



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

Leslie M. Mascaro
Cache County Planner I

March 16, 2010

Dear Leslie,

I am writing on behalf of Nordic United (NU) in opposition to the proposed ski resort at the mouth of Cherry Creek Canyon ("Rainey Ranch"). NU is a 501(c)(3) organization that promotes and provides non-motorized winter recreation opportunities in Cache Valley. Our members consist of Nordic skiers, backcountry skiers, snowshoers, and alpine skiers / snowboarders.

We feel that this proposal is severely flawed on many fronts. With regards to a quality skiing experience, this location and the proposed terrain are very unattractive. The snowpack at that elevation is marginal at best, and suffers from wild annual variations. NU has extensive experience grooming Nordic ski trails, which is typically done on prepared surfaces such as roads, and can be done with a much thinner snowpack than a high-angle, obstacle-filled slope such as at a resort. Nonetheless, in recent years we have encountered significant difficulties grooming during the early part of the season (through the end of December) due to inconsistent snow – at a *base* elevation (7000') that exceeds the *highest* elevation found in the proposed Rainey Ranch development.

Because of the poor snow conditions, it is a foregone conclusion that massive amounts of slope preparation will be necessary – including widespread vegetation removal and grading. Aside from the obvious erosion concerns, this will leave a scarred mountainside that is unsightly in the summer months and will struggle to recover years after the ski resort ceases to operate. This is a beautiful canyon that many of our members enjoy year-round, and they are very concerned about the impact this resort and its associated infrastructure would have.

I have heard these concerns and more from our members, including dedicated downhill skiers with families, who the developers are targeting as their 'core audience'. Although many would welcome a lift-based alternative to Beaver Mountain, the universal opinion is that the proposed area simply doesn't make sense. My fear is that development is allowed to proceed, and when the resort inevitably fails due to lack of interest, the citizens of Richmond and Cache Valley are left to clean up the mess.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Erik Syrstad". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Erik Syrstad
President, Nordic United