



Vail, Colorado, USA

Attraction Protection Plan for the Top 10 Attractions & Areas of Concern

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Town of Vail Attraction Protection Plan



Destination name + country: ...Vail, Colorado, USA
Drafted by (names): ...Maren Cerimele, Kira Koppel
Version / date: ...Final / April 25, 2019
Date validated (internally): ...Reviewed annually in Spring each year; using monitoring and mitigation rubric
Attraction Name: ...Betty Ford Alpine Gardens

Attraction: Betty Ford Alpine Gardens	1.6: Inventory (describe main resources and values)	1.7: Baseline assessment (analyse impacts of tourism on the resources)	Policies & protection regimes (int. national & local regulations)
<p>Attraction Overview</p>	<p>Mention and briefly describe your protected areas and the way these are accessible for tourists (e.g. signposted trails; interpretation (panels; centre); guided tours and other activity providers etc.</p> <p>Betty Ford Alpine Gardens is considered the highest elevation botanical garden in the world situated at 8,200' (2,700 m) in Vail, CO. The Gardens host a unique collection of alpine and mountain plants from around the world. The mission of the organization is "To deepen understanding and promote conservation of alpine plants and fragile mountain environments."</p> <p>The gardens feature interpretive panels and posted information about the plants throughout the Gardens and along the riparian nature trail.</p> <p>Programming for adults as well as children and families is hosted during year-round. This includes private tours, events in the park, workshops, as well as exhibits and activities in the Education Center.</p>	<p>Briefly indicate the positive and negative impacts of tourism on these areas. For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> + contribution to area management and protection: in cash (e.g. visitor revenues or taxes/permits/concessions) or in kind + contribution to local appreciation of nature - degradation from tourism (trash, erosion of trails, disturbance of wildlife) <p>+ The Gardens attracts more than 100,000 visitors annually and contributes positively to the local appreciation of nature.</p> <p>+ Volunteers monitor rare plants as well as maintaining plant collections.</p> <p>+ Tourism drives additional revenue by donations made to the Gardens and helps the Gardens achieve the goals set out in their strategic plan.</p> <p>+ As of fiscal year 2016-2017, 42% of funding is dedicated to Educational Programming and 34% to the gardens. See financials, page 4.</p>	<p>Indicate protection by relevant management, protection schemes and designations (incl. UNESCO)</p> <p>The Gardens has worked with agencies such as the Bureau of Land Management, Nature Conservancy, and Colorado Department of Transportation to protect rare plants and will continue to look for opportunities to develop similar conservation and education projects. The Gardens also works with international organizations, particularly Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI), with its world headquarters at Kew Gardens, London, England. The Gardens has authored a plan for protecting alpinines entitled <i>The North American Botanic Garden Strategy for Alpine Plant Conservation</i>.</p>

Attraction: Betty Ford Alpine Gardens	1.6: Inventory (describe main resources and values)	1.7: Baseline assessment (analyse impacts of tourism on the resources)	Policies & protection regimes (int. national & local regulations)
	<p>The Education Center is open year-round and provides an educational experience for guests of all ages through displays, traveling exhibits, workshops, videos and snowshoe tours.</p> <p>Additionally, there are a number of virtual resources available including tours through the Care for the Rare app and the Alpine Wildflower Finder App.</p>	<p>- Increased visitation to the Gardens has created negative impacts on accessibility and parking. A new effort to facilitate reaching the Gardens has been identified as a key strategy moving forward, according to page 9 of the Betty Ford Alpine Gardens Strategic Plan.</p>	

Attraction: Betty Ford Alpine Gardens	1.6: Inventory (describe main resources and values)	1.7: Baseline assessment (analyse impacts of tourism on the resources)	Policies & protection regimes (int. national & local regulations)
Existing plans for adequate attraction protection goals, strategies and practices	<p>Betty Ford Alpine Gardens has a written goal to <i>expand our conservation programs on alpine, subalpine, and similar environments and plants</i> as found on page 4 of the organization's strategic plan.</p> <p>The Gardens' strategy surrounding this goal includes dedication to the conservation of high elevation mountain plants and the organization has become an important partner with federal agencies charged with their protection.</p>		
Impacts and long-term risks for this attraction (environmental and social)		The largest impact and risk associated with this attraction is increased visitation and the potential for visitors to walk on undesignated pathways damaging vegetation and causing erosion.	
Vegetation Impacts		There is some risk and potential to damage vegetation in the attraction area if visitors walk on undesignated pathways.	<p>Betty Ford Alpine Gardens has been working with the Bureau of Land Management for many years to monitor and survey some of Colorado's rarest plants. This information is critical to understanding how to manage land for the preservation of these plants. More information can be found on the attraction's Conservation & Research website.</p> <p>In partnership with the Colorado Natural Heritage Program (CNHP) volunteers from the Betty Ford Alpine Gardens monitor the status of Eagle County's rare plant populations and look for new populations. The CNHP uses the information to keep a current database of all rare plants in the state</p>
Soil Impacts		There is some risk to soil erosion in the attraction area if visitors walk on undesignated pathways.	The organization has a compost policy as stated on page 5 of the organization's Sustainability Handbook . The Gardens is provided with soil from the Town of Vail's composting facility which completes the composting circle and provide nutrient-dense soil for the Gardens.
Water impacts		Water usage would increase with more visitation.	Betty Ford Alpine Gardens is dedicated to the efficient use of water both indoors and for irrigation and continues to seek more ways to conserve. Wastewater, including grey water, is only reused or released safely or treated by Eagle River Water and Sanitation with no adverse effects to environmental flows as stated on page 6 of the organization's Sustainability Handbook .

Attraction: Betty Ford Alpine Gardens	1.6: Inventory (describe main resources and values)	1.7: Baseline assessment (analyse impacts of tourism on the resources)	Policies & protection regimes (int. national & local regulations)
Wildlife disturbance impacts		Wildlife use is minimal, especially in summer months as this is a very urban park with roads and playgrounds which also borders a major interstate.	There appears to be limited wildlife use. Bird feeders are removed when bears are active, riparian areas are protected through re-vegetation and limiting access to the creek.
Noxious Weed Management		The Gardens is so actively managed that noxious weeds are generally not an issue.	If any appear Integrated pest Management (IPM) approaches are used to deal with them. This includes hand-picking and preventing outbreaks through good land management.
Group size impacts		Any group size impacts have primarily stemmed from large crowds on adjacent facilities. These events include concerts in Ford Park, large concerts for younger audiences in the Ford Park parking lots, and to a lesser extent from sports tournaments on the upper bench.	Visitors are encouraged to walk on designated pathways and be aware of the sensitive habitat in the gardens.
Community acceptance and perception of tourism impacts at the attraction	<p>There is broad community support for Betty Ford Alpine Gardens from donors and volunteers as shown in their 2017 Strategic Report. (2018 is on our website)</p> <p>Betty Ford Alpine Gardens was chosen as the 2018 Nonprofit of the Year as part of the Vail Valley Partnership's Annual Success Awards indicating community acknowledgement of their successes and commitment to the community.</p>		
Local use and access to the attraction		Access to the attraction is accessible and is provided at no cost.	
Local resident economic benefits of the attraction		<p>Local residents and the local economy benefit from this attraction by its ability to contribute positively to the local appreciation of nature.</p> <p>Additional benefits to the local economy can be found as outlined in on page 11-12 of the organization's Sustainability Handbook as stated in the Community Impacts Section - Good Neighbor and Giving Back Policies.</p>	

Attraction: Betty Ford Alpine Gardens	1.6: Inventory (describe main resources and values)	1.7: Baseline assessment (analyse impacts of tourism on the resources)	Policies & protection regimes (int. national & local regulations)
Past conflicts and types of potential conflicts at the attraction		Conflicts have thankfully been rare but damage to the Gardens primarily stems from large crowds on adjacent facilities. These events include concerts in Ford Park, large concerts for younger audiences in the Ford Park parking lots, and to a lesser extent from sports tournaments on the upper bench.	
Groups/stakeholders associated with impacts at the attraction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Town of Vail • Betty Ford Alpine Gardens • Vail Recreation District Vail Valley Foundation		
Resistance and resilience of this attraction to increasing volumes of visitors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	<p>Betty Ford Alpine Gardens has a written pledge on page 12 of their Sustainability Handbook to help sustain their surrounding natural resources by promoting sustainable behavior by their participants, visitors, and employees (i.e. reducing vehicle traffic and air pollution by encouraging use of alternative forms of transportation, disposing of waste properly, respecting and not feeding wildlife, and preventing erosion by trekking on designated trails.</p> <p>The attraction could possibly limit the number of visitors by implementing a paid ticket to the attraction to help mitigate negative effects of increasing visitors if they found there to be negative impacts due to overuse. However, ticketing would be very challenging due to the way the Gardens is integrated within the park.</p> <p>Encourage use of the Gardens in fall and late spring to spread visitation.</p>	
Interrelation and impacts to other attractions	Betty Ford Alpine Gardens are surrounded by the 2.3 million acre White River National Forest including federally designated Wilderness Areas. The Gardens are also part of Ford Park in East Vail and sit in close proximity to Gore Creek.		

Attraction: Betty Ford Alpine Gardens	1.6: Inventory (describe main resources and values)	1.7: Baseline assessment (analyse impacts of tourism on the resources)	Policies & protection regimes (int. national & local regulations)
<p>Determine whether by mitigating one impact another may be positively affected</p>		<p>Limiting the number of visitors through admission fees may impact the education and conservation value provided to Vail visitors.</p> <p>Increasing community acceptance and perception of tourism impacts at the attraction could also positively benefit some of the other impacts, such as soil, vegetation, water, and economic impacts to local residents and the destination. By creating an awareness of tourism impact for the better and for the worse, visitors may be more inclined to donate to the preservation and protection of the natural environment in the area and to be mindful of their use of this attraction.</p>	

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Attraction Name: ...Colorado Snowsports Museum

Attraction: Colorado Snowsports Museum	1.6: Inventory (describe main resources and values)	1.7: Baseline assessment (analyse impacts of tourism on the resources)	Policies & protection regimes (int. national & local regulations)
<p>Attraction Overview</p>	<p><i>Mention and briefly describe your protected areas and the way these are accessible for tourists (e.g. signposted trails; interpretation (panels; centre); guided tours and other activity providers etc.</i></p> <p>The Colorado Snowsports Museum & Hall of Fame features programming, exhibits and artifacts that tell the story of the birth, rise and explosion of skiing and snowboarding in Colorado.</p> <p>The museum is available for private group rentals of up to 125 people as well as for guided school field trips. Virtual tours are also offered on the website: https://www.snowsportsmuseum.org/visit</p>	<p><i>Briefly indicate the positive and negative impacts of tourism on these areas. For example:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> + <i>contribution to area management and protection: in cash (e.g. visitor revenues or taxes/permits/concessions) or in kind (e.g. voluntourism that helps protect turtle nesting sites)</i> + <i>contribution to local appreciation of nature</i> - <i>degradation from tourism (trash, erosion of trails, disturbance of wildlife)</i> <p>Colorado Snowsports Museum attracts more than 75,000 visitors annually ranging from Eagle County elementary school students to visitors from around the globe.</p> <p>+ This attraction contributes positively to the local appreciation of nature through preserving the legacy of snow sports.</p> <p>The attraction underwent a full renovation from 2016-2018 reopening in Summer 2018.</p>	<p><i>Indicate protection by relevant management, protection schemes and designations (incl. UNESCO)</i></p>

Attraction: Colorado Snowsports Museum	1.6: Inventory (describe main resources and values)	1.7: Baseline assessment (analyse impacts of tourism on the resources)	Policies & protection regimes (int. national & local regulations)
Existing plans for adequate attraction protection goals, strategies and practices	<p>The Museum currently features a climate change exhibit on display. The exhibit illustrates that we as an institution are a witness to the past and a guardian of relics for the future: conserving, protecting, and displaying artifacts that preserve our rich snow sports heritage. Just as we are guardians of the tangible links of our past, we also consider our surrounding environment a treasure that we must help protect for our future as snow and mountain enthusiasts. The exhibit is intended to raise awareness on climate change and protecting snow sports. It is also educational and provides tips on a more sustainable lifestyle/day on the mountain.</p>	<p>One of the goals set forth for the transformed Museum was to allow visitors to have a more intimate experience with the artifacts. However, this presents some potential problems, including theft and/or touching and damaging artifacts. In an effort to prevent this, video cameras have been installed in each bay for monitoring purposes, while signage placed throughout the Museum requests that people not touch the artifacts, especially the clothing. In addition, many of the significant artifacts have been encased in plexiglass in order to more fully protect them.</p> <p>Additionally, there are several protection plans in place to swap out artifacts over time, especially in the rotating exhibit space. This practice generally protects artifacts as it gives them time “to rest”.</p> <p>Lastly, a majority of the collection has been digitized. By doing this, patrons can still see the items, but the item itself can be protected at our off-site storage facility. This protects items from deterioration both naturally and by incident.</p>	
Impacts and long-term risks for this attraction (environmental and social)		<p>The largest impact and risk associated with this attraction is increased visitation and the potential for visitors to damage artifacts as noted above.</p>	
Vegetation Impacts		<p>There are no impacts to vegetation at this attraction.</p>	
Soil Impacts		<p>There are no impacts to soil at this attraction.</p>	
Water impacts		<p>Water usage could increase with increased tourism and visitation.</p>	
Wildlife disturbance impacts		<p>There are no impacts to wildlife at this attraction.</p>	

Attraction: Colorado Snowsports Museum	1.6: Inventory (describe main resources and values)	1.7: Baseline assessment (analyse impacts of tourism on the resources)	Policies & protection regimes (int. national & local regulations)
Noxious Weed Management		This is an indoor attraction, thus no need for noxious weed management.	
Group size impacts		<p>The attraction is limited to groups of 125 and is available for private rental.</p> <p>The Museum is free of charge, with a suggested donation. Museum staff have made the decision that this will remain the policy moving forward with the newly renovated Museum. While there has never been a situation where there were too many people in the Museum, staff believe that the situation may resolve itself, with people leaving if they are unable to experience the exhibits. The potential backlog would actually manifest itself in the gift shop, with the capability of servicing only one customer at a time.</p>	
Community acceptance and perception of tourism impacts at the attraction		<p>Vail Town Council supported the Museum's expansion project with \$500,000 in support thus recognizing the attraction's positive impact in the community. A number of council members supported the renovation project as show in this Vail Daily article: https://www.vaildaily.com/news/ski-museum-expansion-could-be-extensive/</p> <p>The remainder of the \$2.8 million needed for the renovation was raised by a committee and included broad support from individuals, businesses, and other resorts statewide showing the Museum's impact as a tourism amenity not only to Vail but to the ski industry statewide.</p>	
Local use and access to the attraction		<p>The attraction is conveniently and accessibly located in the Vail Village Parking Structure and is open to all ages year round.</p> <p>The museum does not charge admission but as a non-profit, a donation of \$5.00 is appreciated.</p>	
Local resident economic benefits of the attraction		Local residents and the local economy benefit from this attraction by its ability to contribute positively to the local appreciation of nature through preserving the legacy of snow sports.	

Attraction: Colorado Snowsports Museum	1.6: Inventory (describe main resources and values)	1.7: Baseline assessment (analyse impacts of tourism on the resources)	Policies & protection regimes (int. national & local regulations)
<p>Past conflicts and types of potential conflicts at the attraction</p>		<p>Since the renovation and reopening of the attraction, there has been one instance of theft from an exhibit and several situations where guests have broken artifacts. Other situations have included guests bringing uncovered beverages and/or food into the Museum and spilling them on the carpet. Finally, there is always the possibility that young children will break items in the gift shop that are within reach.</p> <p>See above for the protection schemes that have been implemented.</p>	
<p>Groups/stakeholders associated with impacts at the attraction</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Town of Vail • Colorado Snowsports Museum Members 		
<p>Resistance and resilience of this attraction to increasing volumes of visitors</p>		<p>Visitation to the site could possibly be limited by implementing a paid ticket to the attraction to help mitigate by negative effects due to overuse.</p>	
<p>Interrelation and impacts to other attractions</p>		<p>Colorado Snowsports Museum is surrounded by the 2.3 million acre White River National Forest including federally designated Wilderness Areas. The Museum also sits in close proximity to the Gore Creek and Vail Mountain.</p>	

Attraction: Colorado Snowsports Museum	1.6: Inventory (describe main resources and values)	1.7: Baseline assessment (analyse impacts of tourism on the resources)	Policies & protection regimes (int. national & local regulations)
<p>Determine whether by mitigating one impact another may be positively affected</p>		<p>By limiting the museum to groups of 125, the museum is ensuring a better guest experience, limiting impact to the artefacts and exhibits, and therefore encouraging its longevity and economic success. By limiting damage to the items in the museum itself, the museum can avoid the need to restore the items or purchase new ones, as well as ensuring it remains a quality experience. The quality of the experience can encourage future guest visitation and economic contributions to the legacy of Snowsports, which then indirectly contributes to the economic benefits of the attraction for the community.</p> <p>If further visitation needs to be limited, as mentioned about, that could occur via a paid ticket to the attraction. A paid ticket could also positively affect the other impacts of guest experience, economic value to destination, preserving local nature through Snowsports, and limiting overuse.</p>	

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Drafted by (names): ...Maren Cerimele, Kira Koppel
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Attraction Name: ...**Gerald R. Ford Amphitheater**

Attraction: Gerald R. Ford Amphitheater	1.6: Inventory (describe main resources and values)	1.7: Baseline assessment (analyse impacts of tourism on the resources)	Policies & protection regimes (int. national & local regulations)
<p>Attraction Overview</p>	<p>Mention and briefly describe your protected areas and the way these are accessible for tourists (e.g. signposted trails; interpretation (panels; centre); guided tours and other activity providers etc.</p> <p>The Gerald R. Ford Amphitheater in Vail is an outdoor venue that seats 1,265 guests in covered seating and an additional 1,300 on its expansive grassy hillside.</p> <p>Each summer, the Gerald R. Ford Amphitheater plays host to an array of cultural, community and entertainment offerings. Vail Valley Foundation projects include the internationally renowned Vail Dance Festival, Whistle Pig Vail headliner concerts, free weekly concerts of the Hot Summer Nights series and more. Additionally, we are thrilled to have other local non-profits and organizations call the GRFA home; offering additional programming ranging from the incredible classical offerings from the Bravo! Vail Music Festival to chorale events and art classes.</p>	<p>Briefly indicate the positive and negative impacts of tourism on these areas. For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> + contribution to area management and protection: in cash (e.g. visitor revenues or taxes/permits/concessions) or in kind (e.g. voluntourism that helps protect turtle nesting sites) + contribution to local appreciation of nature - degradation from tourism (trash, erosion of trails, disturbance of wildlife) <p>+According to the Vail Valley Foundation’s 2017 Annual Report, the Amphitheater attracted 98,637 visitors in Summer 2017 and contributes positively to the local economy through visitor revenue (ticket and concession sales). See page 8 of VVF 2017 Annual Report (on DSMS).</p> <p>-Increased visitation to the Amphitheater has shown negative impacts on accessibility and parking. 56 events were held at the venue in 2017.</p> <p>+The attraction offers a way to bring world-class arts and culture events to the Vail Valley</p>	<p>Indicate protection by relevant management, protection schemes and designations (incl. UNESCO)</p> <p>The venue is owned and operated by the Vail Valley Foundation on a long-term land lease from Town of Vail and is not open in the winter.</p>

Attraction: Gerald R. Ford Amphitheater	1.6: Inventory (describe main resources and values)	1.7: Baseline assessment (analyse impacts of tourism on the resources)	Policies & protection regimes (int. national & local regulations)
		<p>benefitting the local community as well as driving tourism revenue.</p> <p>+There are also a wide-range of community partnerships fostered around this attraction benefiting the community overall.</p>	

Attraction: Gerald R. Ford Amphitheater	1.6: Inventory (describe main resources and values)	1.7: Baseline assessment (analyse impacts of tourism on the resources)	Policies & protection regimes (int. national & local regulations)
Existing plans for adequate attraction protection goals, strategies and practices			<p>Page 4 of the Vail Valley Foundation's Strategic Plan sets clear goals for the management of Gerald R. Ford Amphitheater, including "Upgrading the venue utilizing the highest environmental standards".</p> <p>These goals include water reduction, landscaping that is less water dependent and adding solar to the venue.</p> <p>The Gerald R. Ford Amphitheater recently named a new Manager who will be working on a venue management plan incorporating attraction protection strategies and policies using this document as a guideline.</p>
Impacts and long-term risks for this attraction (environmental and social)		<p>The largest impact and risk associated with this attraction is increased visitation and the potential for visitors to walk on undesignated pathways and damage landscaping features as they travel to and from the venue.</p> <p>Trash consumption, electricity use, and water usage are also increased with more usage of this attraction. The venue currently features recycling.</p>	
Vegetation Impacts		There is minor risk to impact vegetation outside the footprint of the attraction due to increased foot traffic.	
Soil Impacts		There is minor risk to soil erosion outside the footprint of the venue due to increased foot traffic.	
Water impacts		The VVF's Strategic Plan includes goals for water reduction including landscaping that is less water dependent. More usage of the attraction does negatively affect the amount of water that is consumed at the attraction. The venue also power washes after large events which has some impact on runoff into Gore Creek.	

Attraction: Gerald R. Ford Amphitheater	1.6: Inventory (describe main resources and values)	1.7: Baseline assessment (analyse impacts of tourism on the resources)	Policies & protection regimes (int. national & local regulations)
Wildlife disturbance impacts		Noise from the concerts and increased usage could negatively affect and disturb wildlife in the area. While no formal studies have been conducted, the venue frequently hosts concerts featuring large amount of amplification. Increased motor traffic could also disturb wildlife surrounding the venue; however, these impacts are limited to when events are taking place.	
Noxious Weed Management			Noxious weed management at the attraction would be conducted as part of the Town of Vail's management operations.
Group size impacts		The venue seats 1,265 in the covered pavilion seating area and an additional 1,300 on the grass lawn. The venue is limited to this capacity per fire codes.	
Community acceptance and perception of tourism impacts at the attraction		<p>There is broad community support for Gerald R. Ford Amphitheater as evidenced by the donors, volunteers, and sponsors outlined in the VVF's 2017 Annual Report.</p> <p>The attraction offers a way to bring world-class arts and culture events to the Vail Valley benefitting the local community as well as driving tourism revenue.</p> <p>There are also a wide-range of community partnerships fostered around this attraction benefitting the community overall.</p>	
Local use and access to the attraction		Access to the attraction is accessible and allows for a variety of usage. Some events require ticket sales while others are available at no cost. The venue hosts multiple community events, memorials, weddings, high school graduations, and plays a key role as a gathering place for the entire valley.	

Attraction: Gerald R. Ford Ampitheater	1.6: Inventory (describe main resources and values)	1.7: Baseline assessment (analyse impacts of tourism on the resources)	Policies & protection regimes (int. national & local regulations)
Local resident economic benefits of the attraction		<p>Local residents and the local economy benefit from this attraction by ticket and concession sales at the attraction. Additionally, this attraction provides access to world-class arts and culture events for locals and visitors alike.</p> <p>The VVF's 2017 community survey showed that there is a wide base of support for continued pursuit of major, headliner music acts at the Gerald R. Ford Ampitheater.</p>	
Past conflicts and types of potential conflicts at the attraction		<p>The largest impact and risk associated with this attraction is increased visitation and the potential for visitors to walk on undesignated pathways and damage landscaping features as they travel to and from the venue.</p> <p>Trash consumption, electricity use, and water usage are also increased with more usage of this attraction.</p> <p>As the venue expands its programming, and under the guidance of its new Manager, Vail Valley Foundation will be assessing the impacts this expansion has on the venue and will be addressing attraction protection strategies and policies using this as a template.</p>	
Groups/stakeholders associated with impacts at the attraction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vail Valley Foundation • Town of Vail • Bravo! Vail Valley • Optimum Events & Entertainment • Other Event & Facility Sponsors 		

Attraction: Gerald R. Ford Amphitheater	1.6: Inventory (describe main resources and values)	1.7: Baseline assessment (analyse impacts of tourism on the resources)	Policies & protection regimes (int. national & local regulations)
Resistance and resilience of this attraction to increasing volumes of visitors		<p>The Vail Valley Foundation has expanded the number of events held at the attraction adding 6-8 events to the summer schedule. The venue typically draws its crowd from locals and/or those who are already visiting Vail, with some participants traveling to Vail specifically to attend concerts or functions at the venue.</p> <p>As the venue expands its programming, and under the guidance of its new Manager, Vail Valley Foundation will be assessing the impacts this expansion has on the venue and will be addressing attraction protection strategies and policies using this as a template.</p>	
Interrelation and impacts to other attractions		<p>The Gerald R. Ford Amphitheater is surrounded by the 2.3 million acre White River National Forest including federally designated Wilderness Areas. The Amphitheater is also part of Ford Park in East Vail and sit in close proximity to Vail Mountain, the Gore Creek and the Vail Nature Center.</p>	

Attraction: Gerald R. Ford Amphitheater	1.6: Inventory (describe main resources and values)	1.7: Baseline assessment (analyse impacts of tourism on the resources)	Policies & protection regimes (int. national & local regulations)
<p>Determine whether by mitigating one impact another may be positively affected</p>		<p>Mitigating group size impacts, specifically in relation to the number of events hosted at the venue, would positively affect the following impacts: vegetation, soil, water, and wildlife disturbance. Most of the risk with this attraction is the waste production and water use to clean the venue. By limiting guests, waste production should be reduced and the guest experience could be increased.</p> <p>Addressing the resistance and resilience of the attraction to increasing volumes of visitors could also ease some of the impacts by proper education of guests. The attraction can be more resilient by adding informational signage (e.g. do not walk on undesignated pathways and signage for proper waste disposal).</p> <p>As the venue expands its programming, and under the guidance of its new Manager, Vail Valley Foundation will be assessing the impacts this expansion has on the venue and will be addressing attraction protection strategies and policies using this as a template.</p>	

Town of Vail Attraction Protection Plan



Destination name + country: ...Vail, Colorado, USA
Drafted by (names): ...Maren Cerimele, Kira Koppel
Version / date: ...Final / April 25, 2019
Date validated (internally): ...Reviewed annually in Spring each year; using monitoring and mitigation rubric
Attraction Name: ...Gore Creek

Attraction: Gore Creek	1.6: Inventory (describe main resources and values)	1.7: Baseline assessment (analyse impacts of tourism on the resources)	Policies & protection regimes (int. national & local regulations)
<p>Attraction Overview</p>	<p>Mention and briefly describe your protected areas and the way these are accessible for tourists (e.g. signposted trails; interpretation (panels; centre); guided tours and other activity providers etc.</p> <p>The Gore Creek watershed drains approximately 102 square miles of land that ranges in elevation between 7,700 to 13,200 feet above sea level. Due to its high elevation and significant winter snowpacks, the Gore Creek watershed is the headwaters for a relatively high density of creeks and rivers including Gore Creek, Black Gore Creek, Spraddle Creek, Pitkin Creek, Bighorn Creek, Mill Creek, Middle Creek, Buffehr Creek, Booth Creek, and Red Sandstone Creek. Gore Creek, the largest and most well-known stream in the watershed, flows west from its headwaters in the Gore Range through a narrow mountain valley for a distance of roughly 19 miles to its confluence with the Eagle River. Along its way, it is fed in varying degrees by each of the tributary streams listed above.</p>	<p>Briefly indicate the positive and negative impacts of tourism on these areas. For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> + contribution to area management and protection: in cash (e.g. visitor revenues or taxes/permits/concessions) or in kind (e.g. voluntourism that helps protect turtle nesting sites) + contribution to local appreciation of nature - degradation from tourism (trash, erosion of trails, disturbance of wildlife) <p>+Town of Vail maintains a monthly volunteer water quality monitoring program through River Watch.</p> <p>+Town of Vail partners annually with the Eagle River Watershed Council to conduct river clean up days where hundreds of volunteers work to pick up trash along highways and watercourses throughout the Eagle River Watershed. These workdays reduce, to the greatest extent possible, the negative impact that trash can have on creeks and rivers in the region.</p>	<p>Indicate protection by relevant management, protection schemes and designations (incl. UNESCO)</p> <p>The reach of Gore Creek, from the confluence of Red Sandstone Creek downstream to the Eagle River, continues to exceed the minimum requirements for Gold Medal fishery designation (12 trout > 14" per acre and 60 lbs. of trout per acre). However, in Colorado, aquatic life use attainment is based upon benthic macroinvertebrate metrics. The Gold Medal designation confers some additional attraction protection as well. Fishing is permitted with flies and lures only in the gold medal stretch (no bait). And the bag and possession limit is two trout over 16 inches in length. On most CO waters, the limit is 4 trout of any length.</p> <p>Under the Clean Water Act, the State of Colorado is required to set limits for various pollutants in waterways like Gore Creek (such as arsenic, suspended solids, sediment, heavy metals, etc.). The state also sets aquatic life standards based on macroinvertebrate populations.</p> <p>Through Vail's "Love Vail" campaign, and specifically through "Project Re-Wild", The Town of Vail will provide partial funding to riparian and stream bank restoration projects on private land that reduce sediment and pollution loads in Gore Creek and its tributaries.</p>

Attraction: Gore Creek	1.6: Inventory (describe main resources and values)	1.7: Baseline assessment (analyse impacts of tourism on the resources)	Policies & protection regimes (int. national & local regulations)
	<p>Access to the attraction provides a variety of usage from fishing to boating. There is easy access in spots along the creek bank allowing pets and humans access to wade in the creek.</p> <p>Both Timberline Tours and Sage Outdoor Adventures offer guided rafting tours along Gore Creek. Additionally, various fly fishing outfitters access the water for guided fishing excursions.</p> <p>Water rights on the creek are owned by Eagle River Water Sanitation District and Vail Resorts and are used for drinking water, irrigation and snowmaking</p>	<p>+The attraction contributes to the local appreciation of nature as well as the local economy.</p> <p>+Guided fishing drives revenue to the local business economy by supporting the guide companies offering fishing tours on Gore Creek.</p> <p>+Fishing license fees purchased by river users support the CO Parks & Wildlife.</p>	

Attraction: Gore Creek	1.6: Inventory (describe main resources and values)	1.7: Baseline assessment (analyse impacts of tourism on the resources)	Policies & protection regimes (int. national & local regulations)
Existing plans for adequate attraction protection goals, strategies and practices			<p>Gore Creek has a written Strategic Action Plan (see DSMS) that states the following goals:</p> <p>“The Gore Creek Action Plan provides a framework for Town of Vail initiated actions designed to address current water quality impairments and aquatic health issues affecting Gore Creek and its tributaries. Because these impairments are not attributed to a single pollutant through extensive research by many entities, Plan actions target the three known causes of degradation, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pollutants from land use activities, commonly referred to as urban runoff, which many times has direct drainage pathways to Gore Creek or its tributaries • Drainage from impervious surfaces, which multiplies the effects of land use practices, especially in areas where there is little opportunity for infiltration and treatment of accumulated surface pollutants • The loss of riparian and streamside vegetation, reducing the natural ability of these areas to protect Gore Creek from effects of land use activities and urban runoff” <p>Eagle River Water & Sanitation District conducts regular monitoring and also organizes and sponsors a regional monitoring blitz in September to assess water chemistry, flows and macroinvertebrate populations.</p>
Impacts and long-term risks for this attraction (environmental and social)			

Attraction: Gore Creek	1.6: Inventory (describe main resources and values)	1.7: Baseline assessment (analyse impacts of tourism on the resources)	Policies & protection regimes (int. national & local regulations)
Vegetation Impacts		<p>Alteration, degradation, and complete removal or destruction of native streamside vegetation reduces the natural ability of these areas to protect Gore Creek from the effects of upland land use activities and urban runoff. Vegetated buffers slow the speed of runoff as it moves across the landscape. This effect, in turn, increases infiltration to the subsurface soil and promotes chemical transformation or biological uptake of pollutants that would otherwise find their way to the stream. Healthy riparian communities also physically stabilize streambanks and reduce the damaging effects that flood events may have on aquatic habitat. Once vegetated buffers are removed or altered, aquatic life damaging pollutants like sediment, nutrients, pesticides, and fertilizers can more easily and quickly reach the stream, the quality of food sources for aquatic ecosystems degrades, and the water-cooling shade and habitat complexity are lost.</p> <p>See page 9 of Gore Creek Strategic Action Plan (see DSMS for more information).</p>	<p>Several primary factors, including climate, geology, soils, land use activities, drainage patterns, and vegetation contribute to the quality of water in lakes, rivers and streams by controlling stream hydrology, water chemistry, and ecosystem function. Of these factors, TOV may exert direct control over only three: land use activities, drainage patterns, and vegetation—underscoring their significance in land use planning efforts attuned to mitigating or preventing water quality impacts.</p> <p>On page 24 of Gore Creek Strategic Action Plan (see DSMS), TOV has identified a specific action item to, “Partner with existing non-profit organizations (e.g. Eagle River Watershed Council, American Rivers, Trout Unlimited, Walking Mountains, and the Colorado State University (CSU) Extension Program) to organize, manage and implement education and outreach activities that increase basic riparian literacy and familiarity with best management practices for creek friendly landscaping practices. Include an explanation as to how riparian vegetation can prevent property loss to the stream.”</p>
Soil Impacts		<p>Riparian buffer degradation – Development in the Town of Vail is concentrated along a relatively narrow 10-mile long corridor extending from above the confluence of Black Gore Creek to the western Town boundary near Dowd Junction. In many areas development, landscaping, fill slopes, and roads, located in close proximity to the stream, have caused the degradation or loss of natural riparian buffer zones. Natural riparian buffers provide a variety of beneficial water quality, hydrologic and habitat functions such as filtration of pollutants from urban runoff, flood attenuation, alluvial aquifer recharge, enhancement of baseflows, shading to reduce water temperature, and food chain support for aquatic and terrestrial organisms. Other studies of streams similar to Gore Creek have found that loss of the riparian vegetative buffer is a primary stressor associated with macroinvertebrate impairment (EPA, 2006).</p>	

Water impacts

Quality - Water quality monitoring efforts over the last 10 years have generated a large quantity of data for Black Gore Creek, Gore Creek above Black Gore Creek, Gore Creek above the Vail WWTF and Gore Creek at the mouth.

Data analysis results indicate that Gore Creek is meeting all of the applicable water quality standards and criteria, including those established for protection of aquatic life use, for trace metals (e.g., cadmium, copper, lead, zinc, etc.), nutrients (e.g., total phosphorus and total nitrogen), major ions (e.g., chloride, iron, etc.), and physical/biological parameters (e.g., dissolved oxygen, pH, etc.). The results of this analysis indicate that exceedances of chronic standards for aquatic life use are not likely the cause of aquatic life use impairment in Gore Creek.

Gore Creek appears to be meeting the acute and chronic temperature standards for aquatic life with the possible exception of minor exceedances of the winter standards in early October immediately following the shoulder season transition from the summer to the winter standards. These exceedances would not adversely affect aquatic life, and additional data is being collected to further evaluate temperature conditions.

Stormwater - Stormwater data analysis indicated potential for rain event exceedances of acute aquatic life standards for dissolved copper and chronic aquatic life standards for copper, zinc, and total recoverable iron in Gore Creek below Vail Village.

Elevated chloride concentrations in Black Gore Creek and Gore Creek during snowmelt events likely contribute to aquatic life stress. Recent studies indicate that chloride may be more toxic to certain benthic macroinvertebrates found in Gore Creek than previously believed.

Attraction: Gore Creek	1.6: Inventory (describe main resources and values)	1.7: Baseline assessment (analyse impacts of tourism on the resources)	Policies & protection regimes (int. national & local regulations)
		<p>Stormwater impacts to Gore Creek in areas upstream from Vail Village likely contribute to aquatic life stress but do not appear to be the primary cause of impairment.</p> <p>Additional stormwater monitoring is needed to fully assess potential stormwater impacts in Gore Creek particularly in areas through Vail Village.</p> <p>It is important to note that stormwater samples were collected from ditches and pipes that convey runoff directly to the stream. Sample analyses did not include pesticides because the sampling dates did not coincide with the period when these pollutants would likely be detected.</p>	

<p>Wildlife disturbance impacts</p>		<p>Macroinvertebrates - Macroinvertebrate Multi-Metric Index (MMI) scores and other biological indices for areas through upstream reference sites (above Vail), East Vail, Vail Village, and the lower reaches of Gore Creek showed significant stress compared with reference conditions found in Gore Creek above Black Gore Creek and in Gore Creek tributaries.</p> <p>The most severely degraded biological conditions occur in the stream reaches extending from Big Horn Park downstream to the Vail Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF) outfall.</p> <p>The spatial pattern of degraded biological conditions and other types of macroinvertebrate indices indicate stresses associated with urban development and urban land use activities.</p> <p>Periphyton (algae and other microorganisms that are attached to or in close proximity to the stream bottom).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Periphyton conditions in Gore Creek are highly variable from location to location and from year to year due to the complex interaction of factors including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● nutrient and sediment loading; ● water temperature; ● sunlight intensity; ● streamflow patterns and scouring; ● water velocity; ● and grazing by aquatic insects. ○ Studies conducted annually from 2004 through 2007 show an increase in the invasive species <i>Didymosphenia geminata</i> in Gore Creek above the wastewater treatment facility (WWTF). ○ The filamentous green algae <i>Cladophora glomerata</i> is present in dryer than normal years in Gore Creek 	
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Attraction: Gore Creek	1.6: Inventory (describe main resources and values)	1.7: Baseline assessment (analyse impacts of tourism on the resources)	Policies & protection regimes (int. national & local regulations)
		<p>above the Vail WWTF, and is the dominant species found downstream of the Vail WWTF in dry and average years.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Chlorophyll <i>a</i> monitoring results (attached algae) in Gore Creek at all sites in most years were better than interim water quality criteria values adopted by the Water Quality Control Commission. <p>Fish - Results of a fish survey conducted by Colorado Parks and Wildlife in 2011 indicated healthy populations of sculpin, brown trout, brook trout, and rainbow trout in Gore Creek above Red Sandstone Creek. The large number of sculpin found at the East Vail and Nature Center sites generally indicates good water quality conditions including high dissolved oxygen, clean substrate, abundant food resources, and low trace metals concentrations. (Note that macroinvertebrate community characteristics are better indicators of biological diversity than fish.)</p> <p>The reach of Gore Creek, from the confluence of Red Sandstone Creek downstream to the Eagle River, continues to exceed the minimum requirements for Gold Medal fishery designation (12 trout > 14" per acre and 60 lbs. of trout per acre). However, in Colorado, aquatic life use attainment is based upon benthic macroinvertebrate metrics.</p>	

Attraction: Gore Creek	1.6: Inventory (describe main resources and values)	1.7: Baseline assessment (analyse impacts of tourism on the resources)	Policies & protection regimes (int. national & local regulations)
<p>Noxious Weed Management</p>	<p>Noxious weeds are a problem in Vail and the use of chemicals to treat noxious weeds can have an impact on water quality and aquatic life. There are a variety of weed species of concern in Vail including, musk thistle, Canada thistle, Dalmatian toadflax and oxeye daisy, to name a few.</p>	<p>The Town of Vail owns approximately 40% of the length of Gore Creek within the boundaries of the Town. Town staff have a robust noxious weed control program that includes these portions of town-owned property. Additionally, the Town enforces state regulations governing private property owner’s obligations to manage noxious weeds on their property. Through its educational programming for landscape contractors, property managers and private property owners the town promotes the use of an Integrated Pest Management approach to landscaping and weed control which prescribes chemical use as a last resort.</p>	<p>State of Colorado requires property owners to manage the growth and spread of noxious weeds on their property. Town of Vail takes these regulations seriously and has developed a robust noxious weeds program.</p> <p>See Sample Noxious Weed Notice on DSMS.</p>
<p>Group size impacts</p>		<p>Approximately 1.5 million people visit the ski resort and the Town of Vail each season. These large periodic influxes of visitors and second homeowners can make it challenging to affect individual behaviors at an appropriate scale to impact water quality conditions in the Gore Creek watershed.</p>	
<p>Community acceptance and perception of tourism impacts at the attraction</p>		<p>Despite the existing efforts for Education and Outreach as stated on page 23 of the Gore Creek Strategic Action Plan (see DSMS), there is a general dearth of water quality knowledge within the Valley. No single campaign actively engages a broad spectrum of the community to raise awareness of the impacts that individual behaviors can have on water quality, the ecological value of riparian zones, and the role that vegetative buffers play in moderating the water quality impacts of urban runoff. Vail is comprised of nearly 5,000 full-time residents and an estimated 5,000 part-time residents.</p> <p>Town of Vail partners annually with the Eagle River Watershed Council to conduct river clean up days where hundreds of volunteers work to pick up trash along highways and watercourses throughout the Eagle River Watershed. These workdays reduce, to the greatest extent possible, the negative impact that trash can have on creeks and rivers in the region.</p>	

Attraction: Gore Creek	1.6: Inventory (describe main resources and values)	1.7: Baseline assessment (analyse impacts of tourism on the resources)	Policies & protection regimes (int. national & local regulations)
Local use and access to the attraction		Access to the attraction provides a variety of usage from fishing to boating. There is easy access in spots along the creek bank allowing pets and humans access to wade in the creek.	
Local resident economic benefits of the attraction		The water that flows through Gore Creek and its tributaries represents an important local resource and amenity to the Town of Vail's many residents and visitors. Water utilities rely upon high quality and dependable water supplies to provide safe drinking water to the community; wastewater utilities have identified the need for effective management of nonpoint pollution sources in conjunction with responsible decisions regarding wastewater treatment; and the resort/tourism industry relies on clean water and the natural beauty of the valley to draw visitors. Thus, the high quality of life enjoyed by local residents and the foundations of the recreation and tourism-based economy of the Vail Valley, and larger Eagle River Watershed, is inextricably tied to the biological health and aesthetic quality of its streams and rivers.	

Attraction: Gore Creek	1.6: Inventory (describe main resources and values)	1.7: Baseline assessment (analyse impacts of tourism on the resources)	Policies & protection regimes (int. national & local regulations)
<p>Past conflicts and types of potential conflicts at the attraction</p>		<p>Regulatory action by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) Water Quality Control Commission (WQCC) in 2012 resulted in the listing of Gore Creek on the Clean Water Act's Section 303(d) List of Impaired Waters. This listing resulted from application of the WQCC's Aquatic Life Use Attainment Methodology (Policy Statement 10-1) to macroinvertebrate sample data collected at numerous locations along Gore Creek through the Town of Vail. WQCC guidelines describe specific protocols for analyzing and assessing benthic macroinvertebrate data using a Multi-Metric Index (MMI). Between 2009 and the 303(d) listing of Gore Creek in 2012, data collection activities yielded twelve failing MMI scores between East Vail and the Eagle River. These results provided WQCC with ample evidence of significant water quality impairments on the creek.</p> <p>According to the Gore Creek Water Quality Improvement Plan executive summary, there are three categories of stressors present in the study area that are well documented in the literature as potential causes of aquatic health impairment: 1) riparian buffer degradation; 2) impacts of impervious cover and urban runoff; and 3) pollutants associated with land use activities.</p>	<p>The Gore Creek was once listed on Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment's list of impaired streams.</p>
<p>Groups/stakeholders associated with impacts at the attraction</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Town of Vail • Eagle River Watershed Council • Eagle River Water and Sanitation District • See page 5 of Gore Creek Strategic Action Plan (on DSMS) 		

Attraction: Gore Creek	1.6: Inventory (describe main resources and values)	1.7: Baseline assessment (analyse impacts of tourism on the resources)	Policies & protection regimes (int. national & local regulations)
Resistance and resilience of this attraction to increasing volumes of visitors		<p>Recommendations for improving water quality on Gore Creek fall into five overall strategy areas: 1) Education and Outreach, 2) Best Management Practices, 3) Rules and Regulations, 4) Data Collection and Research, and 5) Site Specific Projects. Political support, the input of a community advisory group (see Chapter 5 of the WQIP on DSMS), the availability of funds, and the interest of potential partners will ultimately influence the selected timeline for implementation of the various recommended actions associated with each of the Strategies. Recommendations indicated in bold type are referenced in the Executive Summary’s high priority action list.</p> <p>One of the 5 goals as identified in the Town of Vail Environmental Sustainability Strategic Plan is “Public Education and Communication: Increase public education and awareness, communication and environmental stewardship in the Town of Vail.” This has developed to include public art displays surrounding stream drains in the Town to bring increased awareness to stream drainage.</p>	
Interrelation and impacts to other attractions		The Gore Creek is surrounded by the 2.3 million acre White River National Forest including federally designated Wilderness Areas.	
Determine whether by mitigating one impact another may be positively affected		Certainly, some of the mitigation efforts intended to restore Gore Creek have other, secondary positive outcomes. For example, as we improve water quality and physical habitat in an effort to restore macroinvertebrate populations, fish will benefit from improved habitat and water quality as well. If we restore riparian habitat to shade the creek and prevent erosion, we provide habitat for bird species and other critters. Efforts to improve irrigation efficiency have a plethora of benefits including reduced erosion and runoff and preservation of stream flows in Gore Creek.	

Town of Vail Attraction Protection Plan



Destination name + country: ...Vail, Colorado, USA
Drafted by (names): ...Maren Cerimele, Kira Koppel
Version / date: ...Final / April 25, 2019
Date validated (internally): ...Reviewed annually in Spring each year; using monitoring and mitigation rubric
Attraction Name: ...Vail Farmer’s Market & Art Show

Attraction: Vail Farmer’s Market & Art Show	1.6: Inventory (describe main resources and values)	1.7: Baseline assessment (analyse impacts of tourism on the resources)	Policies & protection regimes (int. national & local regulations)
<p>Attraction Overview</p>	<p><i>Mention and briefly describe your protected areas and the way these are accessible for tourists (e.g. signposted trails; interpretation (panels; centre); guided tours and other activity providers etc.</i></p> <p>The Vail Farmers Market is entering its 18th year in Vail and is held along Meadow Drive. The event features 135 tents for 17 Sundays of the summer (June – October).</p> <p>Parking for the Market is at the Vail Village Parking or Lionshead Parking structures.</p> <p>The event is free to attend and features entertainment, a pet friendly environment and a Farm to Table dining series.</p>	<p><i>Briefly indicate the positive and negative impacts of tourism on these areas. For example:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> + contribution to area management and protection: in cash (e.g. visitor revenues or taxes/permits/concessions) or in kind (e.g. voluntourism that helps protect turtle nesting sites) + contribution to local appreciation of nature - degradation from tourism (trash, erosion of trails, disturbance of wildlife) <p>-Increased visitation to the event has shown negative impacts on accessibility, parking, and additional trash generated by the event.</p> <p>+Tourism drives revenue to the participating vendors as well as surrounding Town of Vail businesses.</p> <p>+Vendor fees and sales tax are also collected and are a benefit to the local economy.</p>	<p><i>Indicate protection by relevant management, protection schemes and designations (incl. UNESCO)</i></p> <p>The event features sustainability minded features such as separation of recyclables, trash and compostable materials as well as a Farm to Table dining series.</p> <p>The Farm to Table series features local food sources and farmers highlighting seasonal and local ingredients.</p>

Attraction: Vail Farmer's Market & Art Show	1.6: Inventory (describe main resources and values)	1.7: Baseline assessment (analyse impacts of tourism on the resources)	Policies & protection regimes (int. national & local regulations)
Existing plans for adequate attraction protection goals, strategies and practices			<p>Event organizers guide vendors and educate them about proper water and food waste disposal and that is part of being a vendor at the Market. Vendors receive weekly emails on the importance of where their water goes if they do not take it to a proper disposal point.</p> <p>In 2014 the event moved to require vendors to use only compostable utensils and eliminated plastic bags. The event also banned the use of plastic bottles in 2018. Event organizers work with Walking Mountains Science Center to separate trash, recycling and compost during the event.</p>
Impacts and long-term risks for this attraction (environmental and social)		<p>The event started with a few tents and now has grown to over 135 tents for 17 Sundays of the summer.</p> <p>Attendance at the event saw significant growth through Summer 2014, but this has declined in recent years according to the Town of Vail Economic Indicators Study (as of April 30, 2017).</p>	
Vegetation Impacts		There is some risk and potential to damage vegetation in the surrounding event area due to increased foot traffic, pet traffic and vendor usage.	Guests and vendors may utilize only the streets and sidewalks of Vail. Event organizers work with the Town of Vail to ensure the streets are left better than when the event began.
Soil Impacts		There is some risk to soil erosion in the surrounding event area due to increased foot traffic, pet traffic and vendor usage.	Guests and vendors may utilize only the streets and sidewalks of Vail. Event organizers work with the Town of Vail to ensure the streets are left better than when the event began.
Water impacts		This attraction is in close proximity to Gore Creek and offers some potential impact due to vendor usage (i.e. disposal of waste water).	Since the market began, the vendors have been educated that water drains go directly to the creek. They all are informed and know that water, no matter what or where it came from, goes home with them.
Wildlife disturbance impacts		There is some risk to wildlife if trash and food waste are not properly removed.	Event organizers work with Walking Mountains Science Center and have a specified plan that all waste is removed by 5 pm each Sunday and brought to disposal locations at Town of Vail.
Noxious Weed Management		Would be managed by Town of Vail public works and not Vail Farmer's Market & Art Show producers.	Noxious weeds in the event area would be included under the Town of Vail's management.
Group size impacts		The event is maxed at 135 vendors and will not add more. Event organizers work within the parking constraints and guidelines set forth by Town of Vail.	

Attraction: Vail Farmer's Market & Art Show	1.6: Inventory (describe main resources and values)	1.7: Baseline assessment (analyse impacts of tourism on the resources)	Policies & protection regimes (int. national & local regulations)
Community acceptance and perception of tourism impacts at the attraction	There is broad community support for this attraction from the local business community due to the draw of tourists and the economic benefits of these events.		
Local use and access to the attraction		Access to the attraction is accessible and is provided at no cost.	
Local resident economic benefits of the attraction		<p>Tourism drives revenue to the participating vendors as well as surrounding Town of Vail businesses.</p> <p>Additionally, local residents have greater access to local farmers and locally sourced food through the event's presence.</p>	
Past conflicts and types of potential conflicts at the attraction		As the event has grown, event organizers have worked to ensure all guests know where to park.	
Groups/stakeholders associated with impacts at the attraction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Town of Vail • Eagle Valley Events • Vail Jazz • Event Sponsors 		
Resistance and resilience of this attraction to increasing volumes of visitors		The event is maxed at 135 vendors and will not add more. Event organizers work within the parking constraints and guidelines set forth by Town of Vail. The attraction utilizes virtually all parking on most Sundays and does not plan to grow significantly due to space and parking restraints.	
Interrelation and impacts to other attractions		This attraction is surrounded by the 2.3 million acre White River National Forest including federally designated Wilderness Areas and Vail Mountain. This event is in close proximity to the Gore Creek and provides attendees with quick access to other local attractions.	

Attraction: Vail Farmer's Market & Art Show	1.6: Inventory (describe main resources and values)	1.7: Baseline assessment (analyse impacts of tourism on the resources)	Policies & protection regimes (int. national & local regulations)
<p>Determine whether by mitigating one impact another may be positively affected</p>		<p>By limiting group size impacts the following impacts can be positively affected: vegetation, soil, water, and wildlife disturbance. Most of the risk with this attraction is the waste production, potential improper disposal, and parking/guest experience due to the high number of guests. By limiting guests, waste production should be reduced and the guest experience could be increased. Another option could be to limit the number of vendors to discourage overtourism of the attraction, but that could produce a negative impact on the economic benefit of the Vail Farmer's Market and Art Show. Addressing the resistance and resilience of the attraction to increasing volumes of visitors could also ease some of the impacts by proper education of guests and vendors. The attraction can be more resilient with full attendee and vendor education around protecting the local wildlife and vegetation (not dumping in storm drains, staying on the paved path, etc.)</p>	

Town of Vail Attraction Protection Plan



Destination name + country: ...Vail, Colorado, USA
Drafted by (names): ...Maren Cerimele, Kira Koppel
Version / date: ...Final / April 25, 2019
Date validated (internally): ...Reviewed annually in Spring each year; using monitoring and mitigation rubric
Attraction Name: ...**Vail Golf Club & Nordic Center**

Attraction: Vail Golf Club & Nordic Center	1.6: Inventory (describe main resources and values)	1.7: Baseline assessment (analyse impacts of tourism on the resources)	Policies & protection regimes (int. national & local regulations)
<p>Attraction Overview</p>	<p>Mention and briefly describe your protected areas and the way these are accessible for tourists (e.g. signposted trails; interpretation (panels; centre); guided tours and other activity providers etc.</p> <p>This attraction is a public 18 hole golf course and is accessible to locals and visitors in the Summer as the Vail Golf Club. Golfers are to follow the course signage and club/course policies. Instruction is available through the Golf Club Staff as well as Youth Programs and League play. See Golf Map on DSMS.</p> <p>The attraction is accessible to locals and visitors in the Winter as the Vail Nordic Center offering 17 km of groomed ski track, 13 km of fat bike trails, and 10 km of separate snowshoe trails. Activity lessons are offered as well as equipment rentals. See Nordic Trails Map on DSMS.</p> <p>There is also a Nordic style lodge onsite including a restaurant</p>	<p>Briefly indicate the positive and negative impacts of tourism on these areas. For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> + contribution to area management and protection: in cash (e.g. visitor revenues or taxes/permits/concessions) or in kind (e.g. voluntourism that helps protect turtle nesting sites) + contribution to local appreciation of nature - degradation from tourism (trash, erosion of trails, disturbance of wildlife) <p>+Visitation to the golf club has been fairly steady according to the most recent Town of Vail Economic Indicators Summary.</p> <p>+65 Events were booked at the golf clubhouse in 2017 estimated 5,000 guests</p> <p>-Vail Recreation District took over management of the Nordic Center in 2017, thus visitation information prior to that time is limited.</p>	<p>Indicate protection by relevant management, protection schemes and designations (incl. UNESCO)</p> <p>Wetlands: Annual site visit and report by Alpine Hydroecology conducted. Results point out any issues in management of these 13 delineated areas</p> <p>Audubon Recertification-Site visit conducted in 2015 by Audubon International- We were once again awarded status as an Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary. Criteria evaluated includes water quality management</p>

Attraction: Vail Golf Club & Nordic Center	1.6: Inventory (describe main resources and values)	1.7: Baseline assessment (analyse impacts of tourism on the resources)	Policies & protection regimes (int. national & local regulations)
	available for group / wedding bookings.	<p>+This attraction contributes positively to the local appreciation of nature and promotes wellness through recreation.</p> <p>+The destination weddings and corporate events hosted in the Gore Range Room generate tax revenues in lodging, dining and ancillary spending as well as those produced at the facility through food & beverage sales and room rental. Additional tax revenue is generated through retail sales and rentals in both the golf and Nordic pro shops.</p>	

Attraction: Vail Golf Club & Nordic Center	1.6: Inventory (describe main resources and values)	1.7: Baseline assessment (analyse impacts of tourism on the resources)	Policies & protection regimes (int. national & local regulations)
<p>Existing plans for adequate attraction protection goals, strategies and practices</p>	<p>The Vail Golf Club is managed by Vail Recreation District and has as written Best Management Practices Plan for Water Quality Management. See Golf Course Gore Creek BMPs on DSMS.</p> <p>Vail Recreation District states on page 4 of their 2017 Annual Report, “At VRD, we have a responsibility to the community. We are responsible for the safety of our participants and guests visiting our facilities. We ensure our facilities are clean, healthy and safe. We are responsible to the environment and embrace our commitment to preserving our mountains and streams where we work and play.”</p>		
<p>Impacts and long-term risks for this attraction (environmental and social)</p>		<p>The largest impact and risk associated with this attraction is its impact on water, specifically the Gore Creek.</p>	
<p>Vegetation Impacts</p>			<p>The attraction’s Best Management Practices Plan for Water Quality Management includes managing potential inputs of suspended solids and debris through erosion control Best Management Practices. See pages 22, 24, and 25 of Golf Course Gore Creek BMPs on DSMS.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Buffer zones” of native vegetation that are not maintained like turf areas, create barrier and filter for potential inputs. <p>Creek bank stabilization and vegetation projects; locations prone to erosion from high water flows have been improved through use of boulder wall placements, creation of pools, and planting of willows and other vegetation.</p>

<p>Soil Impacts</p>			<p>Preventing nutrient and pesticide inputs through management of application techniques, rates, and timing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soil testing conducted annually, allows us to apply only what nutrients are needed each year in proper amounts. • Granular fertilizer applications typically done only 3 times/growing season. Gives turf system no more than what it needs. • Fertilizers used are primarily controlled release products, are not easily volatilized, surface drained, or leached through rootzone. • Fertilizer application rates are minimal per application, turf system receives only enough to maintain healthy system, not produce excessive growth. • Fertilizer timing: Avoidance of forecasted big rain events on a daily and weekly basis. • Only when turf system needs the nutrients; early summer, mid-late summer, and fall. • Phosphorous is omitted from program on fairways and roughs, as soil tests indicate it to be in plentiful supply with native soil. Nitrogen and Potassium are the two main macro-nutrients supplied. <p>Erosion Control</p> <p>Managing potential inputs of suspended solids and debris through erosion control BMP's:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creek bank stabilization and vegetation projects; locations prone to erosion from high water flows have been improved through use of boulder wall placements, creation of pools, and planting of willows and other vegetation. • Boulder wall installation projects at #7 tee box and #17 bridge are examples. New bridge installations involved widening of creek at those previously constricted sites, reducing erosion potential during high flows and flood events. • Renovation of clubhouse, surrounding landscape, and new storm water drainage plan will alleviate past flooding and subsequent drainage problems, which in 2011 could have produced a potential for fertilizer/chemical/dissolved solids inputs to creek. • Standard use of silt fencing, sand bags, and other sediment capture systems and erosion mitigation instituted when any
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Attraction: Vail Golf Club & Nordic Center	1.6: Inventory (describe main resources and values)	1.7: Baseline assessment (analyse impacts of tourism on the resources)	Policies & protection regimes (int. national & local regulations)
			disturbance along creek or ponds is undertaken or forecasted.

Attraction: Vail Golf Club & Nordic Center	1.6: Inventory (describe main resources and values)	1.7: Baseline assessment (analyse impacts of tourism on the resources)	Policies & protection regimes (int. national & local regulations)
<p>Water impacts</p>			<p>Preventing nutrient and chemical inputs to the creek and ponds:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Buffer zones” of native vegetation that are not maintained like turf areas, create barrier and filter for potential inputs. • All golf holes that border, or cross Gore Creek, and the ponds on the course have these buffer zones. Holes include 1, 2, 7-11, and 14-18. • Buffer zones, if treated at all, are fertilized and/or sprayed on a “micro-level” management plan. • Use of small spreaders for fertilizing these areas, and small backpack sprayers for herbicide applications, or more typically, mechanical weed removal. <p>Nutrient and pesticide levels are monitored by sampling and testing at the upstream and downstream points of Gore Creek, just east and west of golf course.</p> <p>Testing is done 3 times per season, by an independent consultant, typically in May, July, and September, giving snapshot of measured nutrients, pesticides, and solids during high flow, low flow, and average flow levels of Gore Creek.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nitrate/NitriteNitrogen,AmmoniaNitrogen,Phosphorous,pH, and some pesticides used on the course are tested for and compared to see if levels increase or decrease as creek flows through and along the golf course. • Testing points are east of #14 tee and west of #7 tee. • Results show that levels are typically decreased or relatively unchanged from east to west ends. • Testing done for dissolved/suspended solids (TDS) as well to indicate any erosion issues through property, or the filtering effect of the golf course from input of TDS from east of property.

Attraction: Vail Golf Club & Nordic Center	1.6: Inventory (describe main resources and values)	1.7: Baseline assessment (analyse impacts of tourism on the resources)	Policies & protection regimes (int. national & local regulations)
Wildlife disturbance impacts			<p>The Vail Golf & Nordic Center is a certified Audubon Cooperative Wildlife Sanctuary. The areas of concentration in this certification are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> wildlife habitat, outreach and education, environmental/resource planning and management, water management (quality, conservation) and integrated pest management.
Noxious Weed Management			<p>The Colorado Department of Agriculture requires a property manager to make efforts to remove weeds listed by them as “noxious”, such as Canada Thistle.</p> <p>Use of small spreaders for fertilizing these areas, and small backpack sprayers for herbicide applications, or more typically, mechanical weed removal.</p>
Group size impacts			<p>Due to facility size and the Vail Golf and Nordic Club House Management and Operations Plan (see DSMS) group size impacts are already mitigated.</p>
Community acceptance and perception of tourism impacts at the attraction	<p>There is broad community acceptance to invest in recreation as shown with the passage of ballot measure A in November of 2017. The VRD’s mill levy will account for approximately 8 percent of total taxes paid by most Vail taxpayers. These property taxes are expected to make up 49 percent of the VRD’s revenues with the other 51 percent coming from user fees and other sources. Passage of this ballot measure shows that the local community values the economic impact that this attraction has to the community.</p>		
Local use and access to the attraction	<p>600+ Nordic season passes and 105 golf passes were sold for the 2017/2018 season indicating strong use by the local community.</p>		
Local resident economic benefits of the attraction		<p>The revenues generated through the facility help to minimize the subsidizes of recreation programming and events, thereby keeping program costs and taxes low for residents.</p>	

Attraction: Vail Golf Club & Nordic Center	1.6: Inventory (describe main resources and values)	1.7: Baseline assessment (analyse impacts of tourism on the resources)	Policies & protection regimes (int. national & local regulations)
<p>Past conflicts and types of potential conflicts at the attraction</p>		<p>A potential conflict addressed at the attraction is parking when events are hosted while existing programming is taking place. The Vail Recreation District and Town of Vail have instituted the Vail Golf and Nordic Club House Management and Operations Plan (see DSMS) that addresses and mitigates parking conflicts.</p>	
<p>Groups/stakeholders associated with impacts at the attraction</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Town of Vail • Vail Recreation District • Colorado Department of Agriculture • Audubon International • Alpine Hydroecology 		
<p>Resistance and resilience of this attraction to increasing volumes of visitors</p>		<p>Vail Recreation District could limit the number of season and day use passes sold to help mitigate negative effects of increasing visitors if they found there to be negative impacts due to overuse.</p>	
<p>Interrelation and impacts to other attractions</p>		<p>Visitation and use of the Vail Golf Club and Nordic Center is directly interrelated to impact on the Gore Creek. However, there are no signs to indicate negative impact based on the water quality analyses completed. This attraction is part of the White River National Forest. See Golf Map on DSMS.</p>	
<p>Determine whether by mitigating one impact another may be positively affected</p>		<p>Similarly to Gore Creek, mitigating impacts to the water surrounding the golf course can have a positive effect on macroinvertebrate fish health, therefore positively impacting the wildlife and birds who may feed on these insects and fish. The vegetation buffer zones that are maintained (by mitigating negative impact to the surrounding water) also help to control soil erosion and the opportunity for native plants to thrive. In addition, the buffer zones provide additional habitat for wildlife to be positively affected.</p>	

Town of Vail Attraction Protection Plan

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Drafted by (names): ...Maren Cerimele, Kira Koppel
Version / date: ...Final / April 25, 2019
Date validated (internally): ...Reviewed annually in Spring each year; using monitoring and mitigation rubric
Attraction Name: ...Vail Interfaith Chapel



Attraction: Vail Interfaith Chapel	1.6: Inventory (describe main resources and values)	1.7: Baseline assessment (analyse impacts of tourism on the resources)	Policies & protection regimes (int. national & local regulations)
<p>Attraction Overview</p>	<p><i>Mention and briefly describe your protected areas and the way these are accessible for tourists (e.g. signposted trails; interpretation (panels; centre); guided tours and other activity providers etc.</i></p> <p>The Vail Interfaith Chapel sits in the heart of the Town of Vail along Gore Creek and is surrounded by the White River National Forest.</p> <p>Since 1968, it has been the spiritual heart of Vail and a sacred place where individuals, couples and families have celebrated life’s most meaningful moments.</p> <p>The Chapel is open from 8 am – 7 pm daily.</p> <p>More information about this attraction and its history can be found on the Chapel’s website.</p>	<p><i>Briefly indicate the positive and negative impacts of tourism on these areas. For example:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> + contribution to area management and protection: in cash (e.g. visitor revenues or taxes/permits/concessions) or in kind (e.g. voluntourism that helps protect turtle nesting sites) + contribution to local appreciation of nature - degradation from tourism (trash, erosion of trails, disturbance of wildlife) <p>+ This attraction contributes positively to the local appreciation of nature while providing a spiritual gathering place in a natural setting.</p> <p>+The Chapel extends its hospitality in time of need to the greater community.</p>	<p><i>Indicate protection by relevant management, protection schemes and designations (incl. UNESCO)</i></p>

Attraction: Vail Interfaith Chapel	1.6: Inventory (describe main resources and values)	1.7: Baseline assessment (analyse impacts of tourism on the resources)	Policies & protection regimes (int. national & local regulations)
		+The Chapel hosts about 100 weddings and events annually, positively contributing to the local economy.	

Attraction: Vail Interfaith Chapel	1.6: Inventory (describe main resources and values)	1.7: Baseline assessment (analyse impacts of tourism on the resources)	Policies & protection regimes (int. national & local regulations)
Existing plans for adequate attraction protection goals, strategies and practices			<p>In the spirit of working within the context and natural beauty of the mountain chapel, there are a number of policies put in place to protect the Chapel and surrounding area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nothing may be scattered or dropped inside or outside the chapels, such as rice, birdseed, flower petals or leaves. • Glitter is not allowed on floral arrangements, bouquets, wedding attire or shoes. Please inform your florist. • Greenery, such as foxtail, tree fern or any flowers prone to shedding easily, is not to be used. <p>These policies are stated clearly on the Chapel's website and are reinforced to anyone using the Chapel for an event or special occasion.</p>
Impacts and long-term risks for this attraction (environmental and social)		The largest impact and risk associated with this attraction is increased visitation and the potential for visitors to park and travel along undesignated pathways.	
Vegetation Impacts		There is minor risk to vegetation at this attraction if visitors travel off of designated pathways.	
Soil Impacts		There is some impact to erosion along Gore Creek at the perimeter of the Chapel land.	
Water impacts		Water usage could increase with increased tourism and visitation.	
Wildlife disturbance impacts		There are no impacts to wildlife at this attraction.	
Noxious Weed Management			Noxious weed management would be conducted under the Town of Vail's management.

Attraction: Vail Interfaith Chapel	1.6: Inventory (describe main resources and values)	1.7: Baseline assessment (analyse impacts of tourism on the resources)	Policies & protection regimes (int. national & local regulations)
Group size impacts		<p>The Chapel seats 300 and is available for weddings, baptisms and other private events.</p> <p>Visitor parking is very limited at the attraction.</p> <p>The attraction restricts the number of weddings and events based on accommodating the masses held weekly.</p>	
Community acceptance and perception of tourism impacts at the attraction		<p>The Chapel partners with other community stakeholders to address the physical, relational and spiritual needs of the community and opens its doors to locals and visitors alike.</p> <p>The 6 religious congregations who share the Chapel and accompanying Ministry Center welcome visitors with open arms.</p>	
Local use and access to the attraction		<p>Local residents utilize this attraction in numerous ways and it is seen as a gathering place for locals and visitors alike.</p> <p>The Chapel regularly hosts a wide range of community events and gatherings from support groups to concerts indicating that local support for the attraction is strong.</p> <p>The attraction is conveniently and accessibly located in Vail Village.</p> <p>The Chapel and accompanying Ministry Center is shared by 6 religious congregations in order to serve the Vail community. Members sharing it's use include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Episcopal Church of the Transfiguration • Covenant Presbyterian Church • B'nai Vail Congregation • Trinity Church (Baptist) • Mount of the Holy Cross Lutheran Church <p>St. Patrick's Catholic Parish</p>	

Attraction: Vail Interfaith Chapel	1.6: Inventory (describe main resources and values)	1.7: Baseline assessment (analyse impacts of tourism on the resources)	Policies & protection regimes (int. national & local regulations)
Local resident economic benefits of the attraction		<p>Local residents and the local economy benefit from this attraction by its ability to be a gathering place for locals and visitors alike.</p> <p>The Chapel regularly hosts a wide range of community events and gatherings from support groups to concerts.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Chapel partners with other community stakeholders to address the physical, relational and spiritual needs of the community. 	
Past conflicts and types of potential conflicts at the attraction		<p>Parking has been a past issue, however, there is now adequate shared parking for staff and some visitors available at the attraction. This is shared by 1st Bank, the condo owners at a nearby lodge, and chapel staff. A coded gate is implemented to mitigate unauthorized users of the parking area. Visitor parking is very limited at the attraction, but the attraction can be accessed by the free bus system.</p> <p>Traffic can also be an issue at times as the Chapel is a popular turn around spot.</p> <p>Overflow parking is located in the Vail Village parking structure. With free parking limited in the Vail Village structure, and the walking distance to the Chapel, some larger events such as Bravo Vail , Vail Symposium, Alcoholics Anonymous, and especially weddings and funerals/memorial services are impacted. As the valley grows in popularity and chapel usage increases, parking will become an issue.</p>	
Groups/stakeholders associated with impacts at the attraction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Town of Vail Vail Religious Foundation (members include: Episcopal Church of the Transfiguration, Covenant Presbyterian Church, B'nai Vail Congregation, Trinity Church (Baptist), Mount of the Holy Cross Lutheran Church, St. Patrick's Catholic Parish) 		

Attraction: Vail Interfaith Chapel	1.6: Inventory (describe main resources and values)	1.7: Baseline assessment (analyse impacts of tourism on the resources)	Policies & protection regimes (int. national & local regulations)
Resistance and resilience of this attraction to increasing volumes of visitors		<p>The Chapel seats 300 and is limited by its capacity.</p> <p>Parking for visitors is limited at the attraction.</p> <p>The attraction restricts the number of weddings and events based on accommodating the masses held weekly.</p> <p>As the valley grows in popularity and chapel usage increases, parking may become an issue.</p>	
Interrelation and impacts to other attractions		<p>Vail Interfaith Chapel is surrounded by the 2.3 million acre White River National Forest including federally designated Wilderness Areas. The Chapel also sits in close proximity to the Gore Creek and Vail Mountain.</p>	
Determine whether by mitigating one impact another may be positively affected		<p>Limiting the number of events held at the Chapel thus mitigating group size impacts, would positively affect the the potential impact to vegetation and water usage. Most of the risk with this attraction is the waste production and water usage from events at the Chapel.</p> <p>Addressing the parking issues or offering clear communication about alternate transportation options could enhance the guest experience. The attraction can be more resilient by adding informational signage (e.g. do not walk on undesignated pathways) and information about transportation options.</p>	

Town of Vail Attraction Protection Plan



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Drafted by (names): ...Maren Cerimele, Kira Koppel
Version / date: ...Final / April 25, 2019
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Attraction Name: ...Vail Mountain

Attraction: Vail Mountain	1.6: Inventory (describe main resources and values)	1.7: Baseline assessment (analyse impacts of tourism on the resources)	Policies & protection regimes (int. national & local regulations)
<p>Attraction Overview</p>	<p>Mention and briefly describe your protected areas and the way these are accessible for tourists (e.g. signposted trails; interpretation (panels; centre); guided tours and other activity providers etc.</p> <p>Vail Mountain is a world-renowned ski resort with 5,289 skiable acres. The resort is part of the 2.3 million acre White River National Forest and is located in the Holy Cross Wilderness Area. The attraction is operated by Vail Resorts under permit from the US Forest Service.</p> <p>The resort is available both as a ticketed attraction (day lift tickets, season passes) and also with no cost if accessing the attraction on foot (uphill hiking and skiing travel).</p> <p>The attraction is open in the winter and summer seasons for resort operations. Winter is typically open from mid-November – mid-April. Summer operations are typically run from early-June – late-September.</p> <p>The resort features a variety of ski and hiking terrain marked by signposted trails. There are also educational</p>	<p>Briefly indicate the positive and negative impacts of tourism on these areas. For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> + contribution to area management and protection: in cash (e.g. visitor revenues or taxes/permits/concessions) or in kind (e.g. voluntourism that helps protect turtle nesting sites) + contribution to local appreciation of nature - degradation from tourism (trash, erosion of trails, disturbance of wildlife) <p>+The attraction contributes to the local appreciation of nature as well as the local economy by driving tourism revenues to businesses in the surrounding town.</p> <p>+The attraction contributes to area management and protection by generating user fees paid to the US Forest Service.</p> <p>-With a significant number of annual visitors, there is bound to be some degradation from tourism on this attraction. Increased trash consumption and disturbance of wildlife are likely the most negative impacts.</p>	<p>Indicate protection by relevant management, protection schemes and designations (incl. UNESCO)</p> <p>Vail Resorts is issued a permit from the US Forest Service for operations on public land. This permit identifies operation plans and determines how Vail Resorts is able to use the land. Actions like cutting new runs or adding acreage within the permit boundary are carefully discussed and vetted through the public with the NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act) process to ensure that the public is aware of the proposed changes and the impacts to natural resources.</p>

Attraction: Vail Mountain	1.6: Inventory (describe main resources and values)	1.7: Baseline assessment (analyse impacts of tourism on the resources)	Policies & protection regimes (int. national & local regulations)
	<p>interpretations and guided activities available on mountain.</p> <p>Vail Resorts operates the on-mountain tours and activities.</p>		

Attraction: Vail Mountain	1.6: Inventory (describe main resources and values)	1.7: Baseline assessment (analyse impacts of tourism on the resources)	Policies & protection regimes (int. national & local regulations)
Existing plans for adequate attraction protection goals, strategies and practices			<p>Vail Resorts, through its EpicPromise Foundation, has made a significant commitment to the environment and thus mitigating the impacts of tourism at their resorts.</p> <p>In July 2017, Vail Resorts announced their “Commitment to Zero” – a bold pledge to reach a zero net operating footprint by 2030.</p> <p>The EpicPromise Progress Report from the 2017-2018 season details the steps they have taken as well as plans moving forward to reach their emissions, waste, and forest and habitat goals.</p> <p>The National Ski Area Association adopted the Sustainable Slopes environmental charter for ski areas in 2000. Vail Resorts has endorsed this charter.</p>
Impacts and long-term risks for this attraction (environmental and social)			
Vegetation Impacts		<p>Any disturbances to vegetation and habitat are first approved by the USFS, and then are managed and implemented by Vail Resorts staff to mitigate any impacts.</p> <p>Continual management of these resources for existing or historical disturbances, as well as any planned project are a key component of Vail Resorts operating plans.</p> <p>Disturbances are managed and restored until they meet the standards allowable under granted permits.</p>	<p>As outlined in sections 2-4 and 2-5 of the White River National Forest Management Plan (see DSMS), the forest-wide standards, guidelines, and practices to be followed for vegetation management activities to minimize soil impacts.</p> <p>Vail Resorts employs a robust staff that continually implement and monitor vegetation, soil and habitat management programs.</p>

Attraction: Vail Mountain	1.6: Inventory (describe main resources and values)	1.7: Baseline assessment (analyse impacts of tourism on the resources)	Policies & protection regimes (int. national & local regulations)
Soil Impacts		<p>Any disturbances to soils and habitat are first approved by the USFS, and then are managed and implemented by Vail Resorts staff to mitigate any impacts.</p> <p>Continual management of these resources for existing or historical disturbances, as well as any planned project are a key component of Vail Resorts operating plans.</p> <p>Disturbances are managed and restored until they meet the standards allowable under granted permits.</p>	<p>As outlined in sections 2-4 and 2-5 of the White River National Forest Management Plan (see DSMS), the forest-wide standards, guidelines, and practices to be followed for vegetation management activities to minimize soil impacts.</p> <p>Vail Resorts employs a robust staff that continually implement and monitor vegetation, soil and habitat management programs.</p> <p>Vail Resorts adheres not only to USFS forest and soil standards, but also State of Colorado Storm Water Management (see DSMS) guidelines.</p>
Water impacts		<p>Water impacts are largely centered around soil and habitat disturbances, and water is managed to control any conveyance of soils.</p> <p>Continual management of these resources for existing or historical disturbances, as well as any planned project are a key component of Vail Resorts operating plans.</p> <p>Snowmaking at Vail Mountain is considered a non-consumptive use of water out of Gore Creek and the Eagle River.</p> <p>85%+ of the water used during snowmaking goes back into the watershed during spring runoff.</p>	<p>As outlined in section 2-6 of the White River National Forest Management Plan (see DSMS), the forest-wide standards and guidelines to be followed to protect water and riparian resources.</p> <p>Vail Resorts employs a robust group of staff that continually implement and monitor vegetation, soil and habitat management programs.</p> <p>Vail Resorts adheres not only to USFS forest and soil standards, but also State of Colorado Storm Water Management (see DSMS) guidelines.</p> <p>Vail Resorts adheres to all stream flow standards and uses stored water in upstream reservoirs to augment stream flows to 100% offset the water needed for snowmaking.</p> <p>Controlling the runoff/melting of this snowmaking water in the spring, falls into the attraction's ongoing programs to manage runoff and soil management.</p>

Attraction: Vail Mountain	1.6: Inventory (describe main resources and values)	1.7: Baseline assessment (analyse impacts of tourism on the resources)	Policies & protection regimes (int. national & local regulations)
Wildlife disturbance impacts		<p>Past resort expansion has been perceived to disturb wildlife in the area including that of the Canada Lynx.</p> <p>In 1998, members of the Earth Liberation Front set fire to Two Elk Lodge and other parts of the resort claiming the resort's expansion endangered the lynx habitat.</p> <p>The US Forest Service ultimately approved the expansion.</p>	<p>As outlined in section 2-6 of the White River National Forest Management Plan (see DSMS), the forest-wide standards and guidelines to be followed to protect wildlife.</p> <p>Vail Resorts employs a robust staff that continually implement and monitor vegetation, soil and habitat management programs.</p>
Noxious Weed Management		<p>Noxious Weeds impact Vail Mountain in the same capacity as the surrounding White River National Forest.</p>	<p>As outlined in section 2-33 of the White River National Forest Management Plan (see DSMS), the standards and guidelines for Noxious Weed Management. The White River National Forest also has a Noxious Weed Implementation Guide which follows the Integrated Weed Management Principles.</p>
Group size impacts		<p>It is unknown if Vail Resorts would be inclined to limit the number of season passes or day lift tickets sold.</p>	
Community acceptance and perception of tourism impacts at the attraction		<p>This attraction represents an important resource to the Town of Vail's local economy and residents. The draw of having a world-class ski area with numerous recreational opportunities drives visitation to the attraction year-round stimulating the local economy. The perception is overall positive, however, the community feels that Vail Resorts must have a stake in helping the local community thrive while continuing their business operations.</p>	
Local use and access to the attraction		<p>The attraction provides a variety of usage from alpine skiing to snowshoeing, hiking and adventure activities at EpicDiscovery.</p> <p>The resort is available both as a ticketed attraction (day lift tickets, season passes) and also with no cost if accessing the attraction on foot (uphill hiking and skiing travel).</p> <p>The attraction is open in the winter and summer seasons for resort operations. Winter is typically open from mid-November – mid-April. Summer operations are typically run from early-June – late-September.</p>	

Attraction: Vail Mountain	1.6: Inventory (describe main resources and values)	1.7: Baseline assessment (analyse impacts of tourism on the resources)	Policies & protection regimes (int. national & local regulations)
Local resident economic benefits of the attraction		<p>This attraction represents an important resource to the Town of Vail’s local economy and residents. The draw of having a world-class ski area with numerous recreational opportunities drives visitation to the attraction year-round stimulating the local economy.</p> <p>The Town of Vail has a total of 880 businesses of which 132 are in the Accommodations and Food Service industry representing 5,462 jobs and 170 are Retail representing 1,095 jobs. These industries are driven by visitors attracted to the recreation opportunities offered at the ski area.</p> <p>Vail Resorts realizes that the communities in which they operate are essential and critical to their success. Thus, the company reinvests in the community with corporate giving directed toward education, youth enrichment and the environment through the EpicPromise Foundation.</p>	
Past conflicts and types of potential conflicts at the attraction		<p>Past resort expansion has been perceived to disturb wildlife in the area including that of the Canada Lynx.</p> <p>In 1998, members of the Earth Liberation Front set fire to Two Elk Lodge and other parts of the resort claiming the resort’s expansion endangered the lynx habitat.</p> <p>The US Forest Service ultimately approved the expansion.</p> <p>Any future expansion would need to be vetted and studied by the US Forest Service to determine the impacts to the area.</p>	
Groups/stakeholders associated with impacts at the attraction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vail Resorts • Town of Vail • US Forest Service 		

Attraction: Vail Mountain	1.6: Inventory (describe main resources and values)	1.7: Baseline assessment (analyse impacts of tourism on the resources)	Policies & protection regimes (int. national & local regulations)
Resistance and resilience of this attraction to increasing volumes of visitors		<p>According to Lauren Berlamino, of marketing, design and tech company Karsh Hagan, who presented at the CO Governor's Conference on Tourism in October 2018, skier and snowboarder visits in the US have increased from 8.7 million in 1996-97 to 9.2 million in 2017-18 although that does not align with changing population trends.</p> <p>Skier visits tend to fluctuate year over year based on snow conditions, making Climate Change a crucial issue in the ski industry.</p> <p>Summer visitation to Vail Mountain has seen an increase with the addition of new attractions and features at EpicDiscovery as well as the vitality of the region as a whole.</p> <p>All Vail Mountain activities and programs are managed to mitigate impacts, and any increases in visitation will be included in these programs.</p> <p>All of the new summer activities were developed in conjunction with the USFS and underwent the same NEPA process (where required) as the winter operating expansions.</p> <p>All of our trails are managed by a full time staff that maintains and upgrades trails to be as sustainable as possible.</p> <p>The increase in summer visitation is utilizing existing infrastructure that is already in place to winter operations. The increased visitation results in more year-round employment and positive economic impact for the destination.</p>	The National Ski Area Association has a Model for Growth for the industry as a whole.
Interrelation and impacts to other attractions		Vail Mountain is surrounded by the 2.3 million acre White River National Forest. Almost all of the other 9 attractions are in close spatial relation to the ski resort.	

Attraction: Vail Mountain	1.6: Inventory (describe main resources and values)	1.7: Baseline assessment (analyse impacts of tourism on the resources)	Policies & protection regimes (int. national & local regulations)
Determine whether by mitigating one impact another may be positively affected		By mitigating group size impacts, the vegetation/soil/water/wildlife impacts can be positively affected. By having fewer guests on the mountain, or more control over guest dispersal, wildlife disturbance could be reduced, as well as the potential erosion and vegetation damage from trail use and snowsports.	

Town of Vail Attraction Protection Plan



Destination name + country: ...Vail, Colorado, USA
Drafted by (names): ...Maren Cerimele, Kira Koppel
Version / date: ...Final / April 25, 2019
Date validated (internally): ...Reviewed annually in Spring each year; using monitoring and mitigation rubric
Attraction Name: ...**Vail Nature Center**

Attraction: Vail Nature Center	1.6: Inventory (describe main resources and values)	1.7: Baseline assessment (analyse impacts of tourism on the resources)	Policies & protection regimes (int. national & local regulations)
<p>Attraction Overview</p>	<p>Mention and briefly describe your protected areas and the way these are accessible for tourists (e.g. signposted trails; interpretation (panels; centre); guided tours and other activity providers etc.</p> <p>A 1940s farmhouse perched between a mountain meadow and the forested bank of Gore Creek houses the Vail Nature Center.</p> <p>This seven-acre facility, in the heart of Vail, is a tranquil gem to explore the web of trails along Gore Creek or come inside to learn from the exhibits and knowledgeable staff.</p> <p>Programs offered by Walking Mountains Science Center include: hiking, birding tours, beaver pond tours, wildflower viewing, stargazing, and creekside nature tours. https://www.walkingmountains.org/locations/vail-nature-center/</p> <p>The attraction is open to all ages during the Summer months (June – September) and accepts donations for support.</p> <p>Visitors can access the center by taking the in-town bus to the Soccer Fields stop on Vail Valley Drive. The attraction features signposted trails and interpretative signage as well as exhibits and educational programming.</p>	<p>Briefly indicate the positive and negative impacts of tourism on these areas. For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> + contribution to area management and protection: in cash (e.g. visitor revenues or taxes/permits/concessions) or in kind (e.g. voluntourism that helps protect turtle nesting sites) + contribution to local appreciation of nature - degradation from tourism (trash, erosion of trails, disturbance of wildlife) <p>Vail Nature Center attracts more than 7,000 visitors annually and contributes positively to the local appreciation of nature.</p> <p>A 2017 study showed that Vail Nature Center is in a state of disrepair, although not due to over visitation. Most exhibits and tours will be operated out of a temporary yurt structure beginning in 2019 while renovation and upgrade plans are finalized.</p>	<p>Indicate protection by relevant management, protection schemes and designations (incl. UNESCO)</p> <p>Staff and consultants completed an Interpretive Master Plan (see DSMS) for the Vail Nature Center in 2015. Since 2017, staff have been working with Hopkins Architecture and the Town of Vail to address the building needs outlined in the Interpretive Master Plan and to prepare to implement the rest of the plan.</p>

Attraction: Vail Nature Center	1.6: Inventory (describe main resources and values)	1.7: Baseline assessment (analyse impacts of tourism on the resources)	Policies & protection regimes (int. national & local regulations)
Existing plans for adequate attraction protection goals, strategies and practices			<p>Goals for the future state and protection of the attraction are detailed in the 2015 Interpretive Master Plan (see DSMS).</p> <p>Protection schemes can also be found in Objective 2.5 of the 2013 Gerald R. Ford Park Master Plan (see DSMS). Specifically, Resolution No 27 of 1987 designated the seven acres around the Nature Center as an area “to be preserved as an example of the Gore Valley’s natural history.”</p>
Impacts and long-term risks for this attraction (environmental and social)		The largest impact and risk associated with this attraction is increased visitation and the potential for visitors to walk on undesignated pathways causing damage to vegetation and soil erosion.	As part of the upgrade process, staff have started the process of drafting a Landscape Stewardship Plan that will be finalized after landscape and construction plans are finalized.
Vegetation Impacts		There is some risk to vegetation in the attraction area if visitors would travel off of designated pathways.	
Soil Impacts		There is some risk to soil erosion in the attraction area if visitors would travel off of designated pathways.	
Water impacts		There is currently no water or sewer service at the site.	
Wildlife disturbance impacts		There is some risk to wildlife disturbance by allowing visitors to travel on the site’s nature trails.	
Noxious Weed Management		There are a few noxious weed species monitored and pulled regularly by VNC staff.	Formal noxious weed management would be conducted by Town of Vail.
Group size impacts		Currently, group sizes rarely have the potential to impact the environmental quality of the site or the visitor experience. It has been acknowledged throughout our VNC upgrade process that upgrades may attract less manageable group sizes.	<p>All programs have a maximum group size, and the VNC site has on-site staff and signage to mitigate and regulate visitor behavior.</p> <p>Overtourism, or the potential for it, will be reflected in the Landscape Stewardship Plan. Definitive plans include adding appropriate amounts of seating areas along the trails, adding trash and recycling stations, and improving wayfinding and rules signage.</p>

Attraction: Vail Nature Center	1.6: Inventory (describe main resources and values)	1.7: Baseline assessment (analyse impacts of tourism on the resources)	Policies & protection regimes (int. national & local regulations)
<p>Community acceptance and perception of tourism impacts at the attraction</p>	<p>In 2017, the Town of Vail hired Hopkins Architecture to conduct a public survey to study the needs of the people using the building and site.</p> <p>The Phase 0 study (see DSMS) involved more than 80 individuals representing out-of-town visitors, local visitors, VNC staff, TOV staff, VRD staff, and various experts.</p> <p>Surveys and interviews indicated that locals have a lot of love for the Vail Nature Center and do not have concerns regarding its tourism impacts.</p>		<p>The community has been able to provide input in every stage of the current upgrades/renovations phasing conducted by Hopkins Architecture and the Town of Vail. Many surveys, Town Council updates, and community meetings have been and will continue to be held.</p>
<p>Local use and access to the attraction</p>		<p>Local visitors often use the Vail Nature Center as a way to introduce their own out-of-town guests to the nature of the area.</p> <p>Local visitors frequent the trails, but rarely enter the building or interact with the exhibits.</p>	<p>Section 3b, page 35 of the Interpretive Master Plan (see DSMS) addresses this and calls for upgraded and rotating exhibits to increase local visitation.</p>
<p>Local resident economic benefits of the attraction</p>		<p>Local residents and the local economy benefit from this attraction by its ability to contribute positively to the local appreciation of nature. The local economy also benefits from the preservation of natural scenery.</p>	<p>An upgraded facility will allow for year-round use of the Vail Nature Center for educational programming instead of summer-only.</p>

Attraction: Vail Nature Center	1.6: Inventory (describe main resources and values)	1.7: Baseline assessment (analyse impacts of tourism on the resources)	Policies & protection regimes (int. national & local regulations)
<p>Past conflicts and types of potential conflicts at the attraction</p>		<p>A 2017 study showed that Vail Nature Center is in a state of disrepair, although not due to over visitation.</p> <p>The building that houses the exhibits and offices dates back to the 1940s. A couple of subsequent renovations were finished in the 1970s. Today, the building needs a new roof, the walls are substandard, and the place has a rodent problem.</p> <p>The site has accessibility challenges as it does not meet the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act, there is no water or sewer service and the site cannot be reached with a fire truck.</p> <p>Conflicting uses of the Vail Nature Center site have occurred where has been a lack of communication between staff and Town of Vail employees. For example, a whitewater outfitter was once given permission to access Gore Creek through the Vail Nature Center, unknowing to staff, which resulted in new social trails and bank erosion.</p>	<p>The VNC upgrade process is addressing accessibility of the facility and the trails. The installation of water and sewer along with a new stairway will allow for fire protection.</p> <p>A Landscape Stewardship Plan (in development) will clarify the allowed and banned uses of the site so that the Town of Vail and VNC staff can communicate clearly.</p>
<p>Groups/stakeholders associated with impacts at the attraction</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Town of Vail • Vail Recreation District • Walking Mountains Science Center • Hopkins Architecture <p>The Ford Park User Group</p>		
<p>Resistance and resilience of this attraction to increasing volumes of visitors</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	<p>Visitation to the site could possibly be limited by implementing a paid admission to the attraction to help mitigate any negative effects due to overuse.</p>	<p>Increased staffing would be necessary to increase programming options and trail maintenance.</p>
<p>Interrelation and impacts to other attractions</p>		<p>Vail Nature Center is surrounded by the 2.3 million acre White River National Forest including federally designated Wilderness Areas. The Center also sits in close proximity to the Gore Creek, Ford Amphitheatre, and Betty Ford Alpine Gardens.</p>	

Attraction: Vail Nature Center	1.6: Inventory (describe main resources and values)	1.7: Baseline assessment (analyse impacts of tourism on the resources)	Policies & protection regimes (int. national & local regulations)
<p>Determine whether by mitigating one impact another may be positively affected</p>		<p>By mitigating future group size impacts for the new construction, the vegetation, soil, and water impacts could all be positively affected. Smaller sizes allow for proper trail use and etiquette. Additionally, by mitigating the prevalence of noxious weeds in the area, a positive affect may occur for the remaining native vegetation and soil health. If water or sewer service is installed in the new structure, giving extra attention to potential impacts on the Gore Creek that lies behind the nature center will be necessary. A plan for mitigating future impacts could positively affect soil retention and stream health.</p>	

Town of Vail Attraction Protection Plan



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Drafted by (names): ...Maren Cerimele, Kira Koppel
Version / date: ...Final / April 25, 2019
Date validated (internally): ...Reviewed annually in Spring each year; using monitoring and mitigation rubric
Attraction Name: ...**White River National Forest Trails**

Attraction: White River National Forest Trails	1.6: Inventory (describe main resources and values)	1.7: Baseline assessment (analyse impacts of tourism on the resources)	Policies & protection regimes (int. national & local regulations)
<p>Attraction Overview</p>	<p><i>Mention and briefly describe your protected areas and the way these are accessible for tourists (e.g. signposted trails; interpretation (panels; centre); guided tours and other activity providers etc.</i></p> <p>Vail is surrounded by the White River National Forest and 16 trails (see below) provide access to the National Forest and the Eagles Nest Wilderness. There is also 1 campground in addition to Vail Ski Resort near the town limits. With more than 15 million visitors annually as of 2012, the White River National Forest is the most visited national forest in the United States.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bighorn Tail #2013 • Booth Creek Trail #2011 • Buffehr Creek Trail #2111 • Deluge Lake Trail #1880 	<p><i>Briefly indicate the positive and negative impacts of tourism on these areas. For example:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> + contribution to area management and protection: in cash (e.g. visitor revenues or taxes/permits/concessions) or in kind (e.g. voluntourism that helps protect turtle nesting sites) + contribution to local appreciation of nature - degradation from tourism (trash, erosion of trails, disturbance of wildlife) <p>-This attraction contributes to local appreciation of nature, but has seen degradation from tourism and overuse (trash, pet waste, erosion of trails, disturbance of wildlife). Local trails are one of the top attractions to the Vail area and are visited by hundreds of thousands of people each year. This high use has contributed to issues such as trash, exposed pet waste, trail erosion and widening, social route development, and a decline in local deer and elk populations.</p> <p>+The trails contribute positively to the local economy by driving tourism to the area contributing to increased retail and lodging tax revenues for the Town of Vail as well as revenue for local businesses. A small portion of ski area and outfitter/guide revenues go back into</p>	<p><i>Indicate protection by relevant management, protection schemes and designations (incl. UNESCO)</i></p> <p>The White River National Forest (White River NF) Land and Resource Management Plan (1984 Forest Plan) was first issued in September, 1984. Forest plans are prepared in accordance with the National Forest Management Act (NFMA), the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and other laws and regulations. NFMA regulations state that each national forest's land and resource management plan be revised on a 10-year cycle or at least every 15 years (36 CFR 219.10). This 2002 Land and Resource Management Plan, 2002 Revision (2002 Forest Plan) has been prepared to meet that requirement. It sets forth the direction the White River National Forest ("the forest") will follow in the future management of National Forest System (National Forest System) lands and resources within its boundaries. The 2002 Forest Plan is accompanied by a final environmental impact statement (FEIS) which describes the extensive analysis used in its development and formulation.</p> <p>https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5362735.pdf</p> <p>In Summer 2018, the US Forest Service and Colorado Parks & Wildlife found that current signage with information about seasonal trail closures were lacking and thus, upgraded this signage and gates at trailheads. The Town of Vail partially funded this project.</p> <p>The gates and signage were installed going into 2018 and at the same time the Vail Valley Mountain Trails Alliance (VVMATA) launched the Trail Ambassador Program. As a result of both of these projects, successes were as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - North Trail closure violators over 2 months in 2017: 190 (USFS used a trail camera to document violations)

Attraction: White River National Forest Trails	1.6: Inventory (describe main resources and values)	1.7: Baseline assessment (analyse impacts of tourism on the resources)	Policies & protection regimes (int. national & local regulations)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • East Meadow Creek Trail #1886 • Gore Creek Campground • Gore Creek Trail #2015 • Gore Lake Trail #2015.1A • Lost Lake Trail #1893 • Lower Piney Trail #1890 • Meadow Creek Trail #1891 • North Vail Trail #1896 • Pitkin Trail #2012 • Soda Lakes Trail #1889 • Son of Middle Creek Trail #2136 • Upper Piney Trail #1885 • Vail Pass / Tenmile Canyon National Recreation Trail • Vail Ski Resort <p>The trails offer numerous recreational opportunities including: bicycling, camping, fishing, hiking/backpacking, horse riding, hunting, nature viewing, off highway vehicle riding, winter sports, and more.</p> <p>While some tour operators offer services on the White River National Forest, most</p>	<p>management of area trails via the Forest Service budget and National Forest Foundation grants to local non-profits. Volunteers give back to the local trails through the Eagle County Adopt a Trail program, cooperatively run by the Forest Service and Vail Valley Mountain Trails Alliance (VVMTA).</p>	<p>- North Trail closure violators over 2 months in 2018: 44</p> <p>Information on Seasonal Closures along with maps are available to the public and can be found here: https://www.vvmta.org/trail-closures/</p>

Attraction: White River National Forest Trails	1.6: Inventory (describe main resources and values)	1.7: Baseline assessment (analyse impacts of tourism on the resources)	Policies & protection regimes (int. national & local regulations)
	<p>activities are self-guided. Information about how to access the attractions noted above are available on the Forest Service website as well as in the Eagle-Holy Cross Ranger District office in Minturn, CO.</p> <p>Tour operators include: Piney River Ranch, Vail Stables, Vail Resorts, Vail Backcountry Tours, Paragon Guides, and Walking Mountains Science Center, among others.</p>		

Attraction: White River National Forest Trails	1.6: Inventory (describe main resources and values)	1.7: Baseline assessment (analyse impacts of tourism on the resources)	Policies & protection regimes (int. national & local regulations)
Existing plans for adequate attraction protection goals, strategies and practices			<p>The White River National Forest implemented a Travel Management Plan (see DSMS). As stated in the Travel Management Plan, the mission of the USDA Forest Service is “to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the Nation’s forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations.”</p> <p>The travel management plan and supporting environmental impact statement (EIS) present ways to accommodate and balance the transportation needs of the public and provide adequate access for forest and resource management, while still allowing for protection of natural resources.</p> <p>There is also a comprehensive, written management plan for this attraction as shown in White River National Forest Management Plan (see DSMS).</p>
Impacts and long-term risks for this attraction (environmental and social)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - High amounts of visitor use - Lack of visitor education <p>Poor trail locations</p>	
Vegetation Impacts		<p>Overuse on certain trails, as well as social route development, has led to trail compaction and widening. These two factors combined reduce vegetation cover along trails which results in increased potential for soil erosion into streams. This is caused by two main factors: 1) poor trail location, and 2) lack of user education on proper trail use.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Trail reroutes are in progress on certain areas of trails. A reroute was completed in 2018 on a portion of the Bighorn trail and reroutes are planned for 2019 on the North Trail and Pitkin trail. 	<p>Chapter 3 of White River National Forest Management Plan (see DSMS) outlines the forest-wide standards, guidelines, and practices to be followed for vegetation management activities to minimize soil impacts and promote wildlife habitat in regard to each specific Management Area.</p>

Attraction: White River National Forest Trails	1.6: Inventory (describe main resources and values)	1.7: Baseline assessment (analyse impacts of tourism on the resources)	Policies & protection regimes (int. national & local regulations)
Soil Impacts		<p>As stated above, the high amounts of use on certain trails leads to compaction, as well as widening. These two factors combine to reduce vegetation cover along trails which results in increased potential for soil erosion along the trails and into local streams. This is caused by two main factors: 1) poor trail location, and 2) lack of user education on proper trail use.</p> <p>To address item 1), trail reroutes are in progress on certain area trails. A reroute was completed in 2018 on a portion of the Bighorn trail and reroutes are planned for 2019 on the North Trail and Pitkin trail to reduce trail grades and decrease the amount of soil erosion taking place.</p>	<p>The White River National Forest Management Plan (see DSMS), section 2-4 & 2-5 outline the forest-wide standards, guidelines, and practices to be followed for vegetation management activities to minimize soil impacts.</p>
Water impacts		<p>There may be slight impacts to stream health from local trails, particularly relating to soil erosion into feeder streams, but it is unlikely to be significant and is difficult to measure.</p> <p>Note: The Vail Pass/Tenmile Canyon National Recreation Trail runs along I-70 between Vail and Vail Pass. There may be some impact to streams from the trail, but these impacts are more likely from I-70.</p>	<p>White River National Forest Management Plan (see DSMS), section 2-6 outlines the forest-wide standards and guidelines to be followed to protect water and riparian resources.</p>
Wildlife disturbance impacts		<p>Recreational use on trails has an impact on wildlife. The number of trails and high amounts of use impacts all species. In the Vail area, the most notable are deer, elk, bighorn sheep, boreal toads, and certain birds of prey. No specific, local studies have been completed, but Colorado Parks & Wildlife has statistics on approximate sizes of local herds.</p>	<p>White River National Forest Management Plan (see DSMS), section 2-6 outlines the forest-wide standards and guidelines to be followed to protect wildlife.</p> <p>Seasonal trail closures are in place on several trails in the Vail area from April 15 to June 20 to protect deer and elk specifically during calving/fawning periods. These trails include: North Trail, Son of Middle Creek, Buffehr Creek, and Two Elk (closed May 6 to June 30). Gates and signs have been installed at all closure points to educate trail users and to better enforce these closures. Additionally, the Eagle County Adopt a Trail Ambassador program provides opportunities for volunteers to assist the Forest Service in educating users about these closures.</p>

Attraction: White River National Forest Trails	1.6: Inventory (describe main resources and values)	1.7: Baseline assessment (analyse impacts of tourism on the resources)	Policies & protection regimes (int. national & local regulations)
<p>Noxious Weed Management</p>		<p>Town of Vail has funded \$15,000 in each of the past two years and again this coming year (\$45K total) to assist with noxious weed management on USFS lands bordering Vail. This includes the areas along the North Trail and Son of Middle Creek Trail. That funding was also used as matching funds for an additional \$50K in grants through the CO Dept of Agriculture and the National Forest Foundation, also used on USFS and TOV lands along the TOV/USFS boundary.</p>	<p>White River National Forest Management Plan (see DSMS), section 2-33 outlines the standards and guidelines for Noxious Weed Management. The White River National Forest also has a Guide to Noxious Weed Prevention Practices which follows the Integrated Weed Management Principles.</p>
<p>Group size impacts</p>		<p>Approximately 15 million visitors flock to the White River National Forest each year, as of 2012. These large periodic influxes of visitors and second homeowners can make it challenging to affect individual behaviors at an appropriate scale to impact trail conditions on the White River National Forest surrounding Vail.</p> <p>Exhibit O.White River National Forest Management Plan, section 2-37 & 2-38 address the forest-wide standards and guidelines for setting and enforcing maximum group size limits.</p> <p>This section states the following strategies specifically for “Where resource or social impacts have been identified, minimize human impacts by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Designating and managing both non-outfitted and outfitted camps; • Encouraging the use of self-contained stoves and discouraging the use of wood-fueled fires; • Using a permit system; • Limiting party size and pack animals; or <p>Utilizing methods to reduce harassment of people, livestock, and wildlife by dogs.”</p>	

Attraction: White River National Forest Trails	1.6: Inventory (describe main resources and values)	1.7: Baseline assessment (analyse impacts of tourism on the resources)	Policies & protection regimes (int. national & local regulations)
<p>Community acceptance and perception of tourism impacts at the attraction</p>		<p>The Town of Vail, US Forest Service, and surrounding community realize the impacts of increased tourism on this attraction.</p> <p>In its 2019 budget, Town of Vail committed \$33,000 in support of the US Forest Service’s “Front Country Recreation Program” which helps manage campgrounds, dispersed campsites and trailheads. The program’s budget has been slashed in recent years and Town of Vail, in addition to other Eagle County governments, have committed support to maintain the program. This shows the community’s commitment to maintaining these tourism assets and being pro-active to mitigate tourism impacts.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://www.vaildaily.com/news/eagle-county-local-towns-are-being-asked-to-help-fund-forest-service-operations/ 	
<p>Local use and access to the attraction</p>		<p>Ease of access to the attraction and the wide variety of uses provide endless recreational opportunities along the trails in the White River National Forest.</p>	
<p>Local resident economic benefits of the attraction</p>		<p>The public lands included in the White River National Forest represent an important local resource to the Town of Vail’s local economy and residents. The plethora of recreation opportunities drives visitation to the attraction year-round stimulating the local economy.</p> <p>The Town of Vail has a total of 880 businesses of which 132 are in the Accommodations and Food Service industry representing 5,462 jobs and 170 are Retail representing 1,095 jobs. These industries are driven by visitors attracted to the recreation opportunities offered in the White River National Forest.</p>	

Attraction: White River National Forest Trails	1.6: Inventory (describe main resources and values)	1.7: Baseline assessment (analyse impacts of tourism on the resources)	Policies & protection regimes (int. national & local regulations)
<p>Past conflicts and types of potential conflicts at the attraction</p>		<p>The trails that have seen the most impact include Booth Creek Trail and North Vail Trail. Impacts include trail erosion, trail widening, wildlife disturbance, impacts to wilderness character within the Eagles Nest Wilderness, and others.</p> <p>Long-term planning and travel use mitigation by the US Forest Service have been delayed due to budget cuts to summer recreation and management. The budget is roughly one seventh of what it was in 2008.</p> <p>Long-term planning to direct and mitigate impacts resulting from this use are necessary to ensure unacceptable conflicts do not continue to occur into the future.</p>	
<p>Groups/stakeholders associated with impacts at the attraction</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Town of Vail • US Forest Service • Vail Valley Mountain Trails Alliance <p>Friends of Eagles Nest Wilderness</p>		
<p>Resistance and resilience of this attraction to increasing volumes of visitors</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	<p>Our natural lands have little resistance to increasing volumes of visitors and their impacts, thus, the Town of Vail and US Forest Service must be pro-active in educating the public and mitigating the impacts of overuse.</p> <p>As tourism increases in certain areas, it is up to the local community and the Forest Service to work together to disperse visitors to more durable areas to ensure permanent damage is not incurred on the most traveled trails. Trail reroutes and heavy maintenance on susceptible trails will also help to increase the durability of trails to withstand increasing amounts of use. Additionally, educating trail users on proper use of trails and Leave No Trace principles will be essential to decreasing impact on trails.</p>	

Attraction: White River National Forest Trails	1.6: Inventory (describe main resources and values)	1.7: Baseline assessment (analyse impacts of tourism on the resources)	Policies & protection regimes (int. national & local regulations)
Interrelation and impacts to other attractions		The 2.3 million acre White River National Forest surrounds Gore Creek and includes Vail Ski Resort. The forest surrounds all 9 of the other attractions.	
Determine whether by mitigating one impact another may be positively affected		<p>As tourism increases in certain areas, it is up to the local community to disperse visitors to lesser traveled areas to ensure permanent damage is not incurred on the most traveled trails.</p> <p>However, dispersing visitors to lesser traveled areas could then start to impact those trails with erosion, trash and pet waste accumulation, and wildlife disturbance.</p> <p>Ultimately, a comprehensive plan for how the community and the Forest Service will work together to address increasing amounts of trail use in the area may be necessary. This plan would help to ensure that directing users away from high-use trails does not have a negative impact on lesser-use trails and the experience that they provide.</p>	