



June 22, 2010

Cache County Planning and Zoning Commission  
179 North Main Street  
Logan, Utah 84321

*Sent via email to: [Leslie.Mascaro@cachecounty.org](mailto:Leslie.Mascaro@cachecounty.org)*

**Re: Cherry Creek Ski Resort Conditional Use Permit**

Dear Commissioners,

Winter Wildlands Alliance is a national advocacy organization representing the interests of cross-country and backcountry skiers, snowboarders, snowshoers and quiet winter enthusiasts across the U.S. Winter Wildlands Alliance has 40 grassroots member groups in 13 states with a collective membership of more than 30,000. Our Grassroots Network includes several member groups in Utah, including Bear River Watershed Council and Nordic United. Our members regularly visit and recreate in the backcountry of the Bear River Range. Winter Wildlands Alliance is concerned with the loss of opportunities for backcountry skiing as well as environmental impacts of the proposed Cherry Creek Ski Resort.

According to Outdoor Industry Association statistics backcountry skiing and snowshoeing are two of the fastest growing outdoor activities in the U.S. and the economic impact from these healthy winter activities is significant. During the past decade, participation in backcountry skiing has grown by a staggering 160 percent and snowshoeing by an equally impressive 83 percent. During similar time frame national visitation to ski resorts has declined by over 10%. The growing popularity of backcountry skiing and its economic contribution to mountain communities like Cache County, Utah should not be underestimated. The development of Cherry Creek Ski Resort would diminish opportunities and access for backcountry skiing, Nordic skiing, snowshoeing and its growing contribution to the local economy.

In addition to the impacts to backcountry skiing, Winter Wildlands Alliance is concerned with the environmental impacts of Cherry Creek Ski Resort Proposal. Resort expansion could impact water quality in Richmond City as well as degrade important elk and mule deer habitat. The location of the proposed Cherry Creek ski area between Mount Naomi Wilderness and the Division of Wildlife Resources winter wildlife habitat is an inappropriate place for this type of

development. The aesthetic and ecological value of this area and its wildlife may be difficult to quantify in economic terms, however, its significance to the Cache County is considerable.

Winter Wildlands Alliance encourages the Cache County Planning and Zoning Commission to fully consider the recreational, economic, aesthetic and ecological impacts of the proposed Cherry Creek Ski Resort and their request for a conditional use permit.

Please feel free to contact Winter Wildlands Alliance if any County Planning Commissioners would like to discuss the Cherry Creek Ski Resort, and the request for a conditional use permit, potential impacts, and Winter Wildlands Alliance's opposition.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Forrest G. McCarthy". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Forrest G McCarthy  
Public Lands Director  
Winter Wildlands Alliance