


2007

SUMMER OPERATIONS PLAN
SANTA FE SKI AREA

APPROVED BY:


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4-3-2007

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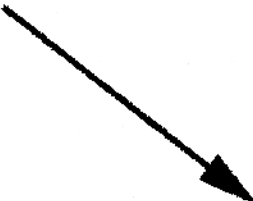

SANFORD HURLOCKER
ESPAÑOLA DISTRICT RANGER
SANTA FE NATIONAL FOREST

**SUMMER 2007
REGULAR MAINTENANCE & CARRY-OVER PROJECTS**

In addition to regular summer maintenance to the facilities and equipment, on-going trail reclamation in the form of thinning and glading in areas that have grown too dense for optimum skiing will continue. First Traks and Desperado Ridge are two areas in which new growth has reduced the open skiing terrain within the glade. Thinning and limbing within the trails identified will take place as time and snow conditions permit.

CARRY-OVER PROJECTS FROM 2006

Approved projects under Phase 1 of the MDP



Carry-over finish work from construction of the Deception Peak Lift and trail system. This will include on-going erosion control and re-seeding around tower bases and terminals, the new trail system, and the completion of widening of Sunrise from the top terminal of the new lift to Sunset Trail. Additionally, thinning and glading of Sunrise Glade, Sunset Glade and Highline Glade will be completed as time and snow conditions permit.

As described in item #7 of the MDP, page 62, the Alpine Bowl trail in the area of the old Alpine Bowl lift-line is also slated for some clearing and development as time allows, to be finished in subsequent summers as necessary according to restrictions due to snow pack, fire restrictions, etc.

Continued thinning and glading of the above mentioned areas will take place at a reduction rate of approximately 25%. Some limbing will also take place to create optimal glade skiing in these areas.

These actions have been reviewed and approved as part of the Master Development Plan under Alternative #3 and have been included in the 2005 and 2006 Summer Operations Plans.

(See page 61-62 of the MDP for details of Phase 1 projects)

**Santa Fe Ski Area Master Development Plan
Environmental Impact Statement
Post-Decisional Review
(FSH 1909.15, Chapter 10, §18.1)**

Santa Fe National Forest staff conducted an IDT (interdisciplinary team) review of the 1997 analysis for the Santa Fe Ski Area Master Plan that was documented in the Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), the Record of Decision (ROD), and project record for compliance and consistency with agency NEPA regulations in FSH 1909.15, Section 18.1. The reviewers consisted of Santa Fe Forest Staff including, Mary Orr, Espanola District Biologist, Mike Brener, Forest Archaeologist, Mike Frazier, Forest Recreation Staff, Charlie Jankiewicz, Ecosystem Staff Officer, Chris Napp, Acting Forest Environmental Coordinator, and Allen Fowler Acting Forest Planner.

The Section 18 review consists of two parts;

1. Review of the project to determine if any new information or changed circumstances exist and whether it is within the context of the program or project, and.
2. If new information or changed circumstances exist that fall outside the context and intensity of effects disclosed in the EIS that would require the EIS be corrected, supplemented, or revised.

The review team met on April 3, 2005. The team discussed the Master Plan including:
Completed Projects– The projects completed to date include: the parking lot expansion, new sewage treatment plant, expansion of snowmaking capability, removing a lift and feathering the edges of the old lift corridor and other general maintenance.

Current proposal– The current proposal includes the construction of the Deception Peak chairlift and the deception peak ski trail system. This involves the clearing of approximately 18 acres for the new ski trails and tower locations.

Future developments– There are a number of developments yet to be completed including: the Ravens Ridge Permit area expansion (new lift and trail system) and expansion of the trail system in the southern portion of the ski area.

The team reviewed the Master Plan EIS for any new information or changed conditions involving the analysis of the following:

Location of the top tower for the Deception Peak Chairlift– This was discussed in detail in A Section 18 review done in 2001 and documented in a May 8, 2001 letter. There has been no change to the design or location of the lift tower and therefore no change to conditions since the decision was made or reviewed in 2001.

Heritage resource effects– There have been no changes to conditions since the ROD was signed and 2001 Section 18 review was conducted. No new information pertinent to the Lake Peak Traditional Use Area has come to light. Applicable stipulations contained in the Memorandum of Agreement regarding development under the Master Plan will be met during the construction of the Deception Peak chairlift and ski trail.

Table IV-5
TOTAL AREA (acres) OF DISTURBANCE
WITHIN HABITAT TYPE FOR ALTERNATIVES 1 AND 1A

Alternative	HABITAT TYPE IMPACTS					Total
	Engelmann Spruce/Aspen	Engelmann Spruce/ Subalpine	Engelmann Spruce/Willow	Aspen/ Engelmann Spruce	Fescue/ Engelmann Spruce	
1 (No Action)	--	--	--	--	--	-0-
1A						
Alpine Bowl Lift Rehab (ski trail)	--	--	0.0	--	--	0.0
Deception Peak New Lift	--	0.0	0.0	--	--	0.0
Spruce Bowl Lift	.50	.20	(no tree removal)	--	--	0.7
Cleared Ski Trails	3.6	6.7	--	--	--	10.3
Gladed Trails	--	--	--	--	2.0	2.0
Support Facilities	--	--	.25	--	--	0.25
Parking	0.0	--	--	0.0	--	0.0
Total	4.1	6.90	0.25	0.0	2.0	13.25

Source: USFS

Alternative 2

In addition to the impacts discussed under the Alternative 1, implementation of this alternative would involve the following activities which could result in removal of trees and other vegetation:

Ski lifts: The construction of all proposed lift towers and load/unload areas would be accomplished with manual, mechanical, and aerial methods, depending on the type of existing access. The method of least impact would be used in order to confine disturbance to the minimal amount of area possible.

Deception Peak (5,500' long): Clearing of trees and shrubs would be required for the placement of the towers and cables. Clearing of ground vegetation for placement of tower pads and load/unload facilities would occur. Approximately 5 acres would be impacted as a result of this activity. The existing Alpine Bowl lift would be removed and the area rehabilitated for use as a ski trail (3.3 acres).

