

### **Alternative 3 – Watershed Management Proposal**

This alternative was developed to address the key issue of the potential for adverse cumulative soil and watershed effects in the Burgess Creek and Priest Creek watersheds; while still meeting the purpose and need for the project. This alternative would authorize up to 20 miles of new trail construction; 15 miles machine-built, and 5 miles hand-built.

Approximately 1.2 miles of new DH-only mountain bike trails are proposed and designed outside the ski area permit boundary.

Four of the planned trails remain in the proposal on the Forest. The remaining planned trails identified in Alternative 2 as the “Additional Trails” would not be constructed until there is further Forest Service review and monitoring of effects are conducted and found to be at acceptable levels. Construction would be allowed in a phased manner starting with the two designed trails: the blue/intermediate trail and the black/advanced trail. If specified monitoring determines effectiveness of design criteria and implementation to protect the soil and water resources, the other trails would be built. Some minor opportunities to reduce the effects of existing roads and trails have also been identified and would be implemented. Specific projects to enhance watershed condition are listed below. The proposed trail enhancement projects include:

#### **Downhill-Only (DH) Mountain Bike Trails:**

##### *New Blue/Intermediate Trail*

- The first DH-only trail to be built is in the vicinity of the current Valley View Trail. It would be a machine-built trail, approximately 2.5 miles on NFS lands and continues onto ski area property to the base. The trail connects from the top of the gondola to the Christie Peak Express mid-station and would connect to the base area via two options; a new green or a new black trail. A short connecting trail from the Snowmaking Control building Intersection Zone to the blue DH-only mountain bike trail is also proposed.
- The trail design for the DH-only trail where Valley View is intersected and rerouted would be reviewed and redesigned as appropriate to minimize impact to the existing trail (Valley View) to minimize trail crossings.
- The top section of the Huffman’s Trail would be utilized for the new DH-only trail.

##### *New Black/Advanced Trail*

- This new trail to be constructed is 2.5 miles long to the bottom of the Thunderhead Lift and is in the vicinity of the upper Vagabond Ski Trail and lower Why Not road. It would be a hand-built single track trail. This trail does not cross any other trails. A small section of the Zig Zag Trail would be realigned slightly to keep trails separate.

##### *New Green/Beginner Trail (on private SS&RC land)*

- A beginner level (green) DH-only trail would connect trails converging at the Thunderhead Lift to the base area. This trail would be machine-built.

##### *Converted DH-only Trail*

- Yoo Hoo Trail (from the top of See Ya to the base area).
- Creekside Trail: Commensurate with the 2011 summer operating season, Creekside Trail would be designated as DH-only until the first DH-only trail is completed, and then it would revert back to a multi-directional/multi-use trail.