

RE: Mission Ridge Master Planned Resort Expansion Draft Environmental Impact Statement Concerns

Dear Mr. Kaputa,

Thanks for the opportunity to comment on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed development adjacent to the Mission Ridge Ski Area. In my opinion one of the most poorly considered decision by the developer is to provide a single ingress egress road to the development. The DEIS does a reasonable job of discussing the potential fire risks associated with the development, there are however several important factors that I believe are misleading when contemplating the fire threat in the development area. When designing an emergency action plan for an area like this, the only sensible solution is to consider the worst-case scenario. This is a fire that starts somewhere below the resort on a low humidity 100 plus degrees, strong up slope wind day, probably man caused, that quickly becomes a fast-moving fire. These fires create an environment that demands immediate response, every element of the plan has to function flawlessly. This is a fire that creates chaos, where two is one and one is none. Where fighting the fire isn't even a consideration, the only option is run for your life and do it right now! There is a reason fire codes require multiple ingress egress routs in fire prone areas; to prevent entrapment. We in central Washington should not need to be reminded how fast a fire can become totally out of control, or how a single ingress egress rout can become a deadly trap. Not long ago, during the 2015 Twisp River Fire, three fire fighters were killed when they went up a single access road and became entrapped and perished when they tried to drive down the only exit. This year we saw

a relatively benign fire like the Labor Mt. Fire burn across a major interstate highway with a fuels reduction corridor which was shut down for days, as if they did not exist. The hand of man had very little effect on the progress of that fire, and again this was not a catastrophic fire. It was just a regular run of the mill fire for our area. The day should be long past when we consider watering down fire safety codes, if we do, the inevitable accident will rest on our shoulders. I include my credentials and experience to add credibility to the above statement.

Fifty years of firefighting experience, primary employer United States Forest service, experience; helitack one year, 16 years smoke jumper, qualified as a rappeler, division group supervisor, air tactical group supervisor, spotter, squad leader, 30 years' experience leadplane pilot/air tactical group supervisor, additional red card qualifications; air resource subject matter expert. Worked internationally in South America responding to national disaster in Chile, as a leadplane pilot and air attack, working directly for the Chilean government. Worked as a contractor flying leadplane with air attack responsibility for the Australian government. Responded to major fire events throughout the United States and Canada. Experience includes responding to nearly every major catastrophic fire event in the western US for the last 30 years.

Sincerely,

Jamie Tackman
East Wenatchee