



## **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 \$58 billion annually and supporting over 500,000 jobs. Downhill skiing and snowboarding occurs at the 124 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 over \$40 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 the fees that ski areas pay to the Forest Service. For National Forests that generate ski fees, 80 percent of those fees are available for authorized uses (described below) at the local National Forest. The remaining 20 percent of those fees would be available to assist any National Forests with winter or broad recreation needs.
- **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 ski area improvement projects, provide information for visitors and prepare for wildfire. Any excess funds can be directed to other National Forests with winter or broad (described below) recreation needs.
- **Address Broad Recreation Needs**: In each forest, 25 percent of the retained funds are available to support a broad set of year round local recreation management and community needs, including special use permit administration, visitor services, trailhead improvements, facility maintenance, search and rescue activities, avalanche information and education, habitat restoration at recreation sites 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.

This legislation is supported by the National Ski Area Association and its 124-member ski areas operating on public lands, Outdoor Recreation Roundtable, Colorado Association of Ski Towns, Northwest Colorado Council of Governments, America Outdoors Association, Vail Resorts, and Jackson Hole Mountain Resort.