

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Pacific
Southwest
Region



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Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Kirkwood Mountain Resort

2003 Mountain Master
Development Plan

Eldorado National Forest



Kirkwood 5

This proposed Forest Plan amendment is consistent with the developed recreation theme of the SUP area, and is not anticipated to negatively impact the long-term relationship between levels of good and services on the ENF in any way.

4. Management Prescription

Whether the change would apply only to a specific situation or to future situations across the planning area.

This is a site-specific amendment that would apply only to the Emigrant Valley area within the SUP for Kirkwood, and would not apply to the remainder of Management Area 4, nor any additional current or future management situations on the ENF.

Snowmaking

Due to the antiquated nature of the 1995 Snowmaking EIR/EA approvals, this EIS includes a re-analysis of the remaining previously approved snowmaking coverage on NFS lands. In addition to previously-approved, unimplemented snowmaking coverage, Kirkwood proposes coverage on additional terrain within its SUP that was not previously analyzed. Thus, as displayed in Table 2-1, at full build-out, Kirkwood's snowmaking coverage would total approximately 170.7 acres of terrain across NFS and private lands. Figure 2-2 provides locations of existing, previously approved and proposed snowmaking coverage. Additional information on snowmaking is provided in Table 2-2.

**Table 2-1:
Snowmaking Coverage**

	Coverage
Existing Coverage (NFS & private)	59.7 acres
Previously Approved (private)	60.1 acres
Proposed Coverage (NFS)	50.9 acres
Total	170.7 acres

The emphasis of the expanded snowmaking program at Kirkwood would be coverage for low elevation trails, coverage for critical trails that return to the resort's villages, and coverage for the terrain that provides return routes from the Emigrant Valley. Snowmaking infrastructure would be phased in response to new lift/terrain projects. New trenches would need to be excavated and blasted for installation of air and water lines. New manifold/hydrant valves and vaults would need to be excavated/blasted, as well. Finally, new suction pumps and pump house booster pumps would be necessary to accommodate the existing and upgraded snowmaking system. All disturbed soil along pipeline routes would be re-vegetated with native species.

Snowtubing

Because Kirkwood's existing snowtubing facility is located partially on private land at Kirkwood Mountain Village that is zoned as multi-family residential and commercial, Kirkwood proposes to relocate its snowtubing facility to a mix of public and private lands

Kirkwood 5

Fork of the Cosumnes River, (3) east of the Sacramento County line, and (4) west of Pollock Pines. (95,T,I,97:21-99:9; EDCWA,78, Plate 1.) Water would be used for domestic, municipal, and irrigation purposes.

El Dorado Irrigation District (EID) has also entered into an agreement to purchase PG&E's rights to use the lakes, the water from the lakes, and its hydroelectric generation facilities. (95,EDCWA,94,9.) The agreement is subject to approval by both the California Public Utilities Commission (PUC) and FERC. (95,T,I,105:21-106:9.) El Dorado's petition and applications are not dependent upon the agreement; however, El Dorado's eventual acquisition of PG&E's hydroelectric project could have an effect on the protestants and other competing applications and petitions for water within the lakes operated by PG&E.

2.2 Kirkwood, Inc.'s Project

Kirkwood, Inc.'s petition and applications seek to appropriate water for snowmaking at the Kirkwood Ski Resort. Under two applications, up to 500 afa of water would be diverted to storage in Caples Lake between November 1 and June 30 of the following year. Up to 4.2 cfs would also be directly diverted for snowmaking between November 1 and March 1 of the following year. The ski resort is situated within several miles of Caples Lake and near the nexus of Amador, Alpine, and El Dorado Counties. (95,SWRCB,A-30204.)

2.3 Kirkwood PUD

Kirkwood PUD and the U.S. El Dorado National Forest filed an application to appropriate 0.69 cfs of water by direct diversion from Caples Lake between November 1 through June 15 of the following year for municipal use. The water is for municipal use within the district's service area which is in the immediate