

Keystone Resort

Area 51 Snowmaking Upgrades



Project Description

The snowmaking network in the Area 51 terrain park needs upgrades, as well as the replacement of existing pipelines. Keystone proposes the addition of approximately 3,228 feet of four inch snowmaking lines off existing lines with three spurs off the Main Street line. This upgrade in the snowmaking system would allow for better operation, higher efficiency, and reduced snow cat time for pushing piles.

The installation of these pipelines would occur in previously disturbed areas and would require trenching to a depth of roughly eight feet to prevent freezing, resulting in an area of disturbance no wider than 40 feet. The overall area of disturbance would be approximately 3.67 acres. Upon completion, backfill and full re-vegetation would occur using a mixture of native and non native grass species free of noxious weeds.

Site Map(s) Attached.

Sum of '05

Forest Service Requirements (Completed by Winter Sports Specialists): *NE*

Specialists Report (): _____ Forest Service Special Review (): *PSE*

Within scope of MDP Phase I EA? Yes () No ()

Other Requirements:

- Field review*
- Greg Laurie - review of streamhealth consistency*
- BA/BE for ground disturbance*
- Follow BMPs*
- Access Plan for equipment*

Field Review Dates: *5/13/05* _____

Project Approval: Date: *6/10/05* _____ Completion Date: _____

Initial: *J. P. T.* _____ Initial: _____

Keystone Resort



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

White River
National
Forest

Dillon Ranger District
P.O. Box 620
680 Blue River Parkway
Silverthorne, CO 80498
(970) 468-5400
FAX (970) 468-7735

File Code: 7500

Date: November 22, 2004

Dear Interested Public:

The US Forest Service, Dillon Ranger District, is inviting public comment as part of an environmental analysis process evaluating the anticipated effects of proposed upgrades to the Keystone Resort snowmaking system. In February 2004, the Forest Service initiated a scoping process for a proposed 110 acre-foot capacity snowmaking reservoir. After review and analysis, Keystone Resort and the Forest Service have identified a more preferable project, which is now being evaluated. The current proposal involves construction of a buried pipeline from the Robert's Tunnel that would carry water directly to Keystone's existing snowmaking system. The proposal also includes development of a smaller (approximately 20 acre-feet) snowmaking reservoir (see attached map).

Your questions and comments regarding this proposal are an integral part of the environmental analysis process. Comments should be used to identify issues and develop alternatives to this proposal. Commenter should include: 1) name, address, telephone number, and organization represented, if any; 2) the title of the document for which the comment is being submitted; 3) specific facts, concerns or issues, and supporting reasons for the Responsible Official to consider. A summary of the analysis will be published in an Environmental Assessment (EA) and distributed to interested public.

Comments should be submitted to: Rick Newton- District Ranger, Dillon Ranger District, P.O. Box 620, Silverthorne, CO 80498, 970-468-7735 (fax). For additional information contact Joe Foreman at 970-262-3443 or via e-mail at jgforeman@fs.fed.us. In order to be included in this analysis, comments must be postmarked or received by December 10, 2004. *Persons not responding to this mailing will not receive further information regarding this particular project.*

Sincerely,

J. RICHARD (RICK) NEWTON
District Ranger

Enclosure





**Scoping Notice for Keystone Resort
Ski Tip Lift and Trail Development
White River National Forest
Summit County, Colorado**

Dear Interested Public,

The US Forest Service, Dillon Ranger District, is inviting public comment as part of an environmental analysis process evaluating the anticipated effects from the proposed development of a lift system and associated trails and snowmaking near the Ski Tip neighborhood. The proposal would include several projects intended to create an additional out-of-base portal at Keystone Resort (see enclosed map). The Dillon Ranger District will hold an open house on Wednesday, July 10, 2002 from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM and from 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM at the Dillon Ranger District office at 680 Blue River Parkway in Silverthorne. The purpose of the open house is to provide information, answer questions, and collect comments regarding the proposed Ski Tip development at Keystone Resort.

PROPOSED ACTION:

The Ski Tip Lift – New Installation

The proposal would install a new "down-slope-friendly" lift east of the existing Summit Express Lift and River Run Gondola and west of Jones Gulch. The new lift would be approximately 3,500 feet in length with its top terminal located immediately east of the midpoint of the existing Santa Fe Trail and adjacent to the Spring Dipper Traverse (10,600 feet elevation). The bottom terminal location would be on private land approximately 2,700 feet east of the existing bottom terminal of the Summit Express. The lift would provide an uphill capacity of approximately 1,900 persons per hour. Vegetation clearing on National Forest land necessary for the construction of the proposed lift alignment would total approximately 3.4 acres.

Public access to the proposed new lift would be provided by the existing resort transportation system (i.e., buses). Currently, the majority of day visitors park in outlying parking areas and are shuttled to either of the two existing base portals. Guests would be delivered to the Ski Tip portal in a similar fashion. The proposed portal would include a drop-off area and essential skier arrival services (ticketing, rentals, toilets, ski school, and miscellaneous retail). The base area master plan also provides for up to 40 additional public parking spaces at the proposed portal.

Two Surface Lifts – New Installation

Two surface lifts, each approximately 850 feet in length, are proposed for installation east of the proposed Dercum's Dash Extension (detailed below). These surface lifts allow skiers of lower ability to return to the Ski Tip portal primarily during afternoon egress periods. These transfer lifts would allow skiers to more efficiently traverse back



to the Ski Tip Portal. Installation of the two surface lifts as a continuance of the Dercum's Dash Extension would require approximately 1.5 acres of vegetation clearing on National Forest.

Ski Tip Trail – New Construction

The Ski Tip Trail is proposed to originate near the intersection of the existing Santa Fe Trail and Spring Dipper Traverse. The trail continues northeast and terminates on private land at the proposed Ski Tip Portal. The trail would be generally 200 feet in width and cover an area of approximately 13.9 acres on National Forest. The entirety of the Ski Tip trail would be located to the west of Jones Gulch. Skier ability level for the proposed trail would be advanced-intermediate to expert.

Dercum's Dash – Trail Extension

The existing Dercum's Dash Trail, providing a west-to-east traverse for skiers between the Schoolmarm Trail and the River Run Trail, would be extended to continue to the east of the River Run Trail. The proposed extension would reclaim a previously impacted remnant ski trail east of the River Run Trail continuing east across the lower portion of Keystone Mountain to the toe of slope. Clearing for the proposed trail extension would total approximately 1.1 acres on National Forest. Dercum's Dash Extension in combination with the two surface lifts detailed above would provide for the transfer of skiers – particularly those with lower ability levels – back to the Ski Tip Portal.

Snowmaking – New Installation

Approximately 19.9 acres of snowmaking coverage on National Forest are proposed for the planned Ski Tip Trail and the Dercum's Dash Extension. The implementation of snowmaking on the two proposed trails would provide the necessary season-long snow surface for egress through the portal. Necessary air and water lines would be buried in the trail and would tie to Keystone's surrounding snowmaking infrastructure. Installation would involve a disturbance width of approximately 40 feet. Hydrants would be installed roughly every 100 feet to allow for maximum operational flexibility.

Keystone 5

PURPOSE AND NEED FOR ACTION:

The White River National Forest and Keystone Resort have cooperatively identified a need to reduce the existing crowding at Keystone Resort. The specific needs were identified from a comparison of desired conditions with the current situation and the implementation of Forest Plan goals and objectives. The purpose and need for action are detailed below.

Purpose

To reduce visitor congestion issues at ingress/egress (entry/exit) locations on the front side of Keystone Resort, particularly during morning and afternoon periods.

Existing Condition

A recent circulation and capacities analysis of visitor movement patterns at Keystone Resort indicated that the two existing ingress/egress portals (i.e., River Run and Mountain House) are over-utilized and experience crowding. Furthermore, the analysis showed that development of a third portal would reduce overall congestion at the