

5. ***What are the cumulative environmental impacts from development up to the present and potential for further impacts from implementation of any proposed park Master Facilities Plan?***

- **Native American Customary Uses:** It is undocumented/unknown as to the impact on Native American vision quest and plant collection activities. Recreational use intensity has ranged from low to moderate to high intensity over the years. Competition for huckleberry picking may have decreased use by Native Americans. Vision quests are known to take place on high promontories and open places such as boulder fields. Higher visitation rates to the Vista House would likely deter or reduce the quality of the vision quest experience. Increasing recreation facilities, such as a new "round the mountain" trail or expanding more intensive mountain biking or hiking activities to the "northside," reduces the remoteness of this area.
- **Water/Fish Resources:** Chronic and acute sedimentation from roads and facilities in Deadman Creek and the ski concession in Brickel Creek watersheds may have increased fines delivered to fisheries spawning habitat, invertebrate foodbase, and pool depth. Updating and implementing best management practices through the Master Facilities Plan has the potential to reduce sources of chronic sedimentation and reduce the likelihood of acute occurrences of sediment delivery. Ski area expansion in the Blanchard Creek watershed would temporary increase sedimentation for 3-5 years after construction as riparian areas adjusted to vegetation removal and localized increase runoff. Best management practices can minimize those impacts. Blanchard Creek is a low-gradient stream with a reservoir, which has a low ability to accommodate increases in sediment without potential adverse effects to fish habitat and their food base and to reservoir maintenance by reducing pool volume.
- **Wildlife migration routes:** Saddles and gentle convex-shaped ridgelines are typical migration corridors for large ungulates and other species. Most of the ridgelines in MSSP have roads, trails, parking lots, and structures that concentrate recreational uses both summer and winter. The highest concentration of use is along Linder Ridge where a major parking lot provides parking for snowmobiles, Nordic skiers, horse trailers, and hikers. This high intensity year-round use most likely has constricted to some degree animal movement between Brickel and Deadman Creek. The next likely saddle near Quartz Mountain is lower in quality topographically and higher in elevation. The saddle/ridge complex between Mt. Spokane and Mt. Kit Carson receives moderate intensity recreational use. Several trails and a road intersect along this ridge. The ridgeline trail is used both summer and winter. One other low-elevation saddle most likely important for migration between Blanchard Creek and Brickell Creek also has a road through it and ski runs adjacent along "Chair 4". The construction of Chair 4 increased intensity of recreational use through much of the corridor and increase the use of the road for maintenance of Chair 4. Several other saddles occur to the northeast on Inland Empire Paper lands but are of lower quality, being at higher elevation and having steeper topography. The potential new snowmobile parking lot on Day Mountain would occupy another saddle and potential migration corridor leading to the Elk/Chattaroy valley. This corridor would be used mostly by deer and coyote.
- **Wildlife security:** Winter access is unrestricted basically in every watershed, either permitted by MSSP or Inland Empire Paper. Noise levels and high frequency of snowmobile traffic or Nordic ski traffic can have an adverse effect on species at a seasonally critical period. Increasing residential development surrounding MSSP offer low-quality security habitat. Increasing recreational use throughout the Park and vegetation removal for the ski area expansion further reduces regionally diminishing high quality security habitat. Displacement areas are important to all species, but larger species are more affected since they require more area in general. In order

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