

# ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR MASTER PLAN IMPROVEMENTS MISSION RIDGE SKI AREA AUGUST 2000

## Action Alternatives

The implementation of these alternatives could further displace large mammals such as wolverine, lynx and gray wolves which are active during the winter months and sensitive to human disturbance. This possible displacement may not constitute an "adverse effect" on an individual species, but it could reduce the diversity of species occupying the permit area. When these issues of wildlife and habitat diversity are considered on a larger scale, possible effects are reduced. Species diversity within the Mission Creek, and Stemilt Creek Watersheds would not be adversely impacted by any of the Action Alternatives, because only Squilchuck is subjected to large amounts of human disturbance during the winter.

### 3.2.4.6.3. Raptor Nest Sites

Raptors are afforded protection by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. There are known raptor nest sites within the permit area.

Q. How would the proposed action affect raptor nest sites?

#### Alternative 1

The implementation of this alternative would not cause harm to any raptor nest sites, because no known nests exist.

#### All Action Alternatives

The implementation of these alternatives would not cause harm to any known raptor nest sites, because none exist. A sharp-shinned hawk nest site was found during surveys for northern goshawks in 1996. This nest site was over 1/4 mile away from any proposed construction activity.

### 3.2.4.6.4. Wetland and Riparian Habitats

(Refer to Section 3.3.1)

### 3.2.4.6.5. Late Successional Forest

Late-successional forests are mature stands with multi-storied canopies, high concentrations of downed woody debris, and large snags. Certain wildlife species are dependent on this type of forest and can be sensitive to alterations.

Within the Squilchuck Watershed, late-Successional forests on private land have been heavily thinned in the last five years.

Q. How would the proposed action affect late-successional forests?

#### Alternative 1

The implementation of this alternative would not include removal of any late-successional forests.

#### Alternative 2

Implementation of this alternative would include the treatment of about 20 acres of mature forest in the Central Park area. Some of these acres consist of 20"+ dbh Douglas fir with 40-50' spacing between the trees. This is a mature stand but does not exhibit the characteristics of high concentrations of downed woody material and snags normally associated with late-successional forests. Proposed ski runs in this area would consist of tree skiing and open glades. Given the lack of late-successional forest characteristics and the planned utilization of existing openings, implementation of this alternative would not affect late-successional forests.

#### Alternative 3

Implementation of this alternative would not include the removal of any late-successional forests.

### 3.2.4.6.6. Sandstone Cliffs and Rock Outcrops

Sandstone cliffs and rock outcrops are important unique habitats which provide nesting, roosting, and foraging opportunities for numerous birds and mammals. Care should be taken when activities occur near these sites. A buffer of trees and other types of vegetation can maintain the utility of a den or roost site.

**Mission 4b**