

Surfers for Wetlands



What's Threatening Wetlands Near Kirkwood?



What is the Issue?

Vail Resorts, owner of Kirkwood Ski Resort in South Lake Tahoe, violated the Federal Clean Water Act. Last winter, Vail employees placed large piles of asphalt grindings onto parking lots at the Kirkwood Ski Resort. This was a common practice to provide traction when the snow piled up. However, instead of properly disposing the asphalt, the crew spread the contaminated snow with plows and blowers off of the parking lot onto nearby areas.

What is Threatening the Nearby Wetlands?

As the snow melted, the discharge leached petroleum chemicals directly into nearby wetlands and ground water. The extent of the damage is unclear. Vail Resorts is looking at maximum fines into the millions of dollars.

What Was Done to Remedy the Situation?

Kirkwood has done extensive cleaning by hand and with heavy machinery. They collected roughly 700 cubic yards of material. To put that number in perspective, it would take about 70 loads from a standard dump truck to equal that amount.

What Can You Do to Help?

Send an email to the Vail Resorts Board members (leaddirector@vailresorts.com) to let them know this behavior is unacceptable and they need to make additional efforts to protect our wetlands.



For more information visit www.surfersforwetlands.org



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