

PowderMonarch LLC  
PROJECT RECORD 2010

Ski Area: Monarch Mountain  
Forest: San Isabel National Forest  
District: Salida Ranger District  
Project Name: Install snow fence

Project # 04-001-10

Location: Snowflake

Project Description: Install 100' of wind fence vanes on Snowflake post  
to collect snow. Post installed in 2000 to enclose the beginner teaching  
area from traffic from above. This fence is the same as other used on  
Safari trail above & below teaching area.

Attachments: Yes/No

Map: Yes/No

Sketch reverse side: Yes/No

FS Requirements & Constraints:

USFS Field Review

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

FS Rep. Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

USFS Accept Completion

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

FS Rep. Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

old growth?

Keystone

## BIOLOGICAL EVALUATION

Region Two (R2) has designated "sensitive species" (USFS 2003b, 2005a), representing species declining in number or occurrence or whose habitat is declining, either of which could lead to federal listing if action is not taken to reverse the trend, and species whose habitat or population is stable but limited. From the updated R2 list, a subset of sensitive species, including 19 plants, two insects, five fish, two amphibians, 18 birds, and eight mammals, was determined to be present or potentially present on the WRNF (USFS 2003a) after an analysis of all sensitive species on the overall updated R2 list (April 30, 2007). These species are considered below in phylogenetically ordered taxa (plants, insects, fish, amphibians, birds, and mammals) and discussed individually where appropriate.

### DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED 2006 SUMMER CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

Keystone Ski Area (KSA) has proposed 59 projects in their 2009 summer construction plan. These projects are scheduled to be completed this summer. Through a process of review of the projects, all but 6 projects were approved in previous years or were determined to have no impact on listed species or habitat for listed species. The complete list of projects can be found in the 2009 Keystone Ski Area Summer Construction Plan notebook. The six projects listed below are the projects that need analysis for impacts on listed species.

1. **Woodland Park Updates-** Approximately 150 lodgepole pine trees (dead and live) have been proposed for removal between the A 51 Terrain Park and the Ballhooter Trail which is on the north side of Dercum Mountain. This project would work in conjunction with the Ballhooter project that was completed last summer to improve the flow of traffic from the A-51 Terrain Park and encourage terrain park users to bypass the Schoolmarm trail, which is a heavily used beginner trail.
2. **Richter Timing Cable-** Approximately 200' of new electrical line is proposed for installation in the existing roadway. This new line would provide power to the A 51 storage shack, which is currently powered with a generator.
3. **Porcupine/Lodgepole Trail Improvement-** Keystone proposes the removal of approximately 35 trees (the majority being lodgepole with a handful of spruce) to improve the intersection of the Lodgepole and Porcupine trails in the Outback area. Minimal grading would be a component of the project.
4. **Ranger Trail-** Keystone proposes the removal of approximately 0.40 acre of mixed timber to create a trail in the Ranger (beginner) area which is located in the Mountain House area at the top of Dercum Mountain. The trail would take advantage of existing island openings to provide a meandering trail. ★
5. **Midway Carpet Relocation-** Keystone would like to develop an on-mountain teaching area at the new midway gondola location. The project involves removing 0.75 acre of lodgepole pine and spruce trees and 0.60 acre of grading. Keystone would also like to relocate the ski school magic carpet that currently sits at the base of River Run to this midway location. Power for the carpet would be trenched over from the midway station. Additionally they would like to install two snowmaking spurs to their existing River Run snowmaking line. This would result in additional water usage. Approximately 0.25 acre of ground would be disturbed for this installation. ★
6. **Improved entrances/egresses to Kid Zone features (bridges)-** An issue with the safety of these bridges arose this past winter so Keystone proposes to better maintain the entrance and egress of three bridges that are on the front side of the mountain. This improvement calls for clearing a 25' path

Breach

Decision Memo

snowmaking  
solar panels

County Road 3 Wetlands Mitigation

USDA, Forest Service  
Dillon Ranger District, White River National Forest  
Summit County, Colorado  
Vail Resorts Development Company/Breckenridge Ski Resort

**Background**

Vail Resorts Development Company (VRDC) submitted a proposal to the Forest Service to implement a wetlands mitigation project on a now abandoned section of County Road 3 in Summit County.

The project is located on National Forest System lands between the bases of Peaks 7 and 8 at the Breckenridge Ski Resort on the Dillon Ranger District, White River National Forest.

**Decision & Rationale:**

I have decided to permit the wetlands mitigation project on the recently abandoned portion of County Road 3 adjacent to the Breckenridge Ski Resort. This project is designed to improve currently dissected wetlands on a portion of the County Road that has been abandoned as part of the Peak 7 base area development.

This area was identified during the permitting process for the Peak 7 base area development as a wetland mitigation site. Both the Town of Breckenridge and Army Corps of Engineers have already approved this location for the implementation of this proposed wetlands mitigation. The abandoned section of County Road 3 currently dissects an existing wetland. Implementing the wetlands mitigation plan will improve the current state of the wetland in this area.

VRDC will construct two shallow ponds in place of the existing road. These ponds will be fed by two small springs and numerous seeps that are in the immediate vicinity. The area around these two ponds will be planted with deep rooted plants and have a high erosion control function. These ponds could be used as future amphibian breeding habitat.

As per the permit issued by the US Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE), VRDC will create and follow a monitoring plan for this project. It is possible that ACOE representatives will conduct inspections of the project area during the various stages of implementation.

This improved wetland area will have a high wildlife habitat function as it will have structural diversity and a high diversity of native plants. All Best Management Practices will be followed during construction of the project. The approximate size of the project area is 0.60 acre.

**Extraordinary Circumstances and Consistency with Other Laws**

I have determined upon review of the project records that these actions are categorically excluded from documentation in an EA or EIS: FSH 1909.15, Section 31.2, Category 3 – *“Approval, modification, or continuation of minor special uses of National Forest System lands that require less than five contiguous acres of land.”*