



This page last updated March 26, 2001 Web site by [Walt Haas](#)

Snowbird 2c

Record of Decision for the Snowbird Master Development Plan Proposal

hazards resulting from skier congestion in this area. This project will be visible from some points on State Route 210 below Entry 1. Otherwise, only minor, temporary, construction related impacts are anticipated.

Ski access to Upper Big Emma (Gad H). Snowbird is authorized to widen the existing road and ski access from the Mid Gad restaurant to the top of the Big Emma ski run. Excess fill from the road widening north of the Mid Gad restaurant will be used to fill the rocky, steep depression on the skier's left at the top of Big Emma. Upper Big Emma is one of only two routes for intermediate skiers to leave Gad Valley, so it receives heavy traffic. We think that widening of this area will reduce safety hazards resulting from skier congestion. Only minor, temporary, construction related impacts are anticipated.

Upper Regulator traverse construction (Gad J). Snowbird is authorized to build a winter snowcat track across the top of Upper Regulator, following the route of the historic snow road. The traverse will be 8 to 10 feet wide and sloped out, and will cross a 60 to 70 percent grade. Snowbird is also required to place power, sewer, water, and communication lines along with snowmaking lines in this traverse in order to limit overall impacts to the environment. Installation of these utilities is required to meet applicable regulatory standards. This traverse will provide safer access off Hidden Peak for both snowcats and skiers. It will be visible from viewpoints in Gad Valley and on the White Pine ridge line during the summer. Otherwise, only minor, temporary, construction related impacts are anticipated.

Blackjack Road modification (Peru A). Snowbird is authorized to widen a narrow turn in the Blackjack Road from about 20 feet to 40 feet with another 20 feet of cut slope above, for approximately 300 feet. This project will alleviate skier congestion that occurs at this turn and thus reduce the likelihood of injury due to skier collisions. The widened portion of the road will be visible from the highway and residential developments at the base of Peruvian Gulch. Otherwise, only minor, temporary, construction related impacts are anticipated.

The Hidden Peak hiking trail (Hidden C). Snowbird is authorized to construct a 2.5-mile hiking trail from the top of Hidden Peak to Snowbird Center. The trail will follow the ridge separating Peruvian Gulch from Gad Valley, drop down through the Middle Cirque, then traverse down through Peruvian Gulch to the base area. The trail will provide a unique opportunity for visitors because it will traverse rugged and isolated terrain and offer panoramic views. Due to erosion and safety concerns, the trail will be constructed in accordance with applicable Forest Service standards. The trail will impact a small wetland area, but the mitigation measures in place will reduce the level and duration of these effects substantially.

Hidden Peak skier access (Hidden D). Snowbird is authorized to repair the existing road on the southeast side of Hidden Peak. Some of the extra material from the south ridge widening project (analyzed as Hidden B under the No-Action Alternative because it is on private land) will be used to widen the existing road. Some minor grade work from the existing road to the Peruvian saddle will be conducted. We think this project will provide for safer skier access to Peruvian Gulch and Mineral Basin and generate only minor, temporary, construction related impacts.

Elements Not Authorized

The Gad 3 Lift (Gad M), Gad 3 access road (Gad N), and Gad 3 ski run (Gad P). Public scoping and comments indicated strong concern regarding (1) the impact that the Gad 3 pod would have on backcountry recreational opportunities, particularly in White Pine Canyon, and (2) the safety issues associated with resort