

PUBLISH AS A LEGAL NOTICE ON NOVEMBER 3, 2005:

Scoping Notice for Proposed Improvements
To Crested Butte Mountain Resort
November 1, 2005

Crested Butte Mountain Resort (CBMR) is proposing improvements to the ski area which include upgrading existing facilities and constructing new ones. In accordance with terms of the special use permit in which the USDA Forest Service (USFS) authorizes CBMR to provide year-round recreational activities on the Gunnison National Forest, CBMR is required to prepare a Master Development Plan (MDP) for the existing Crested Butte Ski Area. The purpose of a MDP is to document a ski corporation's future development and public service vision. CBMR has submitted and the USFS has reviewed the Crested Butte Ski Area MDP. In this instance, the USFS has considered the MDP as an application for the proposed improvements, thus beginning the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process by conducting an analysis of the environmental effects of implementing the proposal. This notice solicits public input on environmental issues and concerns associated with the proposal, as required under NEPA.

The purpose of CBMR's proposal is to improve the quality of their services and facilities and to make more efficient use of the ski area. Elements of the proposal address both winter and summer activities, with the objective of allowing CBMR to offer a more complete, higher quality recreational experience.

Many elements of the proposal have been addressed and approved in the 1998 Decision Notice for Improvements. This analysis will provide the information necessary for the USFS to review these previous approvals. Previously approved elements are identified as such in the list below.

CBMR has divided the proposal into Four project categories: (1) Beginner teaching area at Westwall/Peachtree lifts, (2) Top of Red Lady lift, (3) Silver Queen lift upper terminal area, and (4) Other on-mountain improvements. Previously approved projects are noted in italics. Specific elements under each of these categories are as follow:


WestWall/Peachtree Teaching/Beginner area.

The goal of this project is to provide improved teaching & beginner level skiing opportunities while at the same time minimizing the mixing of fast and slow speed traffic near the base area. Components of this plan include:

- Peachtree lift removal.
- Adult training surface lift installation at the adult teaching area.
- Yurt installation (providing shelter and inside video analysis).
- New true beginner ski way construction (getting skiers from teaching area down into the current Peachtree trail system).
- Peachtree trail system improvement (creating an improved trail system through slope grading and removing of some trees).

- Ice Bar Restaurant expansion (including 1,000 sq. ft. of seating with a gabled end to the north and a 200 sq. ft. expansion of the kitchen to the south).

Snowmaking:

- Improvements to existing snowmaking (to add pipe to terrain that has current snowmaking coverage).
 - New snowmaking installation (including 39.8 acres of new coverage).
- 

These improvements are depicted on two maps: the first map shows the majority of improvements and the second shows snowmaking and summer trail improvements. This Scoping Notice and the maps are available at the USFS Gunnison office at 216 N. Colorado, Gunnison, and at the CBMR Corporate office at the Mount Axtell Building, Mt Crested Butte. In addition, the Scoping Notice and the full detailed proposal are available for review at local libraries in Gunnison and Crested Butte and at www.skicb.com/masterplan.

The USFS and CBMR will host a question and answer session on the proposal and the analysis process at the Gothic Building Conference Center at 7:00pm, November 14, 2005.

The scoping period for this analysis begins November 3, 2005 and extends through December 5, 2005. Written or e-mail comments must be received during this period in order to be considered in the analysis.

In order to remain on or be added to the mailing list for this proposal, please respond to this notice in writing. If you do not wish to comment but want to be on the mailing list, you can complete and mail the card included in this mailing. Please address your responses to:

CBMR Comments
USDA Forest Service
Gunnison Ranger District
216 N. Colorado
Gunnison, CO 81230

For further information and/or to send e-mail responses, you may contact the USFS project manager, Jon Morrissey, at 970-642-4439 or at jmorrissey@fs.fed.us.

JAMES R. DAWSON
District Ranger

CRESTED BUTTE LLC SNOWMAKING PROPOSAL

Crested Butte 5

Crested Butte LLC. proposes to add snowmaking for the 2004/2005-ski season on several west side runs in the Silver Queen and Twister lift pods. These runs include International, Crystal, Twister, Jokerville and Championship. These runs total 49 acres of snowmaking. (See map A)

The addition of this snowmaking infrastructure will facilitate early season skiing on these trails and increase the frequency of grooming, which will move these runs toward intermediate skiing. As guest surveys have indicated, we believe additional intermediate terrain to be an important factor for the rebound of Crested Butte ski area under new ownership.

Historically large areas on these trails have received snowmaking by laying air and water hose over the ground. Installing pipe in these areas will help make the process much more efficient as well as improve the quality of the product. All of Jokerville and portions of International, Crystal, Twister, and Championship have received snowmaking totaling 17.33 acres. This leaves 31.68 acres where snowmaking has not occurred. Twister / Crystal runs have 15.31 acres in this category. International has 11.17 and Championship makes up the balance at 5.2 . (See map B)

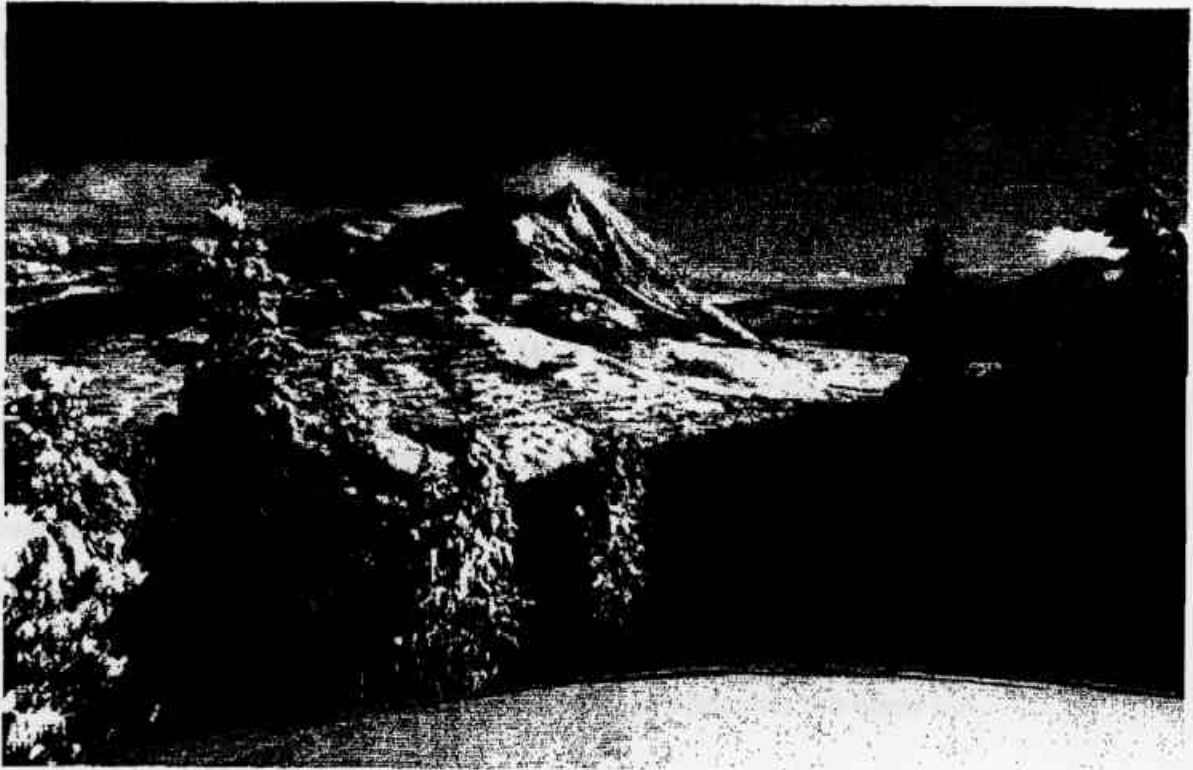
The Environmental Assessment of Proposed Improvements at Crested Butte Mountain Resort (December 1997) identified snowmaking expansion areas. All of upper Championship and two sections of International were included. The International areas are a small section below tower ten road to the roundhouse turn and all of lower International from weather station flats to Rustler's Gulch. (See map C)

The phasing of this snowmaking would put International as top priority, Twister / Crystal second, Jokerville third and Championship fourth. International is a homologated race venue for speed events and a fantastic top to bottom ski run on Silver Queen lift for our guests. Twister / Crystal and Jokerville are the primary runs in the Twister lift pod .

The pipe would leave the Control Building and head toward the Ice Bar via the Peanut trail. At the bottom of Twister Warming House Hill, a spur line will T off main line which will travel down Lower Twister trail and terminate at the Big Al's intersection. A small Valve Blockhouse will be installed at the bottom of Twister Warming House Hill that will house isolation valves, for both air and water, on the spur line. Also, a small Drain Blockhouse will be installed at the bottom of the spur line housing drain valves on both air and water lines. The main supply lines will continue from the bottom of Twister Warming House Hill, out Weatherstation Flats, to the intersection with the International trail where another Valve Blockhouse will be installed. These valves will enable us to isolate Upper and Lower International during the snowmaking process.



**Decision Notice & Finding of No Significant Impact
Crested Butte Main Mountain Improvements Plan**



USDA Forest Service
Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, and Gunnison National Forests
Gunnison County, Colorado

January 2007 *2008*

Rationale: This facility will provide additional winter recreation opportunities, allowing for expanded use of the adjacent Red Lady Lodge. Night lighting is authorized however note specific mitigations for lighting in Appendix A.

5

- Snowmaking (S1).

Rationale: Snowmaking will be provided on an additional 50 acres, subject to contingency described just below. Buried snowmaking pipe will be installed to each new snowmaking area.

Note: I have not made additional snowmaking coverage contingent upon the construction of a snowmaking pond in the North Village area or elsewhere, but rather this new snowmaking is contingent upon establishment of a three million gallon water storage facility somewhere. Although the reservoir as discussed in the EA would support the regulation of East River withdrawals, there are a number of scenarios in which snowmaking as proposed may be undertaken with no different effect on withdrawal from now. The minimum flow guarantees that have been in place are unaltered.

For purposes of our decision making, I believe a buffering storage pond or even a storage tank for water would reduce the drawing down of the East River when there is a call for water needed for snowmaking, hence mitigating effects on the East River. The monitoring of the East River established previously, and all associated assumptions remain unaffected by my decision, and will not be reexamined at this time. While I think conditioning my approval of added snowmaking on this mitigation (creation of buffering storage of water) is appropriate, it falls to CBMR to construct the reservoir or storage facility they choose, to meet this requirement, consistent with applicable authorities. If the storage pond on National Forest is utilized, as approved in 1998, then it will be constructed under supervision by the Forest Service. If either, or both, of the other reservoirs are utilized, they will be regulated by other entities.

Elements Not Approved, Or Approved With Some Modification

- New Upper Silver Queen skiway (T4).

Rationale: This skiway is intended to be built from the North Star Trail to Paradise Bowl to meet capacity demands for skiers transiting from Silver Queen lift to Paradise pod, alleviating congestion at the switchback.

Analysis in the EA, as well as public comment, points out that cut and fill on steep slopes to accomplish the proposed skyway would