



Sustainable Slopes Charter

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"Sustainable Slopes" The Environmental Charter for Ski Areas

I. Planning, Design and Construction

Engaging local communities, environmental groups, government agencies and other stakeholders in up front and continuing dialogue on development plans and their implementation

GTR engages the governmental agencies DE, EPA, Wyoming Fish & Game, U.S. Wildlife, Corp. of Engineers, Public Service Commission, ANSI, and the U.S. Forest Service with the design and construction of all facilities. There is an Annual Project meeting every year in May to which the U.S. Forest Service, press, and environmental groups are invited. At this meeting, all of the next year's and up to five-year projects are reviewed and comments about projects are taken and considered in the planning. The Teton Area Advisory Forum (TAAF) was brought together to help facilitate this process. TAAF is a non-profit comprising members from the community, representing a wide variety of interests. These practices will continue for future facilities.

Asses environmental concerns and potential restoration opportunities at local and regional level

GTR strives to have efficiency in water, energy and fuel uses. GTR has installed water saving showerheads and minimum flow restaurant facilities in all construction since 1990 and has retrofitted showers in all of the older units with low flow heads. GTR is participating with Bombardier and Cummins on high efficiency, low emission Snowcat engines and will continue to do R&D work in that area. GTR is also participating in R&D using GPS systems to efficiently utilize grooming patterns that will minimize the time, and fuel needed for grooming. For the future, GTR will install minimum flow toilets, showerheads, and high efficiency dishwashers to minimize the flows. GTR uses blankets on its pool and hot tubs, during the night, to minimize heat loss. GTR has installed filter and harmonic equipment on all lifts to maximize efficiency of electric motors. GTR further operates lifts at a speed intended to minimize starts and stops, to reduce power consumption and lower maintenance needs.

Use high-density development or clustering to reduce sprawl, provide a sense of place, reduce the need for cars and enhance the pedestrian environment.

High-density development and clustering has been factored into the Master Plan to provide a sense of place and make it a pedestrian environment rather than a vehicular resort. Clustering and pedestrian activities will be the focus for future development.

Emphasize nature in the built environment of the ski area

Emphasis will be placed on maintaining the natural characteristics and environment of the ski area by doing minimum tree cutting, thinning and glading to the extent possible to provide a more natural mosaic and environment.

Meet or exceed requirements to minimize impacts associated with ski area construction

GTR is committed to providing a world class ski resort

Energy use for vehicle fleets

Reduce energy use in vehicles used for ski area operations.

New snow-cat engines have microprocessors, high efficiency fuel use and combustion motors. These engines reduce oil consumption and idle time is minimized. GTR participates now and will in the future support R&D equipment.

GTR is using two 4-stroke snowmobiles this winter and plans to purchase more in the future.

C. Waste Management

Waste Reduction

Reduce waste produced at ski area facility

GTR mills its own timber when possible from hazard trees that are removed from the area. Scrap timber removed from the permit area is also used as firewood in the lodges.

GTR recycles aluminum, office-pack, and plastics #1 and #2 and cardboard. Glass is taken to the local recycling center where they process it within their capabilities.

GTR supplies re-usable insulated plastic mugs for use by employees. These mugs will contain recycled content in all future orders. GTR encourages use of these mugs by offering discount sodas with the mug during employee meals.

GTR trained 25 of our upper-level supervisors in "Environmental Systems Management" through Environmental Training and Consulting International in August 2001.

GTR employee lunches are served on non-disposable plates, bowls, cups, and utensils.

Product Reuse

Re-use products and materials when possible

GTR re-uses office paper in printers and for notepads and will continue in the future.

GTR switched to plastic serving baskets, where possible, with paper liners rather than using disposable cups and plates.

GTR supplies all its employees and cat ski guests with reusable plastic mugs. GT encourages the use of mugs by offering discount sodas with these mugs.

Recycling

Increase the amount of materials recycled at ski areas

GTR recycles motor oil, cooking oil, hydraulic oil, antifreeze and solvents along with cardboard, glass, aluminum, rechargeable batteries, office-pack and plastics #1 and #2.

GTR has contracted with our office supply suppliers to purchase and use environmentally preferable office supplies whenever they are available. This includes processed chlorine-free paper products, products made from recycled materials and products that are recyclable.

GTR is currently researching recycled carpet for future carpet replacements.

Potential Hazardous Waste

Minimize the use of potentially hazardous materials, the generation of potentially hazardous waste and the risk of them entering the environment

Solvents are recycled.

Fuel is stored in a double-walled vessel that has a ballistic projectile rating.

Oil and water separators are employed in the Maintenance Shop and wetlands are annually monitored and tested to insure wetland protection.

Hazardous batteries, antifreeze and freon are all captured and disposed of as regulations dictate.

Recyclable radio batteries are collected and given to a recycling location.

Freon coolant will be replaced, in the future building, with alcohol cooling systems.

GTR has refinished most base area building's external walls with a water based and rapidly biodegradable stain. GTR plans to replace all previous stain with water based or environmentally preferable stains in future construction.

GTR's Housekeeping department has replaced 90% of

restoration, creation of other mitigation techniques. There is a minimum of 50 feet setback for many wetlands and that policy will be followed in the future. No expansion or construction will occur in wetlands at GTR. Downstream water quality below the wetlands will continue to be monitored. GTR ensures that wetlands are adequately covered with snow before winter ski season opens.

G. Air quality

Minimize ski area impacts to air quality. Reduce air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions as feasible. Two wood burning fireplaces have been converted to propane.

GTR has placed notices in the rooms asking guests to minimize the use of firewood.

GTR runs over 1,100 buses annually for guests and employees to decrease the number of vehicles used and minimize emissions.

GTR runs shuttles from its vacation rental properties in the valley and encourages the use of shuttles by allowing buses to park close to the base area buildings.

The GTR Master Plan calls for shuttles from the valley with the expansion of GTR. As the village is developed the emphasis will be on a pedestrian village as opposed to vehicular mode of transportation.

H. Visual quality

Create built environments that complement the natural surroundings.

GTR will have a maximum building height for new buildings at 35 foot and will use natural colors in building materials to minimize visual impacts.

Reflective glass and signs are avoided on lift terminals, mountain signs and structures. There will be no skyline or ridge-top development at GTR.

Explore partnerships with land conservation organizations and other stakeholders that can help protect open lands and their role in the visual landscape

In the past GTR has given financial contributions to the Jackson Hole Land Trust and the Teton Regional Land