

# Grand Targhee Resort Project List

## 2007 Projects Grand Targhee Resort

Regrade Shoshone Unloading Area  
Mountain Biking / Hiking  
Camping Yurts ( Lightning Ridge & Ricks Basin )  
Winch Anchors  
Tree Thinning in The Good, Bad, Ugly & Eastwoods  
Snow Fence, Crazy Horse Wild Willy (Portable)  
Nordic Track Maintenance (Ricks Basin)  
General Trail Maintenance Hazard Reduction  
Ladies Waist Improvements  
Boundary Line Posts (*Bamboo-Be-Gone* )  
Terminal Pad Preparation For Lift 6  
Lift 6 Top Terminal Site Grading  
Logging & Tree Thinning Pod 6  
Blackfoot Lift Construction & Service Road Top  
DC Addition to bottom Operators Shack  
Mountain Map Sign Frames  
Mountain Signs  
Nordic Track Sign System  
DC Unloading Deck Bottom Rebuild  
Trick Town Sound System/Attendant Station  
Regrading Shoshone Concert Area

Survey & Planning

## 2008 Projects

Relocate Bomb Cache  
Blackfoot Bowl Drainage Improvement  
Vault Toilet / Bottom of Sacajawea  
Vault Toilet / Bottom of Blackfoot  
Replace Blackfoot Lift  
Replace Shoshone Lift  
Teton Vista Traverse Widening

# DECISION NOTICE

## AND

### FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

#### GRAND TARGHEE SKI AND SUMMER RESORT

#### CONSTRUCTION OF SKI RUN 6A

#### USDA FOREST SERVICE

#### CARIBOU-TARGHEE NATIONAL FOREST

#### TETON BASIN RANGER DISTRICT

#### TETON COUNTY, WYOMING

MARCH 2007

### BACKGROUND

In 1990, Grand Targhee Ski and Summer Resort (Grand Targhee) submitted a Master Development Plan (MDP) to the U.S. Department of Agriculture – Forest Service (Forest Service) for development of the resort area. A Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) documenting the potential impacts and environmental effects of the development was finalized in April 1994. The 1994 Record of Decision (ROD) documented the selected alternative that allows for increases in skier capacity and skier terrain, changes Peaked Mountain from snowcat to lift-served downhill skiing, and balances skier capacity and services. In October of 1994, based on several administrative appeals, an Appeal Resolution to the ROD was issued and established additional procedures for future projects at Grand Targhee.

In the 2004 Environmental Assessment (EA), Grand Targhee proposes to construct and use Ski Run 6A in the Peaked Mountain area. While development of Peaked Mountain and Ski Run 6A was approved in the FEIS, the 1994 Appeal Resolution requires an Environmental Assessment (EA) for site-specific projects to analyze the environmental effects. This EA considers and evaluates the environmental effects of the No Action Alternative and the Proposed Action Alternative related to the construction of Ski Run 6A. This EA is focused on the Proposed Action and will not consider decisions that have previously been made or analyzed.

## ALTERNATIVES ANALYZED

### ALTERNATIVE 1 – NO ACTION

The No Action Alternative describes the existing situation. Under the No Action Alternative, Ski Run 6A would not be constructed on Peaked Mountain. Currently, guided snowcat skiing occurs on Peaked Mountain wherein groups of skiers are transported via snowcats (tracked vehicles used for transporting groups of people over the snow) to the top of Peaked Mountain. From the top, skiers can ski down the mountain on un-groomed snow to designated pick up areas where snowcats transport them back to the lodge. Skier access would continue in this manner until such time as Lifts 6 and 7 and the associated approved ski runs are constructed and operating, at which time guided snowcat skiing would be discontinued.

Under the No Action Alternative, Lift 6 would still be constructed and other runs associated with Lift 6 would still be constructed and skied. Ski Run 6A would not be a designated run but there would still be skier traffic in the area because as it currently exists skiers can ski from the top of Peaked Mountain to the bottom where the terminal for Lifts 6 and 7 will be located. Glade skiing of Ski Run 6B would occur with only minor work required to remove some hazard trees on the top of the proposed Ski Run 6A. People would ski the top of Ski Run 6A to access Ski Run 6B even though 6A would not be constructed, maintained or groomed as a separate run. The FEIS approved Ski Run 6B, but because of the way the figure appears in the MDP/FEIS, 6B cannot be skied without skiing the top portion of the proposed Ski Run 6A. Therefore, the top portion of 6A would be skied whether it is constructed or not. Under this scenario, the top of Ski Run 6A would then just become part of Ski Run 6B. Analysis of Ski Run 6B was not required to undergo additional site-specific analysis as part of the Appeals Resolution because soils were not a concern on the top portion of the run. No soils issues were identified on the top portion of Ski Run 6A that would be skied to access Ski Run 6B. The area of concern was on the bottom portion of Ski Run 6A. The bottom portion of Ski Run 6A would not be improved under this alternative and lower ability level skiers would continue to be required to ski higher ability level terrain to egress down the mountain. Ski Run 6B would be constructed as per the MDP and would be skied by lift-assisted skiers.

### ALTERNATIVE 2 – THE PROPOSED ACTION

→ The Proposed Action would construct Ski Run 6A on 29 acres on Peaked Mountain as shown in the MDP. The Proposed Action would begin construction of the groomed Ski Run 6A at the top of Peaked Mountain on the southwestern slope following the design in the MDP. Ski Run 6A would follow the ridge down the mountain to the south to a point where the slope is approximately an eight percent grade and return skiers to the base of Lifts 6 and 7.

Construction of Ski Run 6A would involve clearing timber and hazards along a corridor with the vast majority of the work necessary on the portion below the junction with Run 6B. The corridor would vary with the terrain and would generally be less than 150 – 170 feet in width because of feathering to reduce visual impact and because of the fact that Ski Run 6A would only be approximately 20 feet wide for the

## Grand Targhee Resort Project Status

Year	Forest Project	NEPA Status	Project Status
2007	Lift 7 Egress Traverse	Covered by the Master Plan	Drawing received 9/6/05 approved. Timber is not covered by a TS contract. Field review needed for entire ski run after Lift 7 FS approved. Project will carry over to 2006 due to weather.
2007	Snowmaking Phase II & III	Completed, Cat Exclusion	TS contract expires.
2007	Relocate Powder Reserve Traverse	Not Completed	Draft proposal reviewed. Specialist completed field review. Need details on crossing Mill Cr. & full bench template. Need to
2007	Lift 7 Top Terminal	Covered by the Master Plan	Need plans, staking and review. Plan approved 2006.
2007	Lift 6 Top Terminal	Covered by the Master Plan	Plans completed. Need staking and field review. Plan approved 2006.
2007	Logging & Tree Thinning Pod 6 & 7	Covered by the Master Plan	Need plans, marking, timber sale & reviews. Plan approved 2006
2007	New Tubing Area	Not Completed	Need plan and review
2007	Replace Blackfoot Lift	Not Completed	Need plan and review
2007	Replace Shoshone Lift	Covered by the Master Plan	Need plan and review
2007	Lift 6	Covered by the Master Plan	Need plan and review.
2007	Lift 7	Covered by the Master Plan	Need plan and review.
TBD	Lift 8	Covered by the Master Plan	Need plan and review
TBD	Fred's Warming Hut	Covered by the Master Plan	Need plan and review.
TBD	Lightning Mtn Restaurant	Covered by the Master Plan	Need plan and review.
TBD	Tubing Venue	Covered by the Master Plan	Need plan and review, need to determine site
TBD	Mid Mountain Lift or Dreamcatcher Midway Unload	Not Completed	Need plan and review, need to determine site

# Grand Targhee 1, 5

**Alternative 1 - No-Action.** In this alternative, no additional development would occur on National Forest land. This alternative provides for the continuation of the existing situation at Targhee. Skiing capacity would remain at 2,000 skiers at one time (SAOT) on four lifts and 357 acres of ski runs. The area to be permitted would be increased to approximately 2,353 acres. Nordic and snowcat skiing would continue in Ricks Basin and Peaked Mountain respectively. In all alternatives the sewage lagoon would need to be replaced with a system approved by Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality.

**Alternative 2 - Maximum Development of Freds Mountain With Most Lodging Off-site.** This alternative would include replacement and relocation of the existing four lifts with new, higher capacity lifts. An optional fifth lift could also be built in Ricks Basin. Development would be to a capacity of approximately 3,740 SAOT on 467 acres of ski runs; 1.6 acres of maintenance/skier traverse road; and 1 mile of new summer use trail. The area to be permitted would be 2,412 acres. In addition to the lifts, on-site facilities would include 200 lodging units; 71,696 sq. ft. of skier services; 23,958 sq. ft. of commercial space; 8 acres of above ground parking; and 0.3 acres of below ground parking.

**Alternative 3 - Maximum Development of Freds Mountain With a Land Exchange.** This alternative would include the same lifts and skier capacity as Alternative 2 and would include a land exchange of approximately 100 acres of deeded land and 500 acres of scenic easements. The area to be permitted would be 2,312 acres. In addition to the mountain facilities described in Alternative 2, this alternative includes 435 lodging units; 71,696 sq. ft. of skier services; 26,129 sq. ft. of commercial space; 8 acres of above ground parking; and 0.8 acres of below ground parking.

**Alternative 4 - Increased Development of Freds and Peaked Mountains (Selected Alternative).** This alternative would have a capacity of 5,130 SAOT on eight lifts; 578 acres of ski runs; 9.8 acres of maintenance/skier traverse road; and 1 mile of new summer use trails. The area to be permitted would be 2,412 acres. Base facilities would include 686 lodging units; 98,342 sq. ft. of skier services; 37,906 sq. ft. of commercial space; 9.2 acres of above ground parking; and 1.4 acres of underground parking.

**Alternative 5 - Increased Development of Freds and Peaked Mountains With a Land Exchange.** This alternative would have approximately the same mountain facilities as Alternative 4. It would involve a land exchange of approximately 100 acres of deeded land and 750 acres of scenic easements. The area to be permitted would be 2,312 acres. In addition to the mountain facilities described in Alternative 4, this alternative includes 701 lodging units; 98,342 sq. ft. of skier services, 41,355 sq. ft. of commercial services; 9.2 acres of above ground parking; and 1.4 acres of underground parking.

**Alternative 6 - Increased Development of Freds and Peaked Mountains.** This alternative would increase capacity to 6,490 SAOT with eight lifts; 747 acres of ski runs; 10.5 acres of maintenance/skier traverse road; and 1 mile of new summer use trail. The area to be permitted would be 2,412 acres. Base facilities would include 939 lodging units; 124,413 sq. ft. of skier services; 51,945 sq. ft. of commercial space; 8 acres of above ground parking; and 3.5 acres of underground parking.

**Alternative 7 - Increased Development of Freds and Peaked Mountains With a Land Exchange - (Permittee's Master Development Plan Concept).** This alternative would have approximately the same skier capacity and mountain facilities as described for Alternative 6. It would involve a land exchange of approximately 200 acres of deeded land and 1,500 acres of scenic easements. The area to be permitted would be 2,176. On-site facilities would include 1,159 lodging units, 124,413 sq. ft. of skier services, 69,768 sq. ft. of commercial space; 8 acres of above ground parking; and 4.8 acres of below ground parking.

**Alternative 8 - Maximum Development of Freds and Peaked Mountains.** This alternative would increase capacity to 8,120 SAOT with 10 lifts; 827 acres of ski runs; 10.5 acres of maintenance/skier traverse road; and 1 mile of new summer use trail. The permit area would be increased to approximately 2,836 acres. Base facilities would include 1,247 lodging units; 155,660 sq. ft. of skier services; 69,006 sq. ft. of commercial space; 8 acres of above ground; and 5.7 acres of underground parking;

November 2004

NW-ID-2004-119

United States  
Department of  
Agriculture,  
Forest Service



# Environmental Assessment

## Construction of Ski Run 6A at Grand Targhee Ski and Summer Resort

Caribou-Targhee National Forest, Teton Basin Ranger District, U.S.  
Forest Service

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## Continued development of Peaked Mountain Expansion

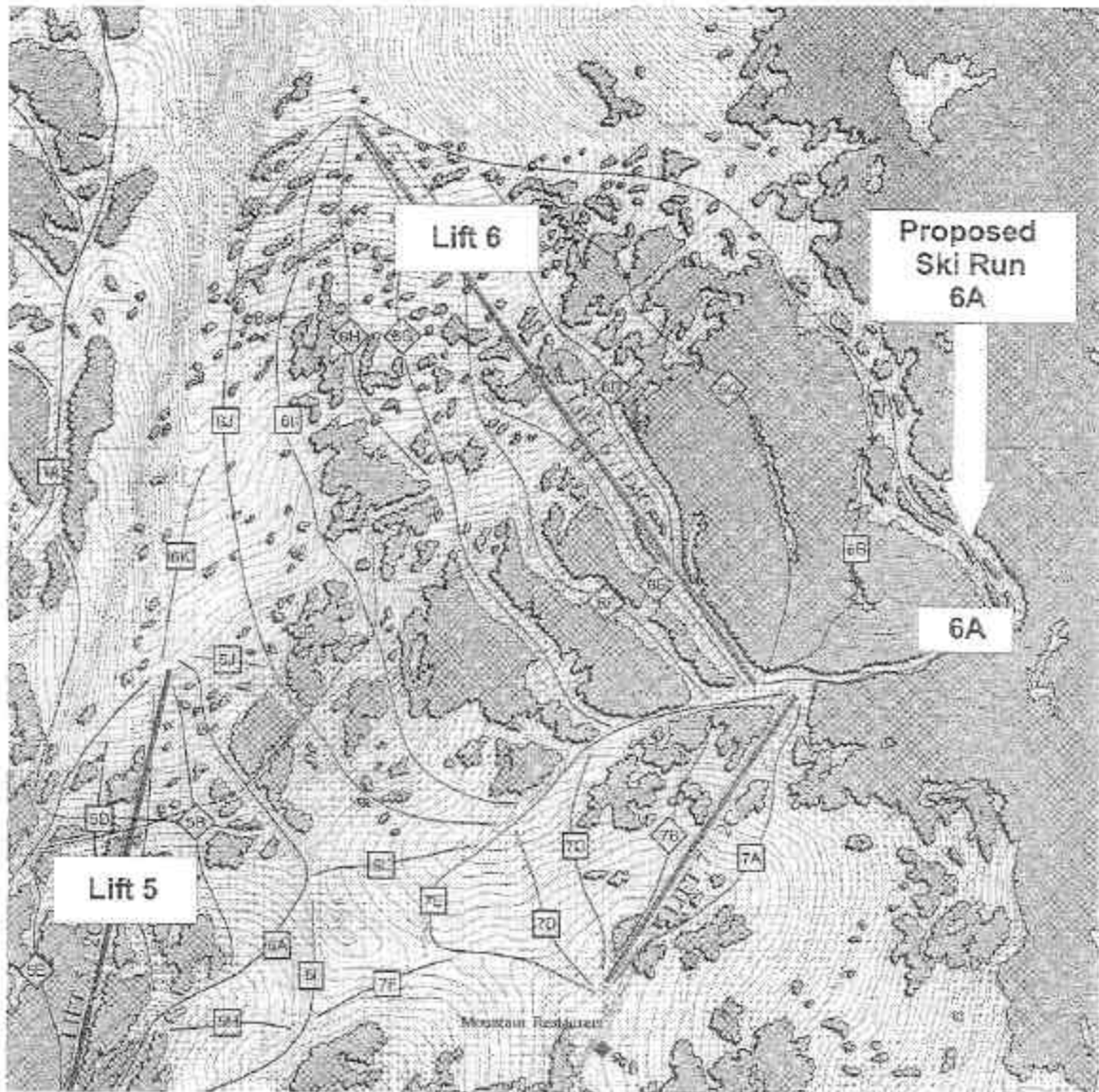


Figure 2. Grand Targhee Ski Resort – Peaked Mountain

The Mill Creek Traverse was proposed to provide access for the construction of Lifts 5 and 8, as well as access for skiers and maintenance equipment. Environmental analysis for construction of the traverse was completed in 1998. The following represent some of the effects that were identified:

- Disturbance of approximately three acres of wildlife habitat.
- Removal of timber equal to less than five percent of the maximum available forest habitat of potential nest area for boreal owl, flammulated owl, great gray owl, and northern goshawk with low risk of direct effect to nest trees.
- An increase in winter recreation use of the area.

Grand Targhee has completed environmental analysis for one phase of snowmaking. The snowmaking will occur on the lower mountain in the Dry Creek drainage. The impetus for the project is low snowfall levels in recent years. Additional snow is needed to address safety issues and skier experience level issues. In 2001 a Decision Memo was issued for the Grand Targhee Resort Snowmaking Proposal. The memo stated that the project would have no significant effect on the human environment, individually or cumulatively.

The installation of Lifts 5, 6, and 7 has begun. Lift 5 was installed and completed in 2002. Pod 5 is currently accommodating existing skier demand but may require more work in the future. Surveys for lift lines, terminal locations, and access roads are cleared and roughed in for Lifts 6 and 7. Lifts 6 and 7 will be installed and runs completed in two to five plus years depending on growth of skier numbers and demand. Effects of these projects were analyzed in the 1994 FEIS.

The Resort has been working with the Forest Service, Whitebark Pine Ecosystem Foundation, and volunteer groups to work on forest health issues. Whitebark pine trees were examined in the summer of 2003 for blister rust damage. In the summer of 2004 the Forest Service sprayed the whitebark pine stands on Fred's mountain to protect them from mountain pine beetle. Approximately 200 trees were sprayed with an insecticide that meets the Forest Plan requirements. Also in 2004, the Grand Targhee Resort Naturalist worked with the local Forest Service and Boy Scout volunteers and treated 20 acres of Douglas fir with anti-aggregation pheromone capsules to protect high risk trees from the Douglas fir beetle epidemic.

Modification of the east fork drainage near the Sacajawea lift is currently under construction. This project represents a partial realignment of Ski Run 5A from that proposed in the MDP. The reroute was proposed to lessen impacts from construction of 5A. The original location of the run was on a steep hill and would have potentially resulted in more disturbance. The modification of the east fork drainage was proposed to reduce the effects by constructing a large French drain in the east fork drainage to cover the stream. This project is approximately 0.9 miles from the location of Ski Run 6A and will be completed in 2004. Impacts from creation of Ski Run 5A were analyzed in the FEIS. A SIR was completed to analyze effects of the 5A reroute with the following conclusions.

- The 5A reroute would result in a completed project with a moderate rating for potential soil mass movement compared to a moderate-high rating for potential mass movement as proposed in the MDP. In addition, 5A as proposed in the MDP would result in less disturbed soils returning to productivity than the 5A reroute.