

Mitigation Measures

The Forest Service prior to their cutting would approve trees that may need to be cut for any of the included projects.

Trees cut would be felled and left in place for large woody debris recruitment.

Use silt fencing and straw bales as required to minimize soil erosion in areas where soil is disturbed. Disturbed soil would be reseeded with sterile wheat, white oats and/or soft white winter wheat immediately after completion of the project as recommended by the Mt. Baker Ranger District botanist.

Chair 5 towers would be cut at ground level and the concrete foundations would be brought below ground level as needed and covered with topsoil, mulched and seeded.

All structural steel debris generated from the chair upgrades would be recycled or otherwise disposed of in an appropriate manner off National Forest Land.

All wood structural components generated from the chair upgrades would be recycled or otherwise disposed of in an appropriate manner off National Forest Land. Creosoted material or any plastics would not be burned.

Construction debris burn piles and their location would require Forest Service approval before burning is permitted.

Decision

It is my decision to proceed with the proposed Mt. Baker Ski Area infrastructure upgrades. These proposed projects would involve minor ground disturbance and would improve the health and safety aspects the ski area operations.

This action is categorically excluded from documentation in an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement, as provided in Forest Service Handbook 1909.15; Chapter 30; Section 31.2: Category 3- Approval, Modification or Continuation or minor special uses of National Forest System lands that require less than five contiguous acres of land; Category 2- Additional construction or reconstruction of existing telephone or utility lines in a designated corridor. There are no extraordinary circumstances that might cause this action to have significant effects.

Public Involvement

A scoping letter was mailed to interested individuals and groups to solicit issues and concerns. One response was received and substantive comments are addressed in this document.

Internal scoping within the Forest Service produced no significant issues.