

Mt. Rose 1

Addendum to Summer Work Plan for Summer 2003

Lift Line preparation New Chutes Lift

After analyzing our summer work schedule for 2004, which includes the installation of two ski lifts, the new Chutes lift and the replacement of the Zephyr, has caused us to submit and amend our 2003 Summer Work Plan.

After careful review of the construction schedule for the two lifts, we now find it necessary to address preparing the ski lift line for the Chutes lift this summer. Our intention is to prepare the top and bottom terminal sites and initiate the first cut of the lift alignment through the forest.

Top & Bottom terminal preparation – we would survey the site with the manufacturer, then mark and stake the significant foundation and footing locations. Grading would be limited at this time to removal of large surface boulders, tree stumps, and tree removal, although, there are not many trees at either location. Preparing the sites for construction and digging foundation holes will not occur until summer 2004. The prescription for this activity will be included in the summer 2004 Work Plan.

Lift alignment – as a part of the design and engineering process we would survey the lift line which would allow for marking and staking the tower location. After this data is collected and the placements engineered, the exact lift alignment can be verified. We would then like to remove the trees along this alignment. There would be no soil disturbance during this process. We would cut and scatter the slash as prescribed in the EA. Because of the steep terrain there would be no vehicle access, hence, removal of the timber would be difficult. Greg Stafford recently walked the area and estimated that there are approximately one dozen trees with a DBH larger than 12". He also mentioned that many of the trees are damaged from the snow pack and controlled snow slides. We see little commercial value for the timber. A survey and evaluation of the timber by a Forest Service representative to evaluate its value, if any, and a desired method outlined for removal may be necessary. I would like to engage in discussion on how to treat the cut timber, and Mt. Rose is prepared to purchase the timber of value.

- The lift alignment would be readied to accept the re-installation of the existing Zephyr quad-chair. This chair lift demands an operating width of 30 feet. The lift horizontal length would be 1820', having a vertical rise of 475 feet. This data is estimated, and I must emphasize not engineered yet. Uphill capacity would be 2400 people per hour, number of chairs 80.
- Experienced Mt Rose hand crews, walking in and out of the site on a daily basis, would perform all cutting. Again no vehicle or heavy equipment would be used, emphasizing, no soil disturbance.



**2001 Mt. Rose/Slide Mountain Facilities
Improvements Proposal**

**Environmental Assessment
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**United States Department of Agriculture
Forest Service
Intermountain Region (Region 4)
Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest
Carson Ranger District
Washoe County, Nevada**

March 2003

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- Knutson-Vandenburg Act (KV) of 1930, as amended
- Multiple-Use Sustained Yield Act of 1960
- National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended
- National Forest Management Planning Act (NFMA) of 1976
- National Forest Ski Area Permit Act of 1986, as amended
- National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966, as amended
- Organic Administration Act of 1897
- Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974, as amended
- Protection of Wetlands Executive Order 11990

My decision, with the required mitigation measures and design criteria defined in the EA, meets all applicable laws, regulations, and policies. It is also consistent with the purposes for which the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest was established and is being administered; the authorized projects elements are in the public's interest.

ALTERNATIVES ANALYZED IN THE EA AND CONSIDERED IN THIS DN

In deciding which elements to implement in the Selected Alternative, three alternatives were considered – the “No Action” alternative, the Proposed Action and a second action alternative. A summary of each alternative is presented below. A detailed comparison of these alternatives can be found in Chapter II of the EA.

Alternative 1 – No Action

The No Action Alternative reflects a continuation of existing management practices without changes, additions, or upgrades to the portions of the ski area operating on NFS lands. Given that no new facilities or trail improvements would occur on NFS lands under the No Action Alternative, this alternative provides a baseline for comparing the effects of the two action alternatives.

Alternative 2 – The Proposed Action

Projects analyzed in the Proposed Action include: expanding snowmaking capabilities from the existing system on private land onto National Forest System lands, expanding the current Forest Service SUP to include the 131 acres of The Chutes and 25 acres on the west side of Slide Mountain, developing a short chairlift servicing The Chutes area, upgrading the Zephyr Lift, modifying existing skiing terrain, adding three new ski trails, and improving skier service facilities throughout the resort. The proposed projects are situated on NFS, private, and Washoe County lands.

East Bowl/Slide Mountain Side

Buildings

- Replace the existing Day Lodge (on Washoe County Land)
- Increase the capacity of the existing water storage tank and upgrade the water line from the tank to the Day Lodge