

*The other side of the story...*

# Snow King snow job

The town of Jackson is poised to become a cooperating agency with the Forest Service (USFS) regarding Snow King's planned expansion. Snow King is pressuring town officials to sign off on a letter to the Forest Service that will allow an environmental study (NEPA) to begin. But it will be too difficult for the town or its citizens to weigh in on matters at the base of Snow King during or after the Forest Service NEPA process.

Once ziplines and new expanded terrain runs are approved, for instance, there will need to be a place to put the gondola. Goodbye Phil Baux Park. Once a posh restaurant is approved at the top, new roads and additional parking will have to be carved out to get fresh supplies up to the top every day. Goodbye dog walkers and uphill skiers. Once the Forest Service OKs skiing on the backside (Leeks Canyon), infrastructure will have to go in back there. Goodbye wildlife.

Snow King's 17-year old master plan needs to be updated now. It is filled with grand plans Snow King reps say they are no longer pursuing. It is also silent on many bells and whistles they want to add. It is practically useless.

Neighbors have a right to know how much noise and light pollution they are going to have to deal with. What will traffic look like on their neighborhood streets as Snow King pushes to double its user base? When is enough enough with added amenities?

The town deserves to know what it's getting into when it comes to the base area. It's not good enough for Snow King to say its master plan with the Forest Service is for upper mountain stuff and there is no way to know what will be moving forward at the base until the Forest Service signs off on it. Upper mountain directly influences the base. Every patron of the summit restaurant will be parked somewhere below. The Gondola will likely have to land somewhere on town property.

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And the town has helped keep the recreational aspects of Snow King alive for many years, especially the ice rink. It's allowed for some million square feet of commercial entitlements at the base area and has seen very little, if anything, in return.

Most importantly, the community needs to be kept in the loop! We are the ones that will have to deal with the impacts. The amount of new jobs created by the proposed restaurant, planetarium, ziplines, expanded skiing runs with a new gondola, and the already approved new mini golf, treetop ropes course, mountain coaster, and ski school warming hut will be significant. Where will these employees come from and where will they live?

Snow King is dear to most of us. We want it to continue to be successful for another 75 years. We just want a little input, and to see a lot more vision before any 'thumbs up' for Snow King, including a Forest Service sign off.