

Project Name	Project Purpose	Planning Status	Decision	Expected Implementation	Project Contact
Mt. Hood National Forest Global Signals Mt. Defiance Upgrade CE	Hood River Ranger District (excluding Projects occurring in more than one District) - Special use management	Developing Proposal Est. Scoping Start 01/2007	Expected:03/2007	07/2007	Doug Jones 541-352-6002 dgjones@fs.fed.us
	<b>Description:</b> Global Signals proposes new concrete radio building added to their facility on Mt. Defiance to enhance communication between law enforcement in the Gorge. Building would be premade concrete hauled to site with special trailer and a dozer.				
	<b>Location:</b> UNIT - Hood River Ranger District. STATE - Oregon. COUNTY - Hood River. LEGAL - T2N, R9E, Sec 20. Mt. Defiance Communication Site.				
Indian Mountain Repeater Site Installation CE	- Facility management	Developing Proposal Est. Scoping Start 01/2007	Expected:05/2007	06/2007	Leonides Segovia 541-352-6002 lsegovia02@fs.fed.us
	<b>Description:</b> Installing a new tower and building on Indian Mountain for communications equipment.				
	<b>Location:</b> UNIT - Hood River Ranger District. STATE - Oregon. COUNTY - Hood River. LEGAL - T. 1N 8E, Section 21, Willamette Meridian. Indian Mountain is west of the town of Dee, OR, just south of Wantum Lake and the Columbia Wilderness boundary..				
Mt. Hood Meadows Ski Resort Parking CE	- Special use management	Developing Proposal Est. Scoping Start 11/2006	Expected:05/2007	07/2007	Doug Jones 541-352-6002 dgjones@fs.fed.us
	<b>Description:</b> The Mt. Hood Meadows ski area proposes to develop new parking in the Hood River Meadows area.				
	<b>Location:</b> UNIT - Hood River Ranger District. STATE - Oregon. COUNTY - Hood River. Hood River Meadows area.				
Mt. Hood Meadows Ski Resort Snowmaking EA	- Special use management	On Hold	N/A	N/A	Doug Jones 541-352-6002 dgjones@fs.fed.us
	<b>Description:</b> The Mt. Hood Meadows ski area plans to install a snowmaking system that includes buried pipelines and electric cable, a 4 million gallon storage tank, and a 1.1 cfs water diversion from East Fork Hood River.				
	<b>Location:</b> UNIT - Hood River Ranger District. STATE - Oregon. COUNTY - Hood River. LEGAL - T2S, R9E, Sec. 3 W.M. Mt. Hood Meadows Ski Resort.				



United States  
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Mt. Hood  
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File Code: 1950/2720

Date: April 8, 2005

## Mount Hood Meadows 5

Dear People Interested in Mt. Hood Meadows Ski Resort:

I am writing you this scoping letter to solicit your thoughts and comments on a proposed development at Mt. Hood Meadows this summer. After one of the worst winter droughts in Oregon history, Mt. Hood Meadows is proposing to install a small snowmaking system to serve the lower parts of the mountain. The system could be used to apply snow to the Buttercup, Main Base and Eric's Corner area early in the winter to start the ski season, but mostly the system would be used to supplement an existing skiing opportunity when natural snow is not sufficient. There often is enough snow in the middle or high areas of the ski area, but not adequate coverage at the bottom for skiers to ski back down.

Snowmaking was never envisioned in the past and was not included in the thinking behind the area's Master Development Plan. However, I feel that the addition of such a system is an operational change that does not affect the capacity of the permit area, skier patterns or building development other than a storage tank and pump house. Snowmaking is consistent with the operations of many other ski areas on National Forest System lands including resorts in Oregon and on the Mt. Hood National Forest (Summit and Timberline).

Below you will find narratives about the proposal. An attached map displays the details of the proposal.

- New water rights must be obtained from the State of Oregon prior to final approval of construction plans by the Forest Service.
- Water rights for 1.1 cubic feet per second (cfs) diverted from the East Fork Hood River have been applied for. If a water right certificate is issued, it would only be usable November 1 through March 31 so downstream irrigators would not be affected. The water rights applications and proposed action include leaving a **minimum** of 1.5 cfs water in the stream channel at all times.
- The water diversion would be at the upper end of the existing culvert that goes under the sewage treatment plant road. Although no fish are present in this reach of the stream, a screen and design feature will keep animals, rocks and debris from being drawn up.
- The proposed system includes a 1 million gallon steel water storage tank. Two potential sites are drawn on the map. Site A would be located in a spot along the same road, about 300 ft. from the diversion. This site would be used if new water rights for the river are secured. Site B, closer to the well on North Canyon summer road, would be used if water is only taken from the well and the existing systems. The tank would have an open top and would be colored dark green, dark gray or black. The tank would be approximately 78 feet in diameter and 29 feet high. Site A preparation includes the



removal of 11 live trees and about 8 dead trees. They range in size from 8" to about 28" in diameter. Site B also has 11 live trees that are larger in diameter. (For reference, a tree is counted if over 6 in. diameter) These locations were identified after receiving comments from the *Friends of Mt. Hood*. Among a variety of comments provided, that group listed objectives of finding a location that would be less visible, and also to minimize the number and size of trees needing to be cut.

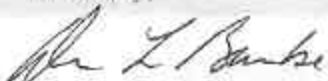
- A small electric pump at the creek would feed water to the storage tank where a larger electric pump would send the water through a system of welded steel pipe at high pressure (minimum of 150 pounds per square inch pressure needed).
- Water would also be diverted from the existing domestic system at the top of Reservoir Hill, and from the new well located along the North Canyon summer road near the bottom of the Stadium trail. This water would augment that taken from the East Fork.
- An amended water right, adjusting the season of use of the .5 cfs water right from the existing new well has also been applied for. The requested dates are also November 1 through March 31.
- The water pipes would deliver water to the whole system in pipes buried 4 feet deep. The trenching for the pipe would occur in previously disturbed areas like service roads, ditches and ski trails. No trees would be cut. No wetlands are involved, and no significant riparian areas would be entered by the trenching. There would be about 14,000 linear feet of buried pipe.
- No chemical or organic additives would be used as additives to the water for snowmaking at this time. If the permittee wishes to propose that in the future, a new environmental review would need to be conducted for that proposal.
- The system would be somewhat complicated to a lay person with water from three sources going to tank, but simply put: snow would be made only when the temperatures are cold enough, and when the storage tank is full. Scientifically, snow can be made 24 hours a day, 7 days a week if the temperatures are cold, but the water supply is a limiting factor – the snow guns would be shutdown when the tank is drained so more diverted water can refill it. If/when the flow of the stream drops below 1.5 cfs, the diversion pump switches off.
- The permittee plans to purchase 10-15 electric fan snowmaking guns initially. They can be moved around to different locations where hydrants from the pipeline are located. The guns are very quiet and, at other ski areas, do not bother skiers with noise when they are running.
- The proposed system would have the ability to cover about 31.5 acres with snow.
- The project is expected to result in 4.3 acres of disturbed soil. On areas where soil disturbance occurs erosion control measures will be implemented to minimize the potential for soil erosion. Approval of the project design and notice to proceed will not be provided until review and approval of the erosion control work has been completed by a Soil Scientist and Hydrologist.

Based on preliminary review, this project appears to fit within the criteria for categorical exclusion (CE) from documentation in an Environmental Assessment (EA) or Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). In order to allow the permittee adequate time to prepare for work in the summer in the event that this proposal is approved I must reach a decision on this proposal in early June 2005. **I would like to receive any comments or thoughts you have about this proposal by April 26, 2005, including specific comments between the alternative tank locations.**

**Although there is not a formal public review process with CE's, prior to making my final decision, I will make a draft Decision Memo and analysis file available to anyone who would like to review it and make comments. This will allow for more public involvement. If you send us comments, please note whether you also want to receive the draft document.**

Please direct your comments to Project Manager Doug Jones at this office or via [djones@fs.fed.us](mailto:djones@fs.fed.us). You certainly can contact him prior to April 26<sup>th</sup> if you have any questions about the project. If Doug does not acknowledge your email within 2-3 work days, please call his extension #682 as we may be having problems with our firewalls and internet gateway. During the week of April 18-22, he will be away at training and only able to access his voicemail for messages.

Sincerely,

  
DAINA L. BAMBE  
District Ranger