

## **DEAR EXPANSION SUPPORTERS, September 25, 2007**

The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals has issued it's opinion, and finds that the Forest Service did not sufficiently evaluate impact on the pacific fisher, and that 35 acres (MS22) should be subject to riparian reserve or restricted watershed requirements. It did not overrule other findings that favored the forest service and the expansion, however it appears that these issues would have to be addressed before expansion could progress.

We hope to hear soon from the Mt Ashland Association and what the implications will be for all of us.

To see the actual opinion click [this link](#) to the Ninth Circuit Court website and look under "opinions" and "Oregon Natural Resources v. Goodman."

You can also download the pdf directly.

# MT. ASHLAND ASSOCIATION

Dbas: Mt. Ashland Ski Area

2007

Summer Work Plan

Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest

Ashland Ranger District

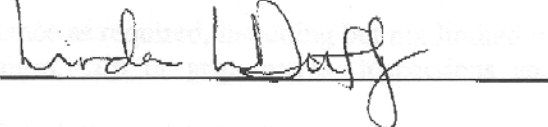
Prepared and Reviewed By: **Kim Clark** General Manager

Date: 5-17-07 Sign: 

Reviewed By: **Steve Johnson** Snow Ranger

Date: 5/22/07 Sign: 

Approved By: **Linda Duffy** District Ranger

Date: 6/1/07 Sign: 

- 5) Analyze south side road markers attrition and repair as needed. Remove orange stakes for summer.

***Projects Authorized by the September 2004 Mt. Ashland Expansion Record of Decision***

**General**

- 1) Project definition, engineering and planning is ongoing in all areas. We will submit, under separate cover, an addendum to this work plan for any and all work related to the approved Project.

Please do not hesitate to call with any questions or requests for additional information regarding this Summer Work Plan.

Sincerely,

Kim Clark  
General Manager



Re: SUMMER WORKPLAN AMENDMENT 6-15-06  
June 15, 2006

Linda Duffy  
Ashland District Ranger USFS  
645 Washington Street  
Ashland OR 97520

## Mt. Ashland 1

Dear Linda:

In this letter the Mt. Ashland Ski Area would like to amend the Summer Work Plan submitted on June 1, 2006 to include additional details relating to expansion projects, to be prepared to start ground disturbing activities as soon as mid- September, 2006, assuming that we receive by that time a favorable court ruling on the expansion Record of Decision and the Forest Service authorizes us to proceed,

This letter serves to provide you with those details related to the specific expansion projects described in the June 1 plan, in anticipation of preparing our staff, volunteers, and the necessary consultants and contractors for the pending work. Mt. Ashland has commenced meetings with the USFS timber sales staff in expectation of completing the timber sale cruise and sale contract document this summer. We intend to be ready to commence falling and yarding of merchantable timber from the approved expansion area and existing runs on September 15, 2006 or as soon thereafter as authorized by the Forest Service.

Mt. Ashland has entered into an agreement with the S-E Group to be on site the week of July 10, 2006 to re-mark the approved trails for clearing. The trees will initially be flagged and then painted with approved colors for a more durable marking. In addition we are in negotiation with Michael Hogan of Integrated Environmental Restoration to oversee our pre-disturbance monitoring and post disturbance restoration as described in the EIS.

Mt. Ashland is also in the negotiating phases with a local prime helicopter logging company to be prepared to clear all runs and areas designated for clearing in the expansion plans after authorization by the Forest Service. It is our full intention to complete all timber sale contract obligations by summer of 2007.

While there is still a lot of work to be done before this project starts on the ground we are committed to being 100% ready by mid September. If there is anything else that we need to do, or can assist with to meet the planned start date of the project please let us know.

Please do not hesitate to call with any questions.  
Sincerely,

Kim Clark  
General Manger  
Mt. Ashland  
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[kclark@mtashland.com](mailto:kclark@mtashland.com)

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*Mt. Ashland Association is a non-profit organization formed under Section 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Code.*

United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest Service

Pacific Northwest  
Region - Pacific  
Southwest Region

September  
2004



# RECORD OF DECISION

## Mt. Ashland Ski Area Expansion

Rogue River -Siskiyou National Forest  
Ashland Ranger District

Klamath National Forest  
Scott River Ranger District



## **Snowplay – South Ridge Tubing Facility**

I authorize the South Ridge Tubing Facility, which includes a yurt, toilets, a parking lot for approximately 20 vehicles, a surface lift, night lighting, power, 4 acres of tree clearing, and a 200-foot administrative service road. The Tubing Facility provides much needed non-traditional terrain and a diversity of recreation opportunity for non-skiers. Tubing or sledding is not allowed on the alpine ski slopes because of safety considerations. There is no other place in Jackson County for lift-served tubing.

## **Ski Runs**

# **Mt. Ashland 1**

My decision will result in approximately 71 acres of new Beginner to Expert skill level terrain, constituting approximately 57% increase over the existing 125 acres for a total of 196 acres of total developed terrain at MASA. With this decision, there are approximately 15.4 acres of existing ski runs where ability level changes to lower level terrain (this is the same as Alternatives 2 and 6), resulting in terrain distribution that is closer to industry standards and at more appropriate slope gradients for standards associated with Beginner terrain (see Table ROD-2 for terrain percentages compared to industry standards resulting from my decision).

I chose the run configuration of Alternative 6 in the Middle Fork area because compared to Alternative 2, the fraction of the Middle Fork area spruce grove that would be cut is less, 1.0 acre instead of 1.8 acres. This is because the location of Runs 14 and 12 has been shifted in a manner that avoids more of the spruce trees and wetland and further minimizes fragmentation of the spruce wetland plant community. Direct effects to wetlands are also reduced, 0.5 acre instead of 0.8 acres out of the 43 acres within and adjacent to the Special Use Permit area.

While some of the main features of Alternative 6 are problematic, the overall ski run configuration associated with Alternative 6 appears to be better, both in attainment of Purpose and Need and environmental consequences. Certain run locations and the way runs cross the Lower Wetlands area are more desirable because of the environmental protection they offer. **For these reasons, I have selected the inclusion of Run 12B (Alternative 6 version), and Run 14 (Alternative 6 version). I am also including Component IM-3 for the Lower Run 12 Wetland Crossing and the requirement for a lightweight, low ground pressure machine for run clearing, because of the soil and water protection these requirements provide.** These runs, and design and construction requirements provide greater protection to the Middle Fork and Lower Wetlands area.

Alternative 6 run configuration does not include Run 11 (an Expert Run that does not add to the need for additional Beginner and Novice terrain) and I have not included Run 11 in my decision. The run configuration associated with Alternative 6 includes Run 19. **Run 19 adds Intermediate ski terrain and I am including it in my decision.**

Because my decision includes the Skiway as part of the ski terrain, **I have decided to include gladed Run 18G in my decision.** Because of the Skiway, the area would be used and is best developed at this time. **There are minimal environmental effects associated with limited small tree removal for development of this run.**

## **Runs –Widening of Existing Runs**

Some existing ski runs present unsafe conditions and do not meet current ski area safety standards relative to width, skier densities, and slope angle. I am authorizing the widening and recontouring of the Sonnet run in order to provide lower densities and more appropriate slope angles for Beginners.