



THE SUMMIT AT SNOQUALMIE MASTER DEVELOPMENT PLAN PROPOSAL

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest Service

Pacific
Northwest
Region

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Draft Environmental Impact Statement

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Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie / Okanogan-Wenatchee
National Forests



View from Mt. Snoqualmie looking West at Anacostis Aerial Photo draped over 3D terrain data.

Forested Habitat and Associated Species

Impacts to mature forest habitat would be greatest under Alternative 2 compared to the other Action Alternatives. Mature forest would be cleared at Alpental for construction of the proposed new Internationale chairlift and the realignment of the existing Sessel and St. Bernard chairlifts; at Summit Central in the Silver Fir pod, at the base of Easy Street chairlift, and in the area of the expanded Silver Fir parking lot 2; and at Summit East for construction of the proposed Creek Run and Rampart chairlifts and associated trails (see Figures 2.3.3-1 and 2.3.3-2 – Alternative 2).

Under this Alternative the amount of mature forest habitat in the Study Area would be reduced from 1,053.11 acres to 1,007.83 acres for a loss of 45.28 acres. The greatest amount of mature forest habitat removal would occur within the mature forest in Section 16 (Summit East). Important functions of mature forest that may be impacted include CWD and snag recruitment, habitat for species described in Chapter 3, and habitat connectivity.

Under this Alternative, 2.75 acres of mature forest understory would be modified by installation of utilities. Another 4.36 acres of mature forest clearing would occur in areas adjacent to buildings, parking lots, roads, and lift terminals. These areas would be allowed to revegetate. However revegetation of mature forest is a long-term process and this would not occur within the timeframe of the MDP. Options for reducing impacts to mature forest adjacent to construction areas would be identified and implemented where possible, as described in Other Management Provision OMP 39 (see Table 2.4-2).

In addition to mature forest clearing, there would be 9.10 acres of glading under this Alternative. Glading would be designed to maintain over-story canopy at a minimum of 70 percent in areas where it is currently above 70 percent and no reduction in mature forest over-story canopy would occur in areas where it is currently below 70 percent. Glading would remove under-story trees and shrubs and so would change the conditions within these areas although they would still be considered mature forest habitat.

Removal of individual trees in mature forest for glading would reduce the basal area of mature trees in the Study Area. Data on existing basal area was not collected during field surveys for this project, however data on canopy cover was collected and is used in this analysis as a threshold, with glading that maintains a canopy cover of 70 percent or greater in areas that currently have canopy cover of 70 or greater and that maintains existing canopy cover in areas canopy cover is less than 70 percent being defined as being neutral or beneficial to mature forest.

Clearing of mature forest would reduce the number of snags currently available and would reduce the area available for short-term snag and CWD recruitment. Clearing of immature forest would reduce the area available for long-term snag and CWD recruitment in the future. In order to minimize impacts to CWD recruitment, Other Management Provision OMP 40 (see Table 2.4-2), would be implemented.

Table 4.5.3-1
Summary of Long-term^a Impact Acreage for Land Cover Types
Within the Study Area - by Alternative

Land Cover Type ^b	Land Ownership	Alt 1 (Existing Landcover)	Alt 2 Impacts	Alt 3 Impacts	Alt 4 Impacts	Alt 5 Impacts
		Total (acres)	Total (acres)	Total (acres)	Total (acres)	Total (acres)
Mixed Conifer – Western hemlock						
Mature	Public	23.48	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Private	24.23	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Immature	Public	95.76	0.11	0.11	0.00	0.11
	Private	0.42	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Mixed Conifer – Pacific silver fir						
Mature	Public	556.93	36.29	14.44	5.24	28.52
	Private	223.87	6.21	6.18	6.01	6.22
Immature	Public	103.98	6.46	4.67	4.24	6.60
	Private	130.71	12.37	12.12	11.68	12.37
Sapling	Public	16.96	1.63	0.34	0.00	2.17
	Private	268.25	2.95	2.95	2.75	2.95
Mixed Conifer – Mountain hemlock						
Mature	Public	221.40	5.06	0.72	1.34	3.58
	Private	3.21	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Immature	Public	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Private	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Shrub						
Natural	Public	64.70	1.85	1.65	1.06	1.78
	Private	43.34	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13
Modified	Public	200.63	15.49	13.46	12.49	15.48
	Private	141.39	1.77	1.77	1.36	1.77
Herbaceous						
Natural	Public	7.22	0.35	0.16	0.07	0.38
	Private	7.55	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.08