

(USDA 1996) approving an increase in the SUP area to the current 1,138 acres and the addition of several lifts, ski trails, a hiking/biking trail, and the expansion of the snowmaking operation.

Since the 1996 decision, the MSB has delayed or modified some of the remaining projects approved in that decision based on economic considerations and the requirement by the LNF to complete improvements to Snowbowl Road/Forest Road (FR) 698 (herein identified as simply Snowbowl Road); the LNF stipulated that MSB could implement only projects that enhanced beginner or intermediate skiing until Snowbowl Road was widened. Improvements (i.e., projects) that were approved in the 1996 decision but delayed would be delayed pending the approval of the proposed MSB expansion onto TV Mountain (the Proposed Action in this Environmental Impact Statement [EIS]). Improvements that were modified were subsequently included in the MDP (MSB 2004). Those activities are part of the Proposed Action and are therefore analyzed in this EIS.

In summary, if an improvement action was approved in the 1996 LNF authorization but not yet implemented, it is analyzed in this EIS as either a Connected Action or a part of the Proposed Action.

## 1.2 PROPOSED ACTION

The MSB is proposing to expand its alpine ski and summer resort to LNF land on TV Mountain in the general location of where the original Snow Park Ski Area was permitted and operated (Section 1.1). This expansion proposal is summarized in a revised MDP (MSB 2004) that was accepted by the LNF on December 6, 2004.

→ The proposed expansion would increase the existing SUP area by 1,105 acres to 2,243 acres (Figure 1-1). New facilities on LNF land would include ski trails, lifts, buried lines (power, water, and wastewater), a snowmaking reservoir, hiking and mountain bike trails, two wastewater drainfields, a maintenance building, and a lodge.

Chapter 2 provides a comprehensive listing of the elements of the Proposed Action and a tabular comparison of project components.

A new SUP would be required to implement the Proposed Action. This SUP would authorize additional development, construction, and operation of resort facilities on Forest Service land (in this case, Forest Service land administered by the LNF). The SUP would be granted under the authority of the National Forest Ski Area Permit Act of 1986 (16 United States Code [USC] 497b). This Act authorizes the Forest Service to issue term ski area permits "for the use and occupancy of suitable Nordic and alpine skiing operations and purposes" (Section 3(b)). The Act also states that a permit shall encompass such acreage as the Forest Service "determines sufficient and appropriate to accommodate the permittee's needs for ski operations and appropriate ancillary facilities" (Section 3(b)).

The Proposed Action includes an amendment to the Forest Plan. This amendment would change approximately 706 acres from MA 16 (timber production) and 399 acres from MA 25 (timber production) to MA 8 (ski areas). The total new SUP area would be 2,243 acres with this addition of 1,105 acres of LNF land in the proposed expansion. The current SUP allows MSB to operate on 1,138 acres of LNF land.