

Copper Mtn 4b

Forested Wetlands

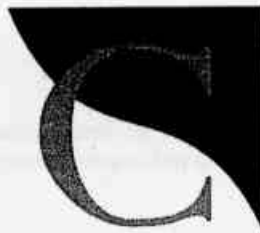
Under Alternative 2, a total of 2.65 acres of forested wetlands would be modified by ski trail and glade development. Alternative 2 would affect the largest area of forested wetlands of alternatives 2-5. Overall, the effects should benefit plant and wildlife communities, producing the types of wetlands that have developed subsequent to trail construction elsewhere on CMR. In most cases, forest overstory removal and thinning would increase the abundance and density of obligate and facultative wetland plants, resulting in a more lush and diverse plant community. Where forest canopies are already open, such as where high water tables preclude forest encroachment, additional tree removal would not have as much beneficial effect. Wildlife with affinities to the forest edge and interior (i.e., facultative species) should respond to more open water sources and greater herbaceous forage, cover, and vertical structure as measured by species richness and abundance. However, wetland patch size relative to home range size will influence how much use these wetlands receive and by what wildlife species. For example, wetlands too small to accommodate an entire home range (e.g., fox and white-crowned sparrows) will not benefit nesting, even though the habitat may be otherwise suitable for a particular species. However, such small patches will be used by facultative wildlife species as part of larger seasonal home ranges (e.g., deer, elk, boreal owls, etc.). Such wetland development will adversely affect a small number of obligate forest interior species because of forest removal, fragmentation effects, and because such species have no affinities to such open wetlands. All wetlands that develop should be highly effective for the wildlife that uses them because of their isolation from human developments and activity areas (outside the ski season).

Old-growth

LSAA 10 is now 796.31 acres below the Forest Plan old-growth standard 10 percent threshold. Any loss of old-growth effectiveness in LSAA 10 spruce-fir stands would not meet Forest Plan standards. With the exception of two old-growth polygons overlapping portions of *West Bench Glade 1* and the *West Bench Egress* trail, no old-growth or recruitment old-growth stands would be affected by the Proposed Action. Alternative 2 would affect 1.74 acres of old-growth for groomable glade development. While some forest modifications to old-growth stands could be made (i.e., those that would not compromise the old-growth character) in LSAA 10, clearcutting for conventional trail development is not one of them. At present it is unclear if the proposed glading would compromise the old-growth character of affected stands. Field surveys through proposed glades would be required, where individual trees to be removed are marked. No such refinement or mitigation is part of Alternative 2. As such, Alternative 2 would likely affect old-growth in a manner that would be inconsistent with the applicable Forest Plan standard.

Groomed, Gladed Terrain and Long-term Forest Health

Gladed ski terrain, whether designed for grooming or not, is generally considered beneficial from the perspectives of forest persistence, wildlife values, water resources, and other resource issues versus conventional ski trail development. Gladed terrain designed for grooming generally opens wider corridors through the forest to accommodate 16-foot wide snowcats. However, glades that can accommodate grooming do not necessarily result in greater tree removal or fragmentation depending on the amount and characteristics of mini-intertrail islands retained in the glade. Glading thins, but retains, existing forest cover and all its inherent values. Compared to conventional ski trails, glading results in less native habitat (forest) conversion, less forest



C O P P E R
Copper Mountain
Summer Construction Plan 2007
Table of Contents

SECTION I – TRAIL PROJECTS

PROPOSED PROJECTS:

	<u>PROJECT #</u>
Rock Removal on Double Zero Drainpipe	2005-T5
Sierra Pod Trail Improvements	2005-T6
4-7 Glades	2005-T10
Clearing for Kokomo Gondola Alignment & Teaching Terrain	2005-T12
Forest Health	2006-T1
Noxious Weeds	2006-T2

POSSIBLE PROJECTS:

Fremont Glades 2-5	2007-T1
--------------------	---------

SECTION II – SNOWMAKING PROJECTS

PROPOSED PROJECTS:

Pipe/Hydrant Replacement on Upper Main Vein	2007-S1
Pipe/Hydrant Replacement on Bouncer	2007-S2
Pipe/Hydrant Replacement on Loverly	2007-S3

SECTION III – UTILITY & INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

PROPOSED PROJECTS:

Union Creek Culvert	2006-U1
Eagle Fuel	2006-U2
Replace Faulted 25 KV Mtn. Primary Utility	2007-U1

SECTION IV-BUILDING & FACILITY PROJECTS

PROPOSED PROJECTS:

T-Rex Stairs	2005-BF2
Nastar Race Start	2005-BF3
CSO Race Shacks	2006-BF1
American Flyer Guest Service Center	2006-BF2
Corn Lot Improvements	2006-BF3

SECTION V-LIFT PROJECTS

SECTION VI-SUMMER AMENITIES PROJECTS

PROPOSED PROJECTS:

Top of Eagle/Solitude Hiking Trails	2005-SA2
-------------------------------------	----------

General

Alternative 5 evolved during the EIS process to address the Purpose and Need while specifically responding to issues raised relative to wildlife movement/habitat, impacts to Alpine tundra, water quality, and wetlands.

On-mountain Comfortable Carrying Capacity (CCC) will increase by approximately 1,430 skiers-at-one-time (SAOT), from 13,560 to 14,990 SAOT, a net increase of roughly 10 percent.

Operations and management requirements specifically addressing lynx habitat are incorporated into my decision (see Table ROD-4, entries 7 through 28).

Trails

Approval of the following trails helps to meet the need for improved skiing and snowboarding opportunities, while improving the distribution and circulation of skiers throughout the ski area.

4-7 Glade

My approval of the *4-7 Glade* authorizes thinning of the area between the existing *Formidable* and *Treble Cliff* trails to improve the current ski-ability of the area. The existing forest in the area exhibits a crown closure of roughly 70 to 80 percent. The vegetation thinning will result in removal of approximately 30 percent of the existing trees, over a roughly 13.0-acre area. Thinning for the *4-7 Glade* will be concentrated in the three trail footprints displayed in Figure ROD-1, located at the end of this document.

Powerline Trail 3

My decision approves the gladed *Powerline Trail 3* for development. This trail will not be groomed. Creation of this trail will involve selective tree removal to create one new gladed trail east of the Alpine Lift Pod. The area for the development of this glade presently has a stand crown closure of roughly 60 percent. Widening existing openings to create a naturally appearing glade will involve selective removal of approximately 50 percent of the existing forest over an area approximately 4.2 acres in size.

1,4b

North Cabin Chute and Upper Cabin Chute Trails

I approve the construction of new ski trails to the north (skier's left) and west of the existing *Cabin Chute Trail*, as shown in Figure ROD-1. These trails will total approximately 11.2 acres in area. In addition, approximately 2 acres of grading is approved for the *North Cabin Chute Trail*. This grading will be utilized to smooth terrain irregularities and to provide improved skiability.

1,4b

South Copper

This new ski trail will be developed to the skier's left of the existing *Lillie Trail* and will provide additional skiing within the Blackjack Lift pod, supplying access to the lift's bottom terminal, as shown in Figure ROD-1. The trail will be roughly 3.6 acres in area.

iki Area Project Record:

Project No. 2007-T1

Copper Mountain Resort

Project Name: Fremont Glades - 2 - 5

Project Description: Remove trees per January 2006 ROD-8. Remove 15% trees at bottom of 4 chutes over 4.9 acres total.

← **1,4b**

Is Project Annual Maintenance? Yes () No (X)

If no, is project within the scope of the Master Plan or Decision Document? Yes

If yes, site Decision Document and page number:

CMR ROD Trails & Facilities Improvements January 2006 ROD-8

Site Map Attached: (X) Attached

Forest Service Requirements: (Completed by Winter Sports Specialists):

Specialist's Report (): _____ Forest Service Special Review(): _____

Other Requirements:

Per discussions w/ CMR staff- not slated for
removal this year

would like to remove a few trees in the traverse below
Fremont 1 - will notify us when certain

Field Review Dates: _____	
Project Approval: Date: _____	Accepted Completion Date: _____
Initial: _____	Initials: _____