

File Code: 2720

Date: December 11, 2009

Randy Elliott, General Manager
Bridger Bowl Inc.
15795 Bridger Canyon RD
Bozeman, MT 59715

Dear Randy;

This letter is in response to your request to:

- replace the Bridger and Deer Park lifts with a new triple chair lift,
- re-contour and reclamation of several roads, and
- install an underground snowmaking lines on the Hanton's Hollow and Powderhorn runs.

The Bridger and Deer Park lifts would be replaced with a new triple chair lift. The base of the new lift would be located near the upper terminus of the Virginia City Lift, with the new lift extending up slope in a new corridor to the existing upper terminus of the Bridger Lift. The spur road providing access to the top terminal of Deer Park lift along with several old Bridger lift construction roads would be re-contoured and reclaimed.

The installation of the additional underground snowmaking lines on Hanton's Hollow and Powderhorn runs would reallocate water currently used on lower sections of the ski area to these runs as needed to make snow for races and improve early season operations.

I have reviewed this request within the context of the Record of Decision for the Bridger Bowl Master Development Plan Approval and Special Use Permit Authorization (January 31, 2005). After consultation with Forest and District resource staff, I have determined the removal and replacement of the Bridger and Deer Park lifts with a new single triple chair lift is less of an impact than modification / replacement of the two existing lifts and is within the scope of the effects analysis conducted for the Master Development Plan FEIS. In addition re-contouring and reclamation of roads will reduce the overall impact associated with ski area access roads and is within the scope of the environmental analysis. I have also determined installation of snowmaking lines on Hanton's Hollow and Powderhorn runs is in accordance with the overall context and scope of the Record of Decision's direction for "approving lifts, trails, service roads and utilities that will increase the comfortable carrying capacity of the ski area to 6,100 skiers".


JOSE V CASTRO
District Ranger

Cc: Supervisor Office, Bridger Bowl permit files
Bozeman Ranger District, Bridger Bowl permit files

