



Nordic United
P.O. Box 3352
Logan, UT 84323

Leslie M. Mascaro
Cache County Planner

January 2, 2011

Josh.Runhaar@cachecounty.org

SUBJECT: Opposition to Proposed Cherry Peak Ski Area

Dear Leslie:

I am writing on behalf of Nordic United (NU) to again voice our opposition to the proposed Cherry Peak Ski Resort. NU is a 501(c)(3) organization that promotes and provides non-motorized winter recreation opportunities in Cache Valley. NU's 200 members and families in Cache Valley are Nordic skiers, backcountry skiers, snowshoers, alpine skiers, and snow boarders.

We feel the proposed ski resort is severely flawed on many fronts. First, the quality of the skiing experience, location, and proposed terrain are very unattractive. The snowpack at the proposed 5,800 to 7,000 foot elevations is marginal and suffers from wild annual variations. NU has extensive experience grooming Nordic ski trails at nearby Green Canyon (elevation 5,200 to 6,200 feet) and Beaver Bottoms (elevation 7,100 feet). Our grooming operations occur on prepared surfaces such as roads so NU can groom with a much thinner snowpack than on a high-angle, obstacle-filled slope such as at a resort. Nonetheless, in recent years inconsistent early season snow through the end of December has limited our grooming at both locations—at elevations that *exceed* the highest elevation proposed at the Cherry Peak resort.

Poor snow conditions will require massive amounts of slope preparation and artificial snow making – to include widespread vegetation removal and grading. Apart from obvious erosion concerns, these activities will visually and physically impact the mountainside and wildlife both in winter and summer and take years to recover after the ski resort ceases to operate. Cherry Creek is a beautiful canyon that many of our members enjoy year-round. Our members are very concerned about the impact the resort and its associated infrastructure will have.

I have heard these concerns from our members who are dedicated downhill skiers with families and the core audience and target customer base for the proposed resort. Many NU members would welcome a lift-based ski alternative to Beaver Mountain, but the universal opinion is that proposed Cherry Peak site does not make environmental, financial, or snow sense.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mimi Recker".

Mimi Recker
President, Nordic United