be mitigated? What is the mitigation for the loss of biodiversity?
- We support and want analysis of a **no-action alternative** that will designate the proposed ski expansion areas (PASEA) area as Natural Forest Forest.
- How will **night time lights impact wildlife** and can you mitigate those for nocturnal species?

**Comments:** It would be a great disservice to the majority of the public if any decision by the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission did not allow the proposed Mt. Spokane Chairlift and associated ski runs to proceed as planned.

**Comments:** I am writing to express my concern that the Washington Parks and Recreation Commission (WPRC) **has not done due diligence** in its evaluation of the proposal to expand skiing on Mt. Spokane, and **to encourage a proper study now**, one which conforms to the Spokane County Critical Areas Ordinance and the concerns expressed by the Spokane County Hearing Examiner (with regard to timber harvest) and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW).

The Master Concession Plan which was to be part of the Mt. Spokane Master Facility Plan has never been completed. An economic analysis of the existing and proposed expanded ski operation should be completed prior to completion of an EIS, since such an analysis may well demonstrate that the expansion proposal is not economically feasible. In addition, the WPRC must analyze and address the concerns of the Hearing Examiner, the WDFW, and the Department of Natural Resources.

The impacts on the Mt. Spokane environment and native flora and fauna are likely to be significant; they include wetlands and water courses, rare species in the project area, wildlife corridors and core wildlife areas, old growth forest. The effects of nighttime lights, the expanded footprint of the ski operation, forest clearing and grading, run-off into Blanchard Creek, and snow-making, to name but a few, should be studied and impact mitigation evaluated. This work should be done by reliable experts of the WDFW, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Department of Natural Resources, organizations that can provide certified biologists for consultation and reports.

Do your work. Short-cuts are not acceptable. You will be held accountable by law, and those concerned for the Mt. Spokane ecosystem will be watching

**Comments:** I am writing in support of the upcoming Mount Spokane Potential Alpine Ski Expansion Area (PASEA) Land Classification. I feel that the area above the chair 4 road should be classified as "Recreation" and that Mount Spokane 2000 should be allowed to install a new chairlift and seven new runs.

I am also hopeful that this action could be carried out right away and should not be subject to public Comments periods. Past public Comments about the PASEA showed that an overwhelming majority of the public was in support of Mount Spokane 2000 expanding the ski area.

I feel that it is in the best interest of the public and Washington State Parks that the land classification of the PASEA be made to "Recreation"

**Comments:** I am writing in support of the upcoming Mt. Spokane Potential Alpine Ski Expansion Area Land Classification. I feel that the Commission should maintain the current classification for the proposed ski area expansion as "Recreation." This determination was made after detailed and scientific studies were performed and the public was allowed to consider the proposal and issue Comments regarding the proposed expansion on many occasions. The public overwhelmingly supports the ski area expansion.

This is an area when Washington State Parks should get creative in revenue generation. We have repeatedly heard Washington State Parks desire to build new partnerships in order to make Washington State Parks more sustainable. The clear mandate from the public is an indication that the area will enjoy more ski visits. Therefore, the proposed expansion is an opportunity to increase the revenue at Mt. Spokane State Park.

Clearly, the most valuable State Parks' partner in terms of revenue and customer satisfaction is the Mt. Spokane Ski Concession. This is the largest generating concessionaire, making significant capital improvements with the goal of exceeding the public's needs and increasing skier visits and satisfaction. Yet, the project proposal, submitted to State Parks in 2004 is still being debated in spite of the scientific study, public support and Parks Commission approval. Washington State Parks must move this project forward to approval as soon as possible.

In full disclosure, I am currently a Board Member of Mt. Spokane 2000, the management board of the Mt. Spokane Ski Area. However, I have been a user of Mt. Spokane for more than 50 years, both in the summer and winter and the proposed expansion of 80 acres will have no greater impact than what has been occurring at Mt. Spokane for many years.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed.

**Comments:** I have skied at Mt. Spokane for over forty years, 14 as a member of the ski patrol and the last 11 as a board member of Mt. Spokane 2000. During that time it has become apparent to me that the majority of the mountain's runs are either beginner or advanced to expert. This forces intermediate level skier/boarders, who comprise an estimated 40% of the total user population into a relatively small number of runs on which they can ski/board safely, or encourages them to attempt the advanced runs before they have developed the skills to handle them.

Either scenario creates safety issues, crowding on the intermediate runs and potential danger on the advanced runs for both the intermediate and advanced levels. The geography of the mountain does not allow us to add more intermediate terrain within our current boundaries. The terrain in the PASEA would be rated as mostly intermediate and could provide an opportunity to greatly increase the skiing/boarding experience for thousands of Spokane area citizens.

This is the goal of Mt. Spokane 2000 and I believe the citizens we are committed to serve. Sincerely,

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed. I do believe that the land was originally donated in order to be enjoyed in this way by the public

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed

**Comments:** Dear State Parks - In support of the parks charter to get people out into the outdoors in a sustainable way, please support the needs of people of Washington state and be sure that any decision by state parks supports bike trails for summer use and a chair lift with 7 to 10 ski trails, and glade skiing for winter use. It should be recommended that these items proceed as soon as possible. Thank you.

**Comments:** If Mt. Spokane is to survive and be able to compete with other local areas it desperately needs to expand. It is a shame that a small group continues to delay and add cost to the expansion that 1000's of Spokane residents use and enjoy. Mt Spokane is not a private enterprise desiring to make a profit but an organization to provide recreation to its residents.

Skiers are not interested in destroying the environment that they so much love. I urge you to approve the expansion Mt. Spokane since has done everything that was asked of them

**Comments:** My husband and I are in our sixties and use Mt Spokane State Park during the summer for photography of birds, butterflies and wildflowers. As we have aged, much of the park has become inaccessible. I guess I am perplexed that so little is done to allow people of all ages and interests to access the park for low impact recreational activities while plans are underway to strip our last remaining old growth forest in order to provide seasonal amusement for a small portion of the population. It seems so totally exclusive.

We cannot drive in to the CCC cabin but this proposal suggests that you can use large earth movers to scrape the top soil off, rearrange the contours and place the topsoil back? The topsoil will have no living microorganisms left by the time you finish rearranging everything. The practices described in this proposal for mitigating and restoring the land are precisely the same ones used in subdivisions, where the bulldozers are followed by lawns. Every living thing is killed and replaced with something that looks good to us and is tolerant of the poor conditions we are creating. It simply fails to restore a complex and vibrant ecosystem.

I would like to see qualified scientists document the flora and fauna that exist on the site today and see their list of what they would expect, supported by data, to still be there when this project is completed. I would like to also see some scientifically based reassurance that the western exposure that will provide higher snowfall in winter will not also prevent successful planting because of higher temperatures and more intense sunlight in the summer.

**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed. Furthermore, the groups that oppose the expansion are doing so on based on specific environmental concerns that are in my opinion beyond any reasonable expectation of the imagined disaster that will ensue if the expansion is carried out. Skiers love the environment and want it to be protected, but the the destruction of mountain flora and fauna, loss of habitat, etc., etc. is over the top. And no, the "appearance of the mountain" will not be ruined as some notable residents of the mountain predict. The green grass and plants that fill the ski runs of Schweitzer, 49 Degrees North and Mt Spokane are beautiful in the off season. Mt Spokane is a great family destination that can ACCOMMODATE all the people around it if the Stewards will allow it with all the precautions and standards to insure its beauty and use in perpetuity. Thank you for your careful consideration of this much needed expansion.

**Comments:** Comments on the scoping of the Mount Spokane Potential Alpine Ski Expansion Area

(PASEA) from the Spokane Tribe of Indians Archaeology and Preservation Program.

Due 12/12/2013

The Spokane Tribe of Indians' Archaeology and Preservation Program would like the following areas to be considered when expanding the Mount Spokane Ski Area:

1. An ethnographic study of the area.
2. A study of the native plants, and avoidance of plants that were beneficial to the tribe such as huckleberries.
3. A TCP study of the Mt. Spokane area.
4. Avoidance and preservation of culturally modified trees.

**Jackie Corley**

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**Comments:** Any decision by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission must allow the proposed chairlift and seven runs to proceed