

STEVENS

P A S S



Master Development Plan

PREPARED FOR: STEVENS PASS
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Overview of Mountain Expansion and Modification

To meet development goals and objectives, Stevens Pass proposes to expand its ski trail capacity and terrain scale through (1) new terrain expansion and (2) modification within the already developed portion of the SUP. Utilizing the mountain analysis (Appendix 1) as a foundation, multiple concepts were prepared. After considerable study, the design team settled on a single configuration. The following sections describe in more detail the specific expansion and modifications proposed at Stevens Pass. Ski trail expansion is largely proposed within two additional ski pods - Northern Exposure and Grace Lakes. Other expansions and modifications are proposed throughout the SUP area. Please see Figure 4-1 and 4-2.

Northern Exposure Pod

Northern Exposure would be more than an extension of the existing trail network. It would be a new direction, a contrast, providing an attractive alternative to the traditional offering at Stevens Pass. As a result, the Northern Exposure terrain mix-all within the existing SUP- would encourage return visits within the pod for a variety of guests. As planned, the Northern Exposure lift would stage at the east end of Parking Lot E, away from the base area. The terminal building would include mini-base facilities: restrooms, ticketing and espresso/snacks. This would help to reduce congestion in the base area during the initial staging period of the day as well as throughout the day.

The terrain in the Northern Exposure area consists of some of the most desirable slopes at Stevens Pass. Located on the east side of the existing Big Chief Pod, (See Figure 4-1) the Northern Exposure expansion would result in the diversification and strengthening of the Stevens Pass skiing experience for the following reasons:

- The northerly aspect will promote snow retention and snow quality.
- The slope mix would result in excellent intermediate / advanced intermediate terrain.
- The terrain would be developed to include a range of gladed skiing opportunities for intermediate/advanced/expert skill levels.
- The separate staging location would relieve base area congestion, both during and at the start of the day.
- The increase in overall trail CCC would better balance terrain capacity with demand.
- The age and spacing of trees would result in a naturally gladed skiing experience.

This pod would be developed to promote a natural skiing experience. Trails would be cut to a narrower width (60-75 ft.), where safety concerns permit, and feathered at the edges, reducing the hard edge that traditional ski runs exhibit. This would help mitigate the visual impact associated with the development. A minimum of two winter-groomed trails would be included. Summer grooming (grading) would cover approximately 75% of the area of the two new trails.

The majority of the area in between the feathered main trails would be gladed, covering

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terrain of intermediate, advanced and expert ability (see Figure 4-7). The glading would progress from 30-40% retention of trees near the run edges, with up to 60-80% retention near the center of the gladed area.

Parts of the Northern Exposure area, especially its scattered openings, are skiable now during high snow depth. Intermediate skiers and youth enjoy sliding through a portion of it locally called "Big Chief Trails". Experts enjoy dropping in from the upper ridgeline of Big Chief Bowl. Both users must negotiate thickly wooded areas before traversing back to the base area, or descending into the parking lots or even the highway. Developing the Northern Exposure area into a full system of runs and gladed areas is a logical extension of the current use, and leads one to wonder why this intriguing area was not fully utilized decades ago.

The forest cover in this area consists of mature Pacific silver fir (100-250 years old), mature mountain hemlock (100-250 years old) with a predominance of much younger trees, including saplings. The thinning and cutting of vegetation would avoid the majority of older trees, with limited limbing to provide a continuous skiing experience. Snags will be retained as wildlife habitat where feasible. Thinning the understory will reduce competition between trees while creating a variety of openings, promoting forest health and forest diversity. Trail design will respect the appropriate riparian setbacks on Kehr Creek. Two bridges will need to be constructed over Kehr Creek to allow for a return ski trail back to the lift terminal.

→ In total, the Northern Exposure area would add approximately 610 skiers to the overall trail capacity and 115 acres to total terrain.

Grace Lakes Pod

→ The Grace Lakes terrain—also within the existing SUP-- consists of good intermediate / advanced terrain that is oriented toward the north as well. With the addition of Grace Lakes, Stevens Pass would be able to further diversify their offering, adding cruising and gladed runs on a slightly different aspect. Five main ski trails and a variety of "park-like" gladed areas have been proposed to be added in this pod, adding approximately 80 acres to the skiable terrain and 540 skiers to the downhill CCC. Grace Lakes would be accessed from the Skyline and Brooks chairlifts. Approximately 35% of the trail surface would be summer groomed (graded).

Additional adventure based routes (trail #'s 14G through 14K) are also proposed leading from the top terminal of the Skyline Express lift down through natural terrain toward the Grace Lakes bottom terminal area. Limited tree clearing, pruning and limbing would take place on these trails in order to ensure an unencumbered route through the forest. No ground disturbance would take place for this route development, and there will be little visual effect from vegetation modification.

The Grace Lakes terrain differs from the Northern Exposure terrain in that it is generally a gentler grade, with some areas of steep expert terrain dispersed throughout. There is some avalanche potential within the Pod, which would need to be mitigated.

Much like Northern Exposure, there is an opportunity to develop a skiing experience that would reduce overall congestion by being staged out of the alternate base area. Grace Lakes would not be accessible during the initial staging period of the day, but would alleviate base congestion throughout the day by retaining some skiers within the