


United States
Department
of Agriculture
Forest Service
Northern Region
Flathead National
Forest



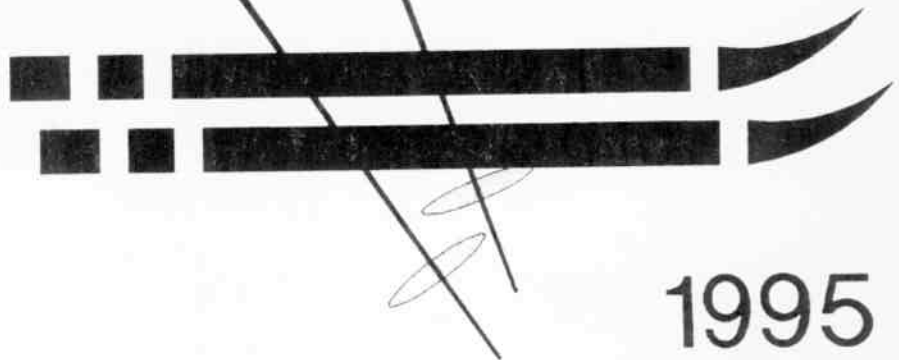
1995



BIG MOUNTAIN Ski & Summer Resort



FINAL
Environmental
Impact
Statement



1995

SUMMARY OF EFFECTS OF THE ALTERNATIVES ON RIPARIAN AREAS, WETLANDS, AND FLOODPLAINS

Riparian Effects

An analysis was completed to assess possible impacts to the riparian resource from implementation of each alternative. Because actual ski run locations have not been surveyed, only the mapped ski runs were evaluated for their effects on riparian areas. An estimate was made of linear length of riparian areas that would be parallel to a ski run and/or crossed by a ski run.

For all alternatives, the mapped riparian areas were compared to proposed ski run locations. Using the alternative maps, a measurement was made of the linear length of riparian areas that are parallel to, might be affected by, and/or are crossed by a proposed ski run. Runs or portions of ski runs that would be located in riparian areas are listed below in Table 4-83:

Table 4-83. Effects of Alternatives (Alt) on Riparian Areas by Ski Run (in linear feet affected)

Effect	Alt A	Alt B	Alt C	Alt D (Modified)	Alt E	Alt F (Modified)
Vegetation cut, but no ground disturbance	0	0	3,923 feet	7,097 feet	9,939 feet	3,969 feet
Ground disturbance, removal and grubbing of stumps	0	3,186 feet	10,389 feet	0	0	0
Disturbance to wildlife attributes, but no ground disturbance	0	0	5,222 feet	546 feet	0	0
Total Linear Feet Affecting Riparian Areas	0	3,186 feet	19,534 feet	7,643 feet	9,939 feet	3,969 feet

Big Mountain 4a

Wetland Effects

A small wetland (approximately a half-acre) lies near the lower terminal of Chair 8. If Alternative D (Modified) is selected, appropriate actions related to protecting a wetland would be taken. Workers and machinery would not be allowed to enter the wetland. A Forest Service hydrologist or fisheries biologist would need to flag the area and instruct the workers what to protect and why. At the downhill side of the construction area, a fence with filter cloth needs to be installed while work is in progress.

Floodplains

None of the proposals would impair the hydrologic functions of floodplains. Most of the floodplains are narrow and would have little (if any) activity in them.