

meter (100-foot) buffer between the elevation of the known draba population and the elevation of implementation of the Easy Street Run HR Prescription on *California Trail* has been included in the Proposed Action. The extent of the Tahoe draba populations and buffer will be verified before, during and after Easy Street Run HR Prescription on *California Trail* by an LTBMU botanist.

Galaxy Lift and Trail Improvements

Galaxy Replacement Lift

Heavenly proposes to replace the existing fixed-grip double Galaxy lift with a higher capacity detachable quad (the Galaxy Express), as discussed in the MPA 07. The lift alignment and terminal locations are identical to the existing lift. However, the high-speed quad would have a greater capacity and chair width than the fixed-grip double, necessitating a wider lift corridor. The existing lift corridor would be widened slightly to comply with ANSI B77.1 requirements—from roughly 30 feet to 33 feet wide.⁴ With the upgraded lift, its capacity has been calculated to increase from approximately 613 persons to 1,370 skiers-at-one-time.⁵ The higher capacity of this detachable lift would be accompanied by terrain additions in the Galaxy pod (discussed below).

Trees would be cut over-the-snow and placed in a location that is accessible by truck for removal during the dry season. Minor road surface improvements, including runoff control improvements and obstacle removal, would occur along segments of the existing summer maintenance road to the base terminal as part of the project.

Proposed New Trails with Snowmaking in the Galaxy Pod

Heavenly proposes to increase the skiable terrain in the Galaxy pod by constructing four new trails, which would supplement the existing *Galaxy* and *Perimeter* trails. The new trails in the Galaxy pod would accommodate skiers and snowboarders that learned in the teaching area at the top of the Gondola and that are ready to progress to Intermediate terrain. All of the trails in the Galaxy pod will be Intermediate, allowing for separation between different ability levels.

Conceptual alignments of all four new trails are described in Chapter 3 of the MPA 07. The following lengths and areas are slightly different from the MPA and reflect contemporary trail planning and in some cases known cultural resources:

- Proposed Trail U3 would be roughly 2,360 feet in length and approximately 5.4 acres in area.

⁴ ANSI B77.1

⁵ MPA 07 pg. 3-28

- Proposed Trail U4 would be roughly 1,500 feet in length and approximately 4.2 acres in area.

Proposed Trails 14 and 15 are intended to serve as important access trails between the Stagecoach and Galaxy pods.

- Proposed Trail 14 is roughly 3,500 feet in length and approximately 8.7 acres in area.
- Proposed Trail 15 is roughly 2,060 feet in length and approximately 5.3 acres in area.

Below ground snowmaking infrastructure will be installed for all new trails in the Galaxy pod—U3, U4, 14 and 15—totaling approximately 23.6 acres of snowmaking capability. Approximately 9,500 linear feet of underground snowmaking line would be installed on these four new trails. Snowmaking lines would be buried to a sufficient depth below the frost line. Heavenly uses a 30-foot wide disturbance corridor for installation of snowmaking lines to accommodate the trench, excavation equipment, piping material, and a temporary spoils pile necessary for snowmaking line installation. This equates to approximately 6.5 acres of temporary ground disturbance, as disturbed areas will be promptly stabilized and revegetated.

Proposed Snowmaking on Existing Trails in the Galaxy Pod

Heavenly proposes to install snowmaking infrastructure on the existing *Perimeter* and *Galaxy* trails, which are currently 100 percent reliant on natural snow for coverage. Approximately 10,800 feet of snowmaking line will be installed for these two trails, which would provide approximately 24.6 acres of new snowmaking coverage. This would entail roughly 7.4 acres of temporary ground disturbance necessary for installation of snowmaking lines.

Installation of snowmaking infrastructure would be implemented consistent with applicable provisions of the CERP.

Project Design Features, Mitigation and Monitoring

Activities associated with implementation of action alternatives could have localized, short-term effects. Design features have been incorporated into the Proposed Action to minimize or avoid effects to cultural resources, scenic resources, vegetation resources, wildlife, soils and watershed, air quality and wetlands (see Attachment A).

Implementing design features as described in this decision will be the responsibility of Heavenly as monitored under the SUP. In addition to these design features, requirements of permits from regulatory agencies are incorporated into my decision. Permits include: