

5a/5b

dmr 5-5b pdf

Of the seven existing lifts on NFS lands, Purgatory Village Express and Hermosa Park Express would remain unchanged. The remaining five lifts would be replaced/upgraded with higher capacity, more efficient lifts (Chair 2 – Engineer, Chair 4 – Twilight, Chair 8 – Legends), shortened (Chair 6 – Needles), or realigned (Chair 5 – Grizzly). In addition, those lifts would be augmented with nine new lifts (aerial and surface), resulting in a total of 13 lifts on NFS lands under the Selected Alternative. The upgraded Chair 4 and the approved Gelande Lift would improve the out-of-base capacity as a whole, and the Gelande Lift would provide an additional access portal improving morning access onto the ski area. The upgrades in DMR’s entire lift network would collectively provide easier access between the front and backside of DMR as well as promote more efficient skier circulation through improved lift alignments and increases in carrying capacity within DMR’s SUP boundary.

- 2. To enhance snowmaking capabilities in order to provide more durable and consistent skiing conditions during periods of reduced snowfall. Also, to provide snowmaking on integral connector trails, which would enable more of the mountain to be utilized earlier in the season.**

The addition of approximately 107 acres of snowmaking coverage across the SUP area would enable DMR to open the majority of the front-side and critical backside terrain, adding more beginner through intermediate ability level terrain in the month of December when natural snowfall is not typically reliable. Specifically, the addition of snowmaking in the Twilight (Chair 4) pod would help improve the beginner guest experience as snow consistency is crucial for any successful teaching venue. In addition, as depicted on Selected Alternative Figure 1 in this ROD, as well as Figure 4 in Chapter 6 of the FEIS, the approved snowmaking coverage would allow the consistent operation of Hermosa Park Express on the backside in the early season through strategically planned coverage on connector trails and top to bottom trails accessed by Hermosa Park Express. Snowmaking approved on the steep pitch on the bottom of Chair 8 terrain would provide a consistent snow surface into the spring season and would enable Chair 8 to be upgraded without a mid-load station.

- 3. To improve the quantity and distribution of beginner and lower intermediate terrain by developing additional terrain within the existing SUP.**

The Selected Alternative would improve the current deficiency of beginner level terrain through the development of the Twilight beginner area (top of Chair 4). However, the Selected Alternative would not improve the current deficiency of low-intermediate terrain, as the decision to approve Ice Creek pod has been deferred. Moreover, an additional 3 acres of beginner terrain are approved. Through the planning stages of this proposal, it was determined that due to the close proximity of the Twilight and Ice Creek pods, these beginner and low-intermediate areas could be linked to provide an excellent opportunity for a ideal learning progression. Furthermore, once a guest is comfortable with the beginner terrain, they could transition directly into the Ice Creek pod (low-intermediate terrain) without having to ride an additional