

File Code: 2720; 2340
Date: January 11, 2021

Mr. James Coleman
Mountain Capital Partners
2615 Main Avenue
Durango, CO 81301

Dear Mr. Coleman,

This letter is in response to your submission of the 2020 Arizona Snowbowl Master Development Plan (MDP) by Arizona Snowbowl Resort Limited Partnership.

I accept your submission of the 2020 MDP, concluding it represents a conceptual plan for future development of the Arizona Snowbowl Resort (Snowbowl), and fulfills the basic requirements of Ski Area Term Special Use Permit PEA403901, Section 1.G, issued to Arizona Snowbowl Resort Limited Partnership, EGC Enterprises, Inc. on 12/22/1992 (expiration 12/02/2032). This MDP supersedes previously accepted MDPs. Per the terms of the permit, it will become a part of your permit.

The Forest Service's core values are rooted in service, interdependence, conservations, diversity, and safety. In keeping with those values, the Coconino National Forest is committed to preserving and protecting historic properties and American Indian sacred places, the development and use of sustainable practices and infrastructure, an awareness of water availability and use during ski area operations, and the development of proposed action(s) to meet Forest Plan desired conditions, guidelines, and standards. We look forward to working with Snowbowl, tribes, and the general public to uphold these commitments as we move into the next phase of Snowbowl operations.

I appreciate that Snowbowl recognizes the profoundly sacred nature of the San Francisco Peaks to thirteen indigenous tribes in the surrounding area. I encourage Snowbowl to reach out to affected tribes early in the process, listen to the concerns raised, and use what is learned to inform any proposed action submitted for NEPA review and analysis.

The Arizona Snowbowl will be expected to propose projects that are consistent – or could be made consistent -- with the 2018 revised Coconino Forest Plan. As we have discussed, there are elements within your MDP that may not meet current design criteria, standards, and guidelines outlined in the Forest Plan. One example is the conflict between the guideline for the management of the ski area as a recreational area and the desired conditions for the preservation and protection of traditional cultural properties for their cultural importance.

With acceptance of this MDP, Snowbowl will be responsible for providing comprehensive proposal(s) for new projects to be analyzed under NEPA, based on the conceptual proposals outlined in the MDP. Once again, any proposals brought forward as a proposed action should be



materially informed, to the best of Snowbowl's ability, by feedback received through dialog with the thirteen indigenous tribes who hold this mountain sacred.

My acceptance of the 2020 MDP is not an authorization to exceed existing authorized capacity or to construct or implement any of the proposed improvements identified in the MDP. My acceptance neither triggers new NEPA analysis, nor changes previously made NEPA decisions. New projects not previously authorized by completion of an environmental analysis under NEPA, including the expansion of capacity, are subject to NEPA.

The Forest Service has received new guidance from the Council on Environmental Quality on timeframes for completing Environmental Impact Statements (EIS), therefore, it is imperative that proposed actions include designs and water sufficiency review for additional improvements before initiating NEPA. Only after the submission of project proposals to the satisfaction of the Forest Service, completion of NEPA analysis, and decision made by an Agency Official, will new construction be authorized and your existing permit amended. Compliance with all other regulatory requirements, including but not limited to the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and the Endangered Species Act (ESA), is also required.

The process outlined above is subject to cost recovery requirements. We look forward to future discussions defining the work ahead and the responsibilities of parties as we move toward consideration of proposed development.

Thank you for your submittal of the updated master development plan. Please continue to work with my staff and District Ranger Matt McGrath on the development of your proposed action.

Sincerely,

LAURA JO WEST
Forest Supervisor