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U.S. SENATOR *for* COLORADO

Ski Hill Resources for Economic Development (SHRED) Act

Senator Bennet and Senator Barrasso

Skiing is a vital component of our outdoor recreation economy, contributing over \$55 billion annually and supporting over 500,000 jobs. Downhill skiing and snowboarding occurs at the 122 ski areas that operate on U.S. Forest Service land across the country. In exchange for the opportunity to use some of our nation's most stunning forestlands, ski areas pay fees to the Forest Service that average \$39 million annually. However, under the current system, these fees go directly to the United States Treasury, rather than the local National Forest. The SHRED Act aims to change that, establishing a framework to retain ski fees to support local ski permit and program administration and offset increased recreational use, while providing the Forest Service flexibility to direct resources where they are needed most.

Specifically, the SHRED Act would:

- **Keep Ski Fees Local**: By establishing a Ski Area Fee Retention Account to retain a portion of the fees that ski areas pay to the Forest Service. For National Forests that receive less than \$15 million in ski fees annually, 75 percent of the fees are retained. For forests that receive more than \$15 million in ski fees annually, 60 percent of the ski fees would be retained. The retained funds are available for authorized uses (described below) at the local National Forest.
- **Support Winter Recreation**: In each forest, 75 percent of the retained funds are directly available to support Forest Service Ski Area Program and permitting needs, process proposals for improvement projects, train staff, and prepare for wildfire. Any excess funds can be directed to other National Forests that host ski areas for the same uses. After all of the winter recreation uses have been addressed across the country, excess funds are carried over to the pot of funding that supports broad recreation needs.
- **Address Broad Recreation Needs**: In each forest, 25 percent of the retained funds are available to support a broad set of local recreation management and community needs, including special use permit administration, visitor services, trailhead improvements, facility maintenance, and affordable workforce housing. This set-aside would dramatically increase some Forest Service unit's budgets to meet the growing visitation and demand for outdoor recreation.

The SHRED Act is supported by National Ski Area Association and its 122 member ski areas operating on public lands, Northwest Colorado Council of Governments, [Colorado Ski Country USA](#), Colorado Association of Ski Towns, America Outdoors Association, Vail Resorts, and Jackson Hole Mountain Resort.