

Planning

Requirements

Projects and Descriptions

BCP 06-001 McCoy Park

Continued planning for McCoy Park and the top of Chair 12.

- Tom Allender

Beaver Creek 1

BCP 06-002 Upper Latigo Trail Widening

Widening Upper Latigo to the west from will be investigated.

- Tom Allender

BCP 06-003 Beaver Creek Master Development Plan

Work will begin on a Master Development Plan Update to be completed late 2006 to early 2007

- Tom Allender

BCP 06-004 Zoom Room Safety Center

Planning will begin on a Safety Center that may be used as a Terrain Park educational/ safety/ access center. The Center could be a small structure and deck adjacent to the top of the Zoom Room Terrain Park.

- Jim Roberts

BCP 06-004 Birds of Prey Downhill Modifications

1. Widening the eastern edge of the course from the start to the Brink
2. Construct a Race Operations building to the west of the Top of Chair 9. Approximately size would be 30'x50', Siding would be Beaver Creek plank and chinking.

- Jim Roberts



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

August
2005



Environmental Assessment

STONE CREEK TRAIL PROPOSAL BEAVER CREEK RESORT

Holy Cross Ranger District, White River National Forest
Eagle County, Colorado

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Beaver Creek 1

I. Introduction

Forest Service Manual 2670 provides direction on the review, actions, and programs authorized, funded or implemented by the Forest Service relative to the requirements of the Endangered Species Act (ESA). This is a Biological Assessment (BA) for federally listed Threatened, Endangered, and Proposed Species for Beaver Creek Ski Area Stone Creek Chutes Access and Egress Ski Trail construction on the Holy Cross Ranger District, White River National Forest.

II. Consultation History

A list of threatened (FT), endangered (FE), proposed, and candidate species that occur in the Holy Cross Ranger District on the White River National Forest was received on February 16, 2005 through an update in the streamlined consultation process. There has been informal consultation through telephone conversations on this project.

III. Proposed Management Action

The proposed action is to create two ski trails along the eastside of the upper portion of the Beaver Creek Ski Area. The new trails would be for access into and egress out of the Stone Creek Chutes. The Stone Creek Chutes is outside (east) of the Beaver Creek Ski Area development boundary but within the ski area permit boundary. The Stone Creek Chutes although currently "out of bounds" is expert level terrain and is skied mostly by locals familiar with the terrain. As the area grows more popular there are more skiers unfamiliar with the terrain that are skiing this area and several skiers have gotten lost, trapped in avalanches or injured and have had to return to the ski area on their own. The Beaver Creek Ski Patrol has begun avalanche studies and have done several rescue drills from the area and found that it would take 2 to 4 hours to find and remove an injured skier under current conditions. The addition of these trails would allow controlled access to the Chutes, avalanche control, and facilitate locating and evacuating injured skiers.

The current access and egress are by user-developed trails that are maintained by constant use over the winter. There are several access trails that have developed from Red Buffalo ski run depending on where the people leave the run. The trail currently follows the ridgeline past the access point of the Chutes and some skiers that do not drop into the Chutes end up at the point where the egress trail turns west or they make their way back through the conifer stand to Ripsaw ski run.

Only one egress route is usually well established but some skiers, unfamiliar with the terrain, miss the egress route and end up skiing below the egress trail and are forced to ski out Stone Creek to Eagle-Vail. The current use is light to moderate use depending on snow conditions. On powder days there could be as many as 100 skier trips per day of use. On other days there may be less than 5 skier trips per day. Current estimates are 1000 or more ski trips into this area per year.

The terrain that will be accessed by the trails is an area of naturally gladed, relatively steep slopes with some rocks and cliff bands. The skiable area of the Chutes is estimated at about 30 to 40 acres. This type of terrain is popular with the younger skiers and snowboarders. This terrain is easily accessible from current ski runs and use is increasing as more people find this area.

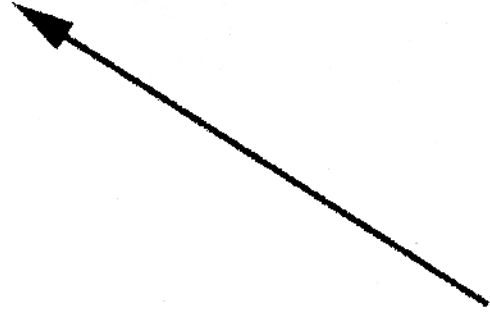
Slopes and Trails
Projects and Descriptions

Requirements:

BCST 07-005 Stone Creek Chutes

Access and egress routes from the Stone Creek Chutes were constructed in 2006. Fine tuning will be carried out during the summer of 2007. Minor tree removal will be involved.

- Adam Borg



Beaver Creek 1



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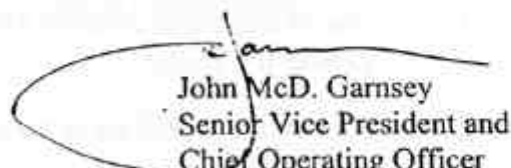
Re: Comments on the White River National Forest Draft Land and Resources
Management Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Statement

Dear Planning Team:

On behalf of Beaver Creek Resort, we submit these comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement ("DEIS") and Draft Land and Resources Management Plan ("LRMP") for the White River National Forest ("WRNF"). Due to the scope of the DEIS and the LRMP and the length of our comments, we have provided a table of contents. Please add these comments to the administrative record.

We appreciate the significant effort devoted by the Forest Service to this forest planning process. We trust that these comments are helpful to the Forest Service in preparing the final environmental impact statement, finalizing the LRMP, and selecting an alternative. Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,



John McD. Garnsey
Senior Vice President and
Chief Operating Officer
Beaver Creek Resort

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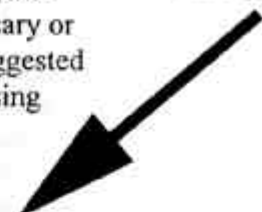
Rated the World's #1 Ski Destination





designated 1B outside the northeastern corner of the Beaver Creek permit boundary. These areas are depicted on the attached map. The Forest Service should not designate this acreage Management Area 8.25 in the revised Forest Plan as they are unnecessary or not suitable for resort operations during the planning period. Beaver Creek has suggested appropriate designations for these parcels in the section of these comments addressing adjacent management area designations at the resort.

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Creek 1



b. 1B Areas to Retain In Management Area 8.25

In addition to terrain within Beaver Creek's special use permit, the Forest Service should retain in Management Area 8.25 two areas totaling approximately 1,300 acres that are presently designated 1B – McCoy Park and Mud Spring. As shown on the attached map, McCoy Park and Mud Spring are on the western side of Beaver Creek immediately west of the top of Larkspur Bowl and south of Bachelor Gulch and Arrowhead. McCoy Park and Mud Spring offer outstanding beginner and intermediate ski terrain that would provide additional terrain on the west side of the resort, address existing terrain imbalances, and help maintain high quality winter recreation at Beaver Creek. Retaining these two areas in Management Area 8.25 would also give the Forest Service the flexibility to accommodate estimated demand for winter recreation at Beaver Creek and in Eagle County during the planning period. See DEIS at 3-334. Specifically, retaining McCoy Park and Mud Spring in Management Area 8.25 would allow the Forest Service to consider proposals to expand terrain and facilities at Beaver Creek to supply high quality winter recreation for the estimated 30% more skiers and snowboarders in Eagle County looking to recreate on public lands by 2010 and the over 200,000 additional guests expected at Beaver Creek. *Id.* If additional terrain and capacity are not made available at Beaver Creek, the Forest Service projects significant negative impacts to winter recreation by 2010. DEIS at 3-336, 3-346 to 3-349.

(i) McCoy Park

McCoy Park is an existing winter sports site managed by Vail Resorts as a nordic area under special use permit. McCoy Park contains groomed trails for cross country skiing and snowshoeing, a warming hut, telephone service, signs, roads, and other developed facilities. Skiing, snowshoeing, snowmobiling, and grooming activities occur in McCoy Park as they do in the existing ski area. A large portion of McCoy Park is contiguous to ski trails that link Beaver Creek, Bachelor Gulch, and Arrowhead. Beaver Creek could provide access to McCoy Park with relatively minor additions to existing infrastructure and integrate the area into the resort. The Forest Service has concluded that McCoy Park "is a logical expansion of Beaver Creek ski area because of its shared boundary and terrain and snow." DEIS at 3-313.

Beaver Creek shares the Forest Service's conclusion that McCoy Park is suitable for consideration for future downhill skiing and snowboarding at Beaver Creek. McCoy Park contains the high-quality level 2 through 4 beginner terrain that is lacking at Bachelor Gulch and Arrowhead. McCoy Park would offer beginner terrain on the

Beaver Creek 1

C. Non-significant Issues

1. Connected actions. Is the proposed gondola connected to future potential development of the McCoy Park area for downhill skiing?

The future development of McCoy Park is unlikely to affect the decision of whether or not the gondola is installed. The main purpose of the gondola would be to provide alternative transportation to the bus system, not to facilitate future ski development. As such, the gondola as proposed, has merit as a transportation facility to be analyzed independent of a decision on the future potential development of McCoy Park.

Background Information and Forest Plan Decision on McCoy Park: The current permit issued to Beaver Creek Associates, Inc. was issued on November 17, 1999 with an expiration date of 12/31/2038. The permit covers 2,695 acres of National Forest System lands (map on page 75). The McCoy Park area, located on the southwest side of the Beaver Creek Resort, is currently operated as a Nordic skiing operation and includes approximately 30 kilometers of groomed Nordic trails, snowshoe trails, a warming facility at McCoy Patrol, and a warming tent (yurt) with an emergency phone in the McCoy Park area.

Under the 1984 Forest Plan for the White River National Forest, the McCoy Park and Mud Springs area was allocated to a 1B management prescription which emphasizes downhill skiing. The White River National Forest is in the process of revising its Forest Plan and published a draft Land and Resource Management Plan, supporting EIS and Appendices for public review and comment in August 1999. The comment period closed on May 9, 2000.

The Draft Analysis of Public Comment on the White River National Forest Plan Revision published by the Forest Service in October of 2000 noted:

“..The potential expansion for all resorts is addressed by both those supporting and those opposing ski area expansion. There is one area that bears particular mention due to the volume of comment regarding it is McCoy Park. While there are some who support Beaver Creeks’ claim that McCoy Park is needed for additional beginner and intermediate terrain, the overwhelming majority of respondents feel McCoy Park should remain a Special Use Permit Nordic center. Those supporting Beaver Creek Resort believe the resort needs additional beginner and intermediate terrain to accommodate increasing numbers of skiers in general, and of increasingly elderly skiers. Those who believe McCoy Park should remain a Nordic center feel that it is an irreplaceable recreational resource which adds to the attraction of Beaver Creek Resort. Many allege that the desire to develop private lands held by the resort adjacent to this area is the true motivation for its conversion to downhill skiing.”

The decision in the 2002 White River Forest Plan Revision published on June 4, 2002, was to allocate McCoy Park to 8.25 Four Season Ski-Based Resorts. It should be noted that the Mud Springs area to the west of McCoy Park was allocated to 5.43 Elk Habitat. It is likely that Beaver Creek Resort will submit a plan to the Forest Service for developing the McCoy Park area which may include construction of a chairlift and other downhill type skiing facilities. The Forest will then be obligated to undertake environmental analysis of this proposal.