

# **Aspen Highlands Ski Area**

## **Temerity Project**

### **PRE-CONSTRUCTION NOTIFICATION**

Pitkin County, Colorado  
August 30, 2004

Prepared For:

Aspen Highlands Ski Area  
40 Carriage Way • PO Box 1248  
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and

USDA Forest Service  
Aspen Ranger District  
White River National Forest



Prepared By:



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## B. Compensatory Mitigation Plan

The proposed compensatory mitigation plan is presented in Figures 5, 6, and 7. The location of the mitigation site is displayed in Figure 2. The mitigation plan would establish wetland near the bottom of the *Moment of Truth* ski run, adjacent to an existing wetland mitigation site. These established wetlands would be credited at 1.5 units (square feet in this instance) of moderately high functioning wetland for each unit of impacted wetland.

The mitigation site is planned to replace the moderately high function of the impacted wetland (see wetland delineation report for the method used to determine wetland functional ratings) with a similarly functioning mitigation site. In other words, there would be no net loss in wetland functions on the ski area when the project is completed.

The total wetland impact from the proposed project would be 2,100 sqft, or 0.05 acre. The location of wetlands proposed for compensatory mitigation is shown in Figure 4. The size (in acres), type (Cowardin classification), functional rating (Western Bionomics' modified HGM process), and credit/debit ratio of the proposed compensatory mitigation wetlands is displayed in Table 1.

The functional rating of the mitigation wetland would be equivalent to that of the disturbed wetland. The compensatory mitigation plan would create 3,150 sqft of moderately high palustrine shrub wetland to compensate for unavoidable wetland impacts.

**Table 1. Aspen Highlands Ski Area – Wetland Impacts, Compensatory Mitigation Acreage, and Predicted Functional Rating of Mitigation Wetlands.**

Wetland Impacts			
Wetland Site	Functional Rating and Cowardin Classification	Area (sqft)	
Kessler Bowl Avalanche Runout	Moderately High Palustrine Shrub	2,100	
Compensatory Mitigation			
Compensatory Mitigation Site	Functional Rating and Cowardin Classification	Area (sqft)	Credit/Debit Ratio
<i>Wetland Establishment</i>	Moderately High Palustrine Shrub	3,150	1.5:1

### 1. Baseline Information

Impacts to aquatic resources as a result of the proposed mitigation would be limited to construction of a drop structure within a perennial stream to divert a portion of the streamflow to the mitigation site. Impacts to the proposed wetland establishment sites would involve conversion of upland sites to wetland. The current elevation of the wetland establishment site is well above the water table. As shown in the attached drawings, water that currently flows from an unnamed perennial tributary (to Maroon Creek) has been diverted to provide hydrology for an existing wetland mitigation site at this same location. The water flows through the mitigation site and back into the creek from whence it came.

### 2. Goals and Objectives

The goal of wetland mitigation proposed under this project is to replace the aquatic resource types (Cowardin Classification) and functions of wetlands that would be impacted as a result of