

Environmental Assessment of Proposed Improvements at Crested Butte Mountain Resort



U. S. Dept. of Agriculture-Forest Service
Rocky Mountain Region

Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, and
Gunnison National Forests

Taylor River and Cebolla Ranger Districts

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It should be noted that there is an option to build either the Mineral Point Lift or to realign the Teocalli Lift. Currently, impacts for both lift options are included in this analysis. By disallowing either element, the total impacts to vegetation could be reduced by either 1.3 or 4.1 acres, respectively.

3.4.4.1.3.2 Old Growth

Construction of the patrol headquarters would impact 0.1 acres (out of 74 acres) of old growth at the top of the Silver Queen Lift.

Implementation of this alternative would impact approximately 6.4 acres of recruitment old-growth stands (out of 36 acres) through trail and lift construction. The trails and lift associated with the CB-5 pod would impact approximately 6.1 acres, effectively fragmenting this stand of recruitment old growth (Fig. 10). Construction of the Phoenix Ingress and the Teocalli Bowl Lift would cut through a second stand of recruitment old growth, affecting approximately 0.3 acres.

It should be noted that while these old growth and potential old growth stands meet the technical criteria to be designated as such, they are relatively small and unlikely to provide the full range of functions attributed to larger blocks of these types.

3.4.4.1.3.3 Summer Recreation

Implementation of Alternative B may increase summer visitation, particularly in the area of the facilities at the top terminals of the Keystone Lift. An increase in summertime visitors could be expected to elevate the level of use on the trail and road network. However, it is unlikely that the increased summer use would result in any meaningful impact to vegetation resources outside the immediate area that has been dedicated to this use.

3.4.4.1.3.4 Sensitive Species

Implementation of this alternative would have no known direct impact to any Sensitive species, including wooly fleabane; no activities proposed would result in ground disturbance in the alpine area where it occurs. However, it should be noted that the surveys conducted in conjunction with this project were of a more general nature because the exact alignment of most of the proposed elements had not been finalized on the ground at the time of the field work. As a result, "clearances," or detailed surveys along the exact alignment of each element to determine the presence or absence of Sensitive species may be desirable prior to construction of any elements approved. Therefore, based on the survey work completed and the historical records, it is only possible to conclude that (1) no Sensitive species are known to occur in areas that would be disturbed by elements of this alternative, and thus, (2) there would be no known impact to any Sensitive species as a result of the Proposed Action. Impacts associated with this alternative could result in effects to potential habitat for these species. Mitigation measure VEG 8 (Table 24) has been developed to provide an additional level of security regarding potential impacts to Sensitive species.

3.4.4.1.3.5 Noxious Weeds

Implementation of this alternative would result in additional disturbance within the project area. These newly disturbed sites, particularly the 98 acres of ground disturbance, would be especially vulnerable to invasion by noxious weeds. However, it is expected that this impact could be adequately mitigated given judicious implementation of reclamation and revegetation efforts and would not result in an important issue for the proposed project (VEG 4 in Table 23).



**Crested
Butte 4b**