

## Comments:

1. We appreciate the inclusion of clear narrative discussions describing alternatives in the DEIS, including discussion of project history, existing conditions and proposed features of the ski area expansion (i.e. lifts, ski trails, timber harvest, grading, buildings, roads, parking, water and wastewater systems, energy supply), mitigation measures and monitoring, as well as Table 2-2 comparing alternatives, Table 2-3 describing environmental effects of alternatives, and Table 2-4 summarizing permits and regulatory requirements. We also appreciate inclusion of the figures and maps showing locations of project features. The DEIS narrative, tables and maps facilitate improved project understanding, help define issues, and assist in evaluation of alternatives providing a clearer basis of choice among options for the decisionmaker and the public in accordance with the goals of NEPA.

## Water Quality

2. The proposed action, in conjunction with connected actions, would remove trees from 182 acres, and soil erosion would occur during tree removal as well as during construction of ski trails, ski lifts, wastewater drainfields, a snowmaking reservoir, and buildings. We are pleased that the DEIS states that soil erosion would occur for only a short period of time and would be limited at sites scattered across TV Mountain (page 4-2). No areas of extended, continuous mineral soil exposure would result from timber harvest and slash disposal. It is stated that substantial soil disturbance would occur on approximately 39 total acres of ground due to grading necessary for ski trail smoothing, bike trails, and for infrastructure such as a new reservoir and new water and sewer lines, but this grading would occur in small scattered sites, most of which are less than 5 acres in size. The greatest potential for soil erosion would be at grading sites for construction of ski trail transitions and at snowmaking facilities and buildings.

→ The DEIS states that bull trout (a threatened species) and westslope cutthroat trout are present in Butler Creek (page 4-37) and may be present in La Valle Creek (page 3-71), but the DEIS also states that no streams or other waters of the U.S. are present in the proposed expansion area with La Valle Creek being the closest water of the U.S. to the proposed expansion area, located approximately 150 feet downhill of the west boundary at its closest point. The only construction activity within 500 feet of a surface water would occur with the lower terminal for lift A, which would be built 150 feet from La Valle Creek, and where erosion control practices and revegetation of disturbed ground would be used to minimize sediment transport.

We are pleased that the DEIS also states that none of the proposed areas to be graded are located on or immediately adjacent to a stream, wetland, or other waters of the U.S., and that a stormwater permit and erosion control plan would be obtained to minimize the area of disturbance. We also appreciate the many hydrology and fishery mitigation measures identified in the DEIS (e.g., sediment