



CRESTED BUTTE
MOUNTAIN RESORT

June 18, 2009

Mr. Charles Richmond
Forest Supervisor - Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre & Gunnison National Forests
2250 Highway 50
Delta, CO 81416

RE: 2009 Snodgrass Mountain Proposal

Dear Supervisor Richmond:

In accordance with the Terms and Conditions of our Forest Service-issued Special Use Permit (SUP), dated March 1, 2004, Crested Butte Mountain Resort (CBMR) recently submitted its 2009 Resort Master Development Plan (2009 MDP) to the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forests (GMUG) for review and acceptance. The 2009 MDP establishes direction and priorities for the physical improvement of National Forest System (NFS) lands within CBMR's SUP area over an approximate 10-year planning horizon. Thus, the 2009 MDP serves as a "road map" for future improvements that are designed to culminate in a balanced recreational experience across the extent of the ski area - including both public and private lands at the Main Mountain and Snodgrass Mountain.

As detailed in the upgrading plan (Chapter 6) of the 2009 MDP, CBMR is now prepared to move forward with incorporation of the Snodgrass Mountain portion of our SUP area into the resort's developed lift, trail, and infrastructural network. CBMR provides an important recreational venue on public lands, and is a significant economic driver in the Gunnison Valley. As evidenced throughout this proposal and our 2009 MDP, the development of Snodgrass Mountain addresses our identified opportunities and constraints and will enable us to compliment – and diversify – the recreational opportunities that are currently offered at the Main Mountain.

Therefore, concurrent with your review – and acceptance – of the 2009 MDP, we hereby request that the GMUG initiate a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review of all projects defined in our 2009 MDP for Snodgrass Mountain. We are committed to implementing any projects on Snodgrass Mountain upon approval.

We have structured this Project Proposal Letter to be consistent with information presented in our recently-submitted 2009 MDP. Goals and objectives for the

development of Snodgrass Mountain, as well as a detailed description of proposed projects, are included below.

1. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES FOR DEVELOPMENT OF SNODGRASS MOUNTAIN

Over the last decade, as national and Colorado skier visitation has increased, CBMR has seen market share decrease by approximately one third. In order to ensure future viability in the destination ski market, and to enhance the quality of the ski area for existing guests, CBMR must strive to better meet the demands of its marketplace by attracting more destination visitors and increasing the duration of stay. CBMR believes that the development of Alpine skiing and riding on Snodgrass Mountain represents an opportunity to complement the existing Main Mountain lift and trail network by diversifying our winter recreation product.

As discussed in Chapter 1 of the 2009 MDP, we have identified three substantial constraints with the existing ski area:

1. CBMR's current developed terrain network lacks the variety of experiences and terrain diversity expected by regional and national visitors. This has dramatically affected annual visitation and the resort's ability to attract discerning destination guests.
2. CBMR lacks a sufficient amount of Intermediate terrain
3. CBMR lacks a sufficient amount of "traditional," developed¹ Expert terrain (excluding *Extreme Limits* terrain, which is not always open and is not skied by all Expert level guests)

We have summarized the information presented in Chapter 1 of the 2009 MDP to provide a more concise definition for each of these goals and objectives. The 2009 Snodgrass Mountain Proposal achieves these goals and objectives and responds to the substantial constraints that currently exist at CBMR.

Goal & Objective #1:

Increase the extent and diversity of terrain. This will improve recreational experiences at CBMR, increase annual visitation and, in turn, help bring economic stability to the Gunnison Valley.

As guests become more discerning in their requirements and expectations for destination vacations, the national and regional skier/rider market has become increasingly competitive. Thus, the overall quality of the recreational experience is critical in attracting and retaining visitation. Likewise, terrain diversity and quality are

¹ "Traditional"/developed terrain refers to trails which are regularly groomed and maintained for use by the majority of a ski area's guests. This type of terrain excludes more aggressive "non-traditional" Expert terrain such as hike-to areas, open bowls, trees, and steeps etc.

fundamentally important factors in defining the qualitative experience. Therefore, a variety of terrain is an essential prerequisite for participants in choosing a resort, particularly for regional/national destination visitors who make overnight trips. These concepts are especially true for CBMR in light of its remote location far from a major metropolitan population center and its relatively limited air service.

While CBMR has programs in place for first time skiers/riders, and has developed products to convert these visitors into core participants, it continues to lack the necessary terrain variety to consistently foster repeat visitation among destination guests. CBMR's lack of terrain variety has made it difficult for the resort to compete in the destination marketplace, which in turn has negative impacts on the Gunnison Valley economy. The roughly 276 acres of additional developed terrain at Snodgrass Mountain – across the entire spectrum of abilities – will help address issues related to terrain diversity.

Goal & Objective #2:

Provide additional Intermediate and "traditional," developed Expert terrain at CBMR in a sufficient quantity to meet the expectations of the destination marketplace.

Compared with other regional and national destination ski resorts – such as Telluride, Copper Mountain, Park City, Beaver Creek and Durango Mountain Resort – CBMR has a shortage of Intermediate and developed Expert terrain. This shortage of "core" terrain diminishes the diversity of recreational experiences for existing guests, and impacts the ability of CBMR to attract and retain guests. A destination resort must offer a range of experiences at each skill level to entertain guests who may spend multiple days exploring the resort.

Intermediate terrain directly serves the largest ability segment of the destination market. A terrain distribution analysis, (included below) conducted in conjunction with the 2009 MDP for CBMR's developed terrain network indicates that the amount of Intermediate terrain is insufficient compared to the national/regional market. CBMR's combined total of 320 acres of existing Low-Intermediate and Intermediate terrain is less than half of its competitors, and among the lowest of destination resorts in Colorado.

CBMR Terrain Ability Level Distribution by Capacity: Existing Conditions

Skier/Rider Ability Level	Trail Area (acres)	Skier Capacity (guests)	CBMR Skier Distribution (%)	National/Regional Skier Market (%)
● Beginner	4.1	121.7	2%	5%
● Novice	62.6	1,126.6	18%	15%
■ Low Intermediate	154.2	2,158.8	35%	25%
■ Intermediate	165.7	1,657.1	27%	35%

◆	Advanced	139.6	977.5	16%	15%
◆	Expert *	59.2	177.7	3%	5%
TOTAL		585.4	6,219	100%	100%
*: does not include "Extreme Limits" terrain.					

In addition, the same terrain distribution analysis revealed a deficit of "traditional," developed Expert terrain – a fact that is often overlooked due to CBMR's reputation for its quantity and quality of "Extreme Limits" terrain.² This is important, because during periods of low or poor snow conditions when *Extreme Limits* terrain is not open (or for guests who prefer Expert, inbounds terrain over more aggressive *Extreme Limits* terrain) it is important to have sufficient developed terrain for Expert-level guests.

Incorporating Snodgrass Mountain into CBMR's lift-served terrain network is crucial to our need to better compete for, and retain, destination visitors. The 2009 Snodgrass Mountain Proposal includes approximately 118 acres of new Intermediate terrain, and approximately 56 acres of new "traditional," developed Expert terrain that is necessary for the resort to satisfy the demands of the marketplace and remain a viable and significant contributor to the regional economies.

Goal & Objective #3:

Meet Forest Service objectives for providing quality recreational opportunities to the public in an outdoor, natural setting, and help promote economic stability to the local community.

One of the Forest Service's primary missions is to provide a diversity of quality outdoor recreational opportunities on NFS lands. This mission is clearly stated on the Forest Service's homepage:³

National forests and grasslands provide some of the greatest opportunities for outdoor recreation in the world. Recreation activities are not only fun; they create memories, provide physical challenge, provoke interest, and inspire wonder and awe of the natural world. Recreation contributes greatly to the health of individuals, bonds family and friends, and provides economic benefit to communities. Indeed, outdoor recreation is an essential part of American culture.

Regarding developed winter recreation, the Forest Service's partnership with the ski industry is articulated in the 1996 Memorandum of Understanding Between the National Ski Areas Association and United States Department of Agriculture, Forest Service (MOU). In the MOU, it is recognized that "ski areas can help meet increased

² Extreme Limits terrain is considered a part of CBMR's developed trail network, and is therefore not included in the Terrain Ability Level Distribution Level by Capacity table.

³ <http://www.fs.fed.us/> - "Forest Service Recreation -- Inspiring Passion for the Land"

demand for recreational opportunities in a managed setting." The MOU solidifies the Forest Service's commitment to "evaluate four season recreation at ski areas to improve economic stability and enhance outdoor recreation opportunities during policy formation, master development planning, and project plans."

The 1983 GMUG Forest Plan includes supporting language regarding the development of Snodgrass Mountain as a way of providing additional opportunities for developed winter recreation. In the Environmental Impact Statement that was prepared for the 1983 GMUG Forest Plan, it is stated that "all alternatives allow Crested Butte ski area expansion onto Snodgrass Mountain which is within the existing permit area."

CBMR is committed to providing quality recreational experiences, and recognizes that this would not be possible without its partnership with the Forest Service. However, CBMR's potential for meeting the demands of the recreating public is currently limited by a lack of terrain diversity in its developed trail network, which affects the perceived quality of the experience afforded at the resort. Furthermore, CBMR's identified shortage of Intermediate and developed Expert terrain has made it difficult to attract and retain visitation in the national/regional destination marketplace. This, in turn, has negative impacts on the local economy.

Incorporating Snodgrass Mountain into CBMR's developed lift and trail network would enhance and diversify the recreational opportunities on NFS lands, thereby improving the quality of the recreational experience. This would help fulfill CBMR's mission, as well as Forest Service policy, by promoting economic stability to the local community through increased visitation.

2. PROPOSAL TO INCORPORATE SNODGRASS MOUNTAIN INTO CBMR'S DEVELOPED LIFT AND TRAIL NETWORK

The 2009 Snodgrass Mountain Proposal addresses the previously stated goals and objective of providing additional Intermediate and "traditional" Expert terrain to meet the expectations of the national/regional destination marketplace. A detailed project description is included to this proposal as Attachment 1, and Figures 1 and 2 are included to illustrate proposed projects at Snodgrass Mountain.

Incorporating Snodgrass Mountain into CBMR's lift served terrain network is crucial to our need to better compete for, and retain, destination visitors. It will provide approximately 276 acres of additional terrain; specifically, Low Intermediate and Intermediate terrain will increase by a combined total of approximately 146 acres (45 percent) – to 466 acres resort-wide. Traditional, developed Expert terrain will increase by approximately 56 acres (94 percent) – to 114.7 acres. This will provide both the additional quantity and diversity of Intermediate and "traditional," developed Expert terrain needed for the resort to satisfy the demands of the marketplace and remain a viable and significant contributor to the regional economies.

As described in detail in the 2009 MDP, our proposal to incorporate Snodgrass Mountain into our developed lift and trail network includes:

- Four new lifts (including two high-speed lifts, a fixed-grip lift, and a surface lift)
- An interconnect gondola providing access between the Main Mountain and Snodgrass Mountain
- Approximately 276 acres of developed, "traditional" terrain (146 acres are in the Low Intermediate/Intermediate classification, and 56 acres are in the Expert classification)
- "Non-traditional" terrain (including interconnected areas; groomable glades; open bowls; natural openings; and tree skiing)
- Two on-mountain restaurants
- A ski patrol outpost
- Snowmaking on approximately 102 acres
- A 383-acre reduction in our SUP boundary
- Provisions for the continuation of backcountry skier/rider access on the northern aspect of Snodgrass Mountain
- An increase in Comfortable Carrying Capacity of roughly 2,700

Resource Constraints and Fieldwork

Preliminary surveys have been conducted for numerous resources, including: geology, vegetation, wetlands, hydrology, and archaeology. The purpose of these preliminary surveys was to gain a basic understanding of the natural resources on Snodgrass Mountain and reflect these parameters in the lift and trail network design. We recognize that additional site-specific resource analyses will be necessary in conjunction with the ensuing NEPA process. The 2009 MDP provides information on these preliminary surveys.

The 2009 MDP acknowledges identified geotechnical and avalanche hazards on the southern and western flanks of Snodgrass Mountain. These areas are identified on the attached figures here, as well as throughout Chapter 6 of the 2009 MDP. Our mountain planning team, in conjunction with GMUG staff, designed the Snodgrass Mountain lift and trail network around identified geotechnical and avalanche hazards to the extent that we are confident that this issue has essentially been resolved through planning and avoidance. Through site-specific NEPA analysis, additional design and/or mitigation measures may be developed to further address any unresolved geotechnical issues.

Figure 3.2 of the 2009 MDP identifies areas of known geologic or avalanche hazards. In reference to Figure 3.2, you will note that our mountain planners strategically aligned the proposed interconnect gondola, as well as planned trails, around one area identified as a "Geologic Hazard Avoidance Area" on the southern flank of Snodgrass Mountain.

In conjunction with development of Snodgrass Mountain, CBMR formally proposes to reduce our SUP area by approximately 383 acres. The SUP boundary reduction is proposed partially in response to comments received regarding the possibility of changes to avalanche patterns on the north facing side of Snodgrass Mountain. However, the terrain on the north-facing slopes is also popular for backcountry skiing, and provides additional buffer to study areas for the Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory (RMBL). CBMR concluded that protection of these resources outweighed the need for additional lift-served Expert terrain across Snodgrass Mountain – a consideration that is consistent with the goals and objectives of the resort, the community, and the GMUG.

3. COMPATIBILITY WITH THE EXISTING AND REVISED GMUG LAND AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLANS

Chapter 2 of the 2009 MDP contains information on current (1983) and Proposed (withdrawn) GMUG Land and Resource Management Plans (Forest Plans).

Until a new Forest Plan is formally adopted, the 1983 Forest Plan provides current direction for management of NFS lands on the GMUG. The general objectives of the 1983 Forest Plan are to provide for multiple use and sustained yield of products, services, and goods in a way that maximizes long-term net public benefits in an environmentally sound manner. CBMR's Snodgrass Mountain proposal is consistent with these management objectives. Although the 1983 Forest Plan provides current direction for activities and operations within CBMR's SUP area, we realize that CBMR operations on NFS lands will ultimately need to be consistent with management direction provided in the Proposed Forest Plan, once it is formally adopted.

The 1983 Forest Plan designates the CBMR SUP area (including Snodgrass Mountain) as Management Area (MA) 1B. The management emphasis of MA 1B provides for downhill skiing on existing sites and maintains selected inventoried sites for future downhill skiing recreation opportunities. Expansion of existing ski areas is appropriate, and consistent with the concepts of multiple-use management and recreational objectives of the GMUG.⁴ The 1983 Forest Plan states that the Forest Service should meet the need and demand for additional downhill skiing opportunities at CBMR, including through expansion onto Snodgrass Mountain.⁵

The Proposed Forest Plan identifies 13 management areas to define desired conditions/suitability groupings which are applied geographically to Forest landscapes.

⁴ 1983 Forest Plan at II-22, II-75, IV-118, IV-120

⁵ Ibid. at III-3

Management area desired conditions relate primarily to management intensity, desired levels of naturalness, and desired levels of development.

At less than one percent, MA 8.1 – Ski Areas – comprises a very small portion of the GMUG. MA 8.1 includes the SUPs of three ski resorts on the GMUG – CBMR, Telluride and Powderhorn. The Proposed Forest Plan acknowledges that ecological conditions are likely to be permanently changed by human activities to the degree that landscape appearance and ecological processes are substantially altered. These areas are small in scale. Ecological values are provided to the extent possible while protecting the public and meeting primary use objectives. The intensive uses of these small areas produce “relatively large socioeconomic effects.” Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) settings within this MA are generally Roaded Natural – Non-Motorized (RN-NM) or RN. Scenic Integrity Objective is generally Moderate.⁶

Generally suitable activities and uses within this MA are:

- Other Timber Harvest
- Forest Road Construction
- Temporary Road Construction
- Summer Motor-free Recreation
- Winter Motor-free Recreation
- Mechanized Recreation
- Utility Corridors
- Water Development

Based on our review of the Proposed Forest Plan, which is subject to change, we are confident that the 2009 Snodgrass Mountain Proposal is consistent with direction contained therein.

A preliminary review of the 2009 Snodgrass Mountain in relation to the Proposed Forest Plan indicates that it is consistent with management direction contained therein. We can assumed that, upon its formal adoption, the Forest-wide and MA 8.1 direction will be either identical, or similar, to direction found in the Proposed Forest Plan. However, we anticipate that your resource specialists will review this proposal in conjunction with Forest-wide and MA 1B direction from the 1983 Forest Plan.

⁶ March 2007 Proposed Forest Plan, page 160

Figure 2 identifies the Gothic Mountain Inventoried Roadless Area in relation to Snodgrass Mountain. We note that the 2001 Roadless Rule does not apply to Snodgrass Mountain because it has been within the CBMR SUP area since 1982, and is therefore grandfathered under the 2001 Roadless Rule.⁷

4. PUBLIC OUTREACH

The proposal to develop Snodgrass Mountain is backed by considerable support in the community. CBMR recognizes that opposition to this project exists. We have worked to explain to stakeholders throughout the Gunnison Valley why this development is needed – why it is critical to the future of CBMR, as well as to the community. Support for developed skiing and riding on Snodgrass Mountain is substantial and widespread. We urge the Forest Service to move forward with acceptance of this proposal and site-specific NEPA analysis.

Development of Snodgrass Mountain is supported by local municipalities and interested parties. Each of these entities has formally announced its support for moving this proposal NEPA:

- The Town of Mt. Crested Butte.
- The City of Gunnison.
- The Crested Butte South Property Owners Association.
- The Meridian Lakes Meadows Home Owners Association.

With the release of the conceptual development plan for Snodgrass Mountain in spring 2008, and through CBMR's public outreach campaign, growing public support has become apparent as demonstrated by polls, surveys, and public comment:

- In early April 2008, over 1,000 votes (the most ever) were cast on the MyGunnisonValley.com poll. Over 85 percent of the respondents supported CBMR moving forward with plans to expand lift-served skiing on Snodgrass Mountain. In mid-June 2008, over 350 respondents cast votes on the MyGunnisonValley.com poll. Eighty-eight percent of the votes supported sending a letter from the Gunnison City Council to the GMUG urging them to begin the NEPA process on development of Snodgrass Mountain for lift-served skiing.
- Roughly 585 people have signed a letter of support for the development of lift serviced Alpine skiing on Snodgrass Mountain that appeared in the April 11, 2008 issue of the Crested Butte News and which was also sent to the Crested Butte Town Council.

⁷ 36 C.F.R. § 294.4(a) (2001)

- In April 2008 the Crested Butte/Mt Crested Butte Chamber of Commerce conducted a survey of its members. 134 businesses responded with 60 percent voting in support of lift served skiing on Snodgrass, 31 percent were opposed and 9 percent were undecided.
- The Meridian Lake Meadows Home Owners Association, which lies immediately south of Snodgrass Mountain and borders Forest Service lands on Snodgrass Mountain, surveyed its 56 property owners. Approximately 70 percent of the owners responded; 80 percent of those voted in favor of the proposal to provide lift accessed skiing on Snodgrass Mountain, 15 percent opposed, and 5 percent were undecided.
- Since CBMR's "SnodgrassFacts.com" link was added to the CBMR website in June 2008, there have been 323 submissions sent to the GMUG Supervisor's office, of which 320 have been in support of lift serviced skiing on Snodgrass Mountain.
- During the development of the Mt Crested Butte 2007 Community Plan, the town conducted a survey which asked the question "Are you in favor of CBMR's ski terrain expansion on Snodgrass Mountain?" The survey had a 32 percent response rate with 601 returned surveys. 68 percent of the respondents voted in support of lift served skiing on Snodgrass; 18 percent were opposed, and 14 percent were undecided.

Over the past several years, CBMR has, on a continuing basis, hosted informational meetings with town councils, clubs, associations and the public at large regarding the proposal to develop lift served skiing terrain on Snodgrass Mountain. In preparation for release of the 2009 MDP, CBMR initiated an extensive public outreach program. In May 2008, CBMR initiated a public outreach program to inform and educate the public about concepts for developing Snodgrass Mountain with lifts, trails and infrastructure, and the need for the proposal. Highlights of CBMR's public outreach campaign included the following presentations:

- Joint meeting of the Mt. Crested Butte and Crested Butte Town Councils
- Gunnison City Council
- Crested Butte South Property Owners Association
- The Valley's municipal and county planners and managers
- The Gunnison Contractor's Association
- The Crested Butte Rotary
- Gunnison Rotary

- CBMR employees
- Second homeowners

CBMR will continue to meet with interested parties throughout the NEPA process for Snodgrass Mountain.

As demonstrated here, support for developing Snodgrass Mountain is widespread, considerable and continues to grow. For your reference, we have attached copies of representative letters received in support of developing Snodgrass Mountain in Attachment 2.

CBMR provides an important venue for recreation on public lands. Moreover, in both a direct and indirect context, we are a significant driver in the Gunnison Valley economy. As evidenced here, and throughout our 2009 MDP, the additional 276 acres of developed terrain proposed for Snodgrass Mountain will address our identified opportunities and constraints. Specifically, the 2009 Snodgrass Mountain Proposal will increase our offering of Low Intermediate and Intermediate terrain by approximately 146 acres (45 percent) – to a combined 466 acres. Traditional, developed Expert terrain will increase by approximately 56 acres (94 percent) – to 114.7 acres.

CBMR's resort-wide terrain ability distribution by capacity is depicted in the following table. This includes the existing terrain network at the Main Mountain combined with the proposed Snodgrass Mountain terrain network. (Note that this does not include previously-approved, unimplemented or planned projects at the Main Mountain that are discussed in the 2009 MDP.) As indicated, incorporating Snodgrass Mountain into our developed terrain network moves us much closer to the skier market in terms of terrain distribution.

**CBMR Terrain Ability Level Distribution by Capacity
2009 Snodgrass Mountain Proposal with Main Mountain**

Skier/Rider Ability Level	Existing Trail Area	Proposed Trail Area	Existing Skier Cap.	Prop. Skier Capacity	Existing Skier Dist.	Proposed Skier Dist.	Skier Market
	(acres)	(acres)	(guests)	(guests)	(%)	(%)	(%)
● Beginner	4.1	5.5	122	165	2%	2%	5%
● Novice	62.6	92.8	1,127	1,670	18%	19%	15%
■ Low Intermediate	154.2	182.6	2,159	2,557	35%	29%	25%
■ Intermediate	165.7	283.2	1,657	2,832	27%	32%	35%
◆ Advanced	139.6	182.9	977	1,280	16%	14%	15%
◆ Expert	59.2	114.8	178	344	3%	4%	5%
TOTAL	585.4	861.8	6,219	8,849	100%	100%	100%

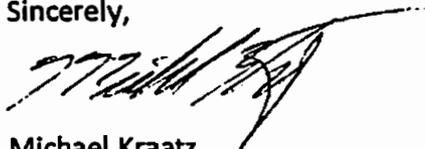
In short, developing Snodgrass Mountain is a critical element to diversifying and complimenting the recreational opportunities that are currently offered at the Main Mountain. This will ensure our future viability in the national and regional destination ski market by attracting and retaining visitation.

Our 2009 Snodgrass Mountain Proposal is consistent with a letter from you to Tim Mueller (dated October 13, 2006) regarding the Forest Service's Snodgrass Mountain Geologic Hazards and Assessment of Potential Effects of Ski Area Development on Slope Stability. In that letter, you stated: "You have presented to us a convincing argument supporting a need for more intermediate skiing terrain at Crested Butte. I concur with that need and am willing to entertain a proposal for the development of this terrain on Snodgrass Mountain, subject to the constraints and limitations presented in this report, and those that preceded it."

As a steward of the natural environment, CBMR takes pride in providing a premier opportunity to experience America's public lands resources. Millions of Americans enjoy their public lands through developed recreational activities at resorts like CBMR. The development at Snodgrass Mountain will ensure that CBMR remains a viable and vibrant resort that offers a premier recreational opportunity to the public in a natural setting.

We request that, in anticipation of this proposal, the GMUG begins taking the preliminary steps of assembling an Interdisciplinary Team to direct the ensuing NEPA analysis. With that being said, your timely acceptance of this proposal would be most appreciated, as we would very much like to discuss the steps and strategies necessary for initiation of the NEPA review. As we are now into summer, it is our sincere hope that resource surveys be initiated in the 2009 field season, as postponing them until 2010 would dramatically affect the timeline for the NEPA process.

Sincerely,



Michael Kraatz
V.P. Planning & Development
Crested Butte Mountain Resort

Enclosures:

- Attachment 1 – 2009 Snodgrass Mountain Proposal
- Attachment 2 – Letters of Support
- Figure 1
- Figure 2

cc: Acting Gunnison District Ranger
Tim Mueller, President – CBMR
Ken Stone, VP-COO - CBMR

ATTACHMENT 1

**Crested Butte Mountain Resort
2009 Snodgrass Mountain Proposal**

Crested Butte Mountain Resort

2009 Snodgrass Mountain Proposal

Proposed Snodgrass Mountain Lift Network

Specifications for the four aerial lifts and one surface lift proposed in conjunction with this proposal for Snodgrass Mountain are detailed in the table below. Total capacity for the Snodgrass Mountain lift network would be approximately 9,400 people-per-hour.

Snodgrass Mountain Proposed Lift Specifications						
Map Ref.	Description	Lift Type	Vert. Rise (ft.)	Slope Length (ft.)	Avg. Grade (%)	Hourly Capacity (persons/hr.)
1	Frontside C-3	Fixed Triple	783	3,192	25%	1,800
2	Westside DC-4	Detachable Quad	1,428	4,932	31%	1,800
3	Eastside DC-4	Detachable Quad	1,310	6,171	22%	2,400
4	Beginner Carpet C	Surface Conveyor	40	402	10%	600
5	Interconnect Gondola	Gondola	644	7,446	9%	2,800

The proposed Snodgrass mountain lift network would contribute approximately 2,630 to CBMR's existing CCC of 5,940.

Interconnect Gondola

As shown on Figures 1 and 2, access to the proposed Snodgrass Mountain area would be accomplished via a proposed interconnect gondola from the Main Mountain; however, bus service would likely also be available between Mountaineer Square and the North Village gondola mid-station.

In order to access the interconnect gondola at the Main Mountain, it will be necessary for guests to ride the Red Lady Express, as well as the Painter Boy lift. Once guests board the gondola, the ride time will be approximately seven and-a-half minutes to Snodgrass Mountain. The first stage of the interconnect gondola would travel entirely across private land from the existing Main Mountain to a mid-station at the new North Village development. The second stage of the interconnect gondola would travel from the North Village mid-station onto to Snodgrass Mountain. A new on-mountain guest services facility would be located adjacent to the top terminal of the interconnect gondola.

It will be necessary to ride the interconnect gondola to return to the Main Mountain. Once there, guests will ride the Gold Link lift for access to other Main Mountain lifts or

Mountaineer Square. In the 2008 Decision Notice that approved CBMR's 2006 Mountain Improvements Plan both the Painter Boy and Gold Link lifts were approved to be upgraded to higher capacity lifts. These upgrades will enable both lifts to function efficiently in conjunction with use of the interconnect gondola.

It is important to note that, due to the flat topography, it will not possible to ski/ride continuously back to North Village from Snodgrass Mountain. While an egress trail is proposed back to the upper reaches of North Village (see Figures 1 and 2), the terrain is too flat to descend all the way to the Village Center. A roughly 600 foot walk would therefore be necessary to reach the Village Center from the end of this trail. *While it can be assumed that some Advanced level skiers will use these routes to return to North Village from Snodgrass Mountain, the vast majority of skiers will use the gondola to return to North Village or the Main Mountain.*

Proposed Snodgrass Mountain Terrain Network

The upgrading plan included in CBMR's 2009 MDP focuses on increasing the quantity and variety of ski terrain, with an emphasis on the Intermediate and developed Advanced ability levels.

The proposed terrain network at Snodgrass Mountain primarily focuses on the development of "traditional" trails, which are typically defined as having left and right edges, many of which will be graded during construction. Grooming and snowmaking coverage are often included, as well. These "traditional" trails will be complimented by alternative style ("non-traditional") terrain that capitalizes on the natural features of the area, including: interconnected areas (i.e., between defined runs), naturally open areas, open bowls, and trees. By design, this variety will create a diverse and interesting trail system. The proposed ski trail layout of Snodgrass Mountain is specifically designed to bring the feel of a true undeveloped alternate terrain-style skiing and riding experience to the maximum number of CBMR's guests, by mixing traditional and innovative trail design with regard to fall line, solar aspect, ability gradient, and the use of existing open meadows. This design incorporates the latest trends in terrain design by bringing the feel and spirit of undeveloped skiing and riding for Intermediates to the developed terrain network.

Snodgrass Mountain terrain has been identified as either "traditional" or "non-traditional." It is important to note that, while the terrain network design and associated acreages noted below represent CBMR's proposal, trail designs may undergo adjustments as these alignments are ground-truthed and analyzed in conjunction with site-specific NEPA analyses.

Traditional Trails

This proposal includes construction of 44 "traditional" ski trails, totaling approximately 276 acres, within the Snodgrass Mountain portion of CBMR's SUP area.

These 276 acres of trails will be regularly maintained (groomed). Of the 276 acres of developed terrain, approximately 75 acres will utilize existing clearings, meaning that approximately 201 acres of clearing will be required for construction of lift lines, lift terminals, and other ski facilities. Trails will be constructed by flush cutting and stump removal, attempting to avoid sensitive areas – including the Water Influence Zone and designated waters of the United States, including wetlands – as much as possible.

Approximately 20 percent of the “traditional” trails proposed on Snodgrass Mountain – roughly 55 acres – will require grading during construction. The areas that will require grading are either trails that are planned to traverse across the fall-line (i.e., skiways), or sections of trails that need to be graded to improve the skiing/riding experience and ensure compliance with maximum grade criteria for a given ability level category. The areas that are planned for grading are shown in Figure 6.1 of the 2009 MDP.

The following table shows the proposed terrain capacity distribution by ability level for the “traditional,” developed terrain network on Snodgrass Mountain. The intention of this plan is to provide attractive terrain for skiers/riders of all ability levels and at the same time compensate for the identified deficiency of Intermediate and developed Expert terrain at CBMR’s Main Mountain.

**Snodgrass Mountain
Proposed Terrain Ability Level Distribution by Capacity**

Skier/Rider Ability Level	Trail Area	Skier Capacity	Skier Distribution	Skier Market
	(acres)	(guests)	(%)	(%)
● Beginner	1.5	44	2%	5%
● Novice	30.2	543	21%	15%
■ Low Intermediate	28.4	398	15%	25%
■ Intermediate	117.5	1,175	45%	35%
◆ Advanced	43.3	303	12%	15%
◆ Expert *	55.5	167	6%	5%
TOTAL	276.3	2,629	100%	100%

*: does not include “non-traditional,” undeveloped terrain such as that found in the Extreme Limits at the Main Mountain.

Non-Traditional Terrain

The 2009 Snodgrass Mountain Proposal incorporates groomable trails that are designed to feel like traditional trails. As depicted on Figure 1, in addition to traditional trails, five different styles of “non-traditional” terrain are incorporated into the design of Snodgrass Mountain: 1) interconnected areas; 2) groomable glades; 3) open bowls; 4) natural openings; and 5) tree skiing.

Interconnected Ski Spaces

Large regions of the “interconnected ski spaces” design technique (i.e., where a connected web of routes with a minimum/maximum width of 30/60 feet, respectively) have been incorporated between large tree islands. This terrain type is designed for areas under proposed Lifts 1 and 2. This will allow skiers and riders to have a more adventurous, unique experience, discovering a new route with each run they make.

Approximately 120 acres on Snodgrass Mountain will be defined as interconnect ski spaces.

Groomable Glades

The “groomable glading” technique, where an area is gladed to the extent that winding, groomable routes are created through the tree stand, is proposed on the south facing slopes off the top of proposed Lift 3.

Approximately 10 acres on Snodgrass Mountain will be defined as groomable glading.

Open Bowls

A large, natural, open bowl, with defined groomed routes, is proposed off the north side of Lift 3.

Approximately 30 acres on Snodgrass Mountain will be defined as open bowls.

Natural Openings

The natural openings near the top of the proposed interconnect gondola and at the bottom of Lift 2 will create opportunities for skiers and riders to explore these areas with a very un-developed feel (i.e., minimal tree clearing would be required). Routes will be groomed through these areas, possibly varying throughout the season. The large natural openings around the top of the proposed interconnect gondola will be particularly important, as these will provide lower ability level guests with the opportunity to ski and ride in an area that has an undeveloped feel.

Approximately 100 acres on Snodgrass Mountain will be defined as natural openings.

Tree Skiing

Snodgrass Mountain has exceptional tree skiing opportunities, and limited clearing is proposed in several areas across Snodgrass Mountain to facilitate this. These areas – totaling approximately 125 acres – are not proposed to be groomed or otherwise maintained. These areas are depicted on Figure 1.

The variety of tree cover in these areas, including aspen, spruce/fir, and lodgepole pine, highlight the importance of considering vegetation cover with deference to the pine beetle epidemic in the Rocky Mountains. For example, a design measure may emerge through the site-specific NEPA analysis that focuses (to a practical extent) on retention

of healthy spruce/fir stands and the removal of beetle-susceptible lodge pole pine. At this time, no specific tree-removal percentage is proposed for these areas, as field reconnaissance will be necessary to determine the optimum tree density for meeting both ecosystem and recreational objectives.

Proposed Snowmaking

In order to ensure quality snow cover on high-traffic runs and circulation routes on Snodgrass Mountain, particularly during the critically important early and holiday seasons, approximately 102 acres of snowmaking coverage is proposed for Snodgrass Mountain. Proposed snowmaking coverage is depicted on Figure 2. Water for the snowmaking system is planned to come from Crescent Lake. A pumphouse facility would be required in the immediate vicinity of the lake, on private land, to serve both the Main Mountain and Snodgrass Mountain. Site-specific engineering of the snowmaking system will determine if and where an additional pump station would be located on Snodgrass Mountain. Snowmaking pipelines will be buried on the western side new trails to take advantage of prevailing winds.

Proposed Skier Service Facilities

To accommodate guests using the Snodgrass Mountain area, two guest service facilities are proposed. These will entail food, beverage, restroom, ski patrol skier and services, as depicted on Figure 1. The lower facility would be located at the top of the proposed interconnect gondola. This facility would be approximately 9,000 square feet in size and will seat approximately 200 guests. The upper facility will be located at the top of Snodgrass Mountain, adjacent to the top terminals of proposed Lifts 2 and 3. This facility is planned at approximately 3,500 square feet in size, seating approximately 75 guests. This would incorporate space dedicated to ski patrol operations.

These buildings would be designed and constructed in coordination with Forest Service landscape architects and in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, Architectural Barrier's Act and the Forest Service's Built Environment Image Guide.

Proposed SUP Boundary Reduction

Our proposal removes the Glory Hole area from the SUP area and reduces the Snodgrass Mountain portion of the SUP boundary by approximately 383 acres (from approximately 1,476 acres to 1,102 acres).

Backcountry Access Point

In order to facilitate backcountry skiing and riding on the northern aspect of Snodgrass Mountain, an access trail is planned from the Gothic Road trailhead to the top of Snodgrass Mountain. We would support the GMUG locating and maintaining a

backcountry access point along the northern boundary of the SUP area to facilitate backcountry access to this popular area.

Proposed Construction/Maintenance Access Routes

Lift towers would be transported to the site by helicopter. Primary access to most construction locations will be via the existing Snodgrass Road. As shown on Figure 2, access from the Snodgrass Road to the lower and mid terminals for proposed Lift 3, the top and bottom terminals for proposed Lift 1, the top of the proposed interconnect gondola, and the lower proposed skier service facility, will be on proposed ski runs (labeled "Construction/Maintenance Access Spurs" on Figure 2). These sections will be short – roughly 500 feet in most cases, and will not require any construction other than what is proposed for the ski runs.

A construction access route is also proposed to reach the bottom terminal of Lift 2 from the Washington Gulch Road, also shown on Figure 2.

Proposed Infrastructure and Utilities

Power to the proposed on-mountain guest service facilities would be provided via a new power line alignment. Wastewater disposal would occur in the form of an on-site septic system at each of the proposed facilities or with connections to sewer line in the new North Village base area via a wastewater line buried within the existing Snodgrass Road corridor. Similarly, domestic water for the proposed on-mountain facilities would be accommodated through either an on-site was source or through a buried water line within the existing Snodgrass Mountain road corridor (with the required vertical/horizontal off-sets should sewer be included within the same trench).

Power for lifts would be trenched in areas (to the greatest extent practicable) that are already proposed for ground disturbance (trail grading, snowmaking, etc.). Communication lines would include a similar method of installation.

**APPEAL TO THE REGIONAL FORESTER
ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION
UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE**

**In the Matter of the November 5, 2009 Decision
of Forest Supervisor Charles S. Richmond of the Grand Mesa
Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forests
Regarding Crested Butte Mountain Resort**

DECLARATION OF TIMOTHY T. MUELLER

1. I, Timothy T. Mueller, am over the age of 18 years, and have personal knowledge of the facts contained in this declaration.
2. I am the President and Co-Owner of Triple Peaks, LLC ("Triple Peaks"). My wife, Diane Mueller, is the Executive Vice President and Co-Owner of Triple Peaks.
3. On March 1, 2004, Triple Peaks purchased Crested Butte Mountain Resort ("CBMR") from Crested Butte Mountain Resort LLC, which was then controlled by the Callaway and Walton families. The Forest Service issued a special use permit for CBMR to Crested Butte LLC, a subsidiary of Triple Peaks.
4. On December 5, 2008, Triple Peaks, through Crested Butte LLC, entered into a "sale-leaseback" transaction with CNL Income Crested Butte, LLC ("CNL"). Under the transaction, Triple Peaks sold Crested Butte Mountain Resort to CNL, and Triple Peaks then leased the properties back from CNL. Triple Peaks continues to manage and operate Crested Butte Mountain Resort. CNL is the holder of the Forest Service special use permit for CBMR. Representatives of the various entities owning, controlling, and managing Crested Butte Mountain Resort are referred to here collectively as "CBMR."

5. In late summer 2004, shortly after the resort was acquired by Triple Peaks, representatives of CBMR began discussions with the United States Forest Service about expansion of CBMR onto the adjacent Snodgrass Mountain.

6. Proposals for expansion onto Snodgrass have existed for nearly three decades. The Forest Service authorized CBMR to expand skiing and lifts onto Snodgrass Mountain in 1982. CBMR constructed a road to the top of Snodgrass Mountain under that approval, but did not complete the expansion due to financial limitations of the owners.

7. CBMR prepared a new proposal for Snodgrass Mountain in consultation with the Forest Service in 2004. It was significantly downsized from the proposal approved by the Forest Service in 1982. The new proposal involved: (1) four lifts rather than the original ten; (2) ski run development based on the natural terrain, openings, and glades rather than just standard cut trails; and (3) no lift or terrain development on the northeast side of the mountain.

CBMR Meetings with the Forest Service

8. The Forest Service met in late 2004 and early 2005 with CBMR to discuss the Snodgrass proposal.

The September 9, 2004 Meeting

9. On September 9, 2004, CBMR representative John Norton met with Ken Kowynia and Ed Ryberg of the Forest Service about the proposed Snodgrass Mountain expansion and the application of the National Environmental Policy Act ("NEPA").

10. Mr. Norton reported that Mr. Kowynia and Mr. Ryberg agreed with the need for CBMR to offer lift serviced skiing on Snodgrass.

11. Mr. Norton reported that Mr. Kowynia and Mr. Ryberg stated that the Forest Service would use a one year "Pre NEPA" process to refine the proposal, consequently pushing the

formal application back to late 2005. Mr. Norton reported that Mr. Kowynia and Mr. Ryberg said this would not shorten the estimated two-year NEPA process, but stated it would ensure the most efficient NEPA process possible.

The November 10, 2004 Meeting

12. On November 10, 2004, representatives of the Forest Service, CBMR, International Alpine Design ("IAD"), and Cirrus Ecological Solutions, LC ("Cirrus") met at the resort. The purpose of the meeting was for the Forest Service to review geological issues involving the southern and southeastern slopes of Snodgrass Mountain, and to identify other issues that may warrant attention before beginning the NEPA process.

13. CBMR representatives reported that at the November 10, 2004 meeting, the Forest Service stated that it wanted to analyze issues regarding the geologic suitability of Snodgrass Mountain before beginning the NEPA process.

The December 10, 2004 Meeting

14. The Forest Service held a pre-interdisciplinary team or "pre-ID team" meeting on December 10, 2004 at the Gunnison Ranger District Office about the Snodgrass proposal. Attending were representatives from the Forest Service, CBMR, IAD, Cirrus, and the Town of Mt. Crested Butte.

15. CBMR representatives reported that Ken Kowynia gave a PowerPoint presentation at the meeting explaining the Forest Service's Pre NEPA process for Snodgrass and that Mr. Kowynia explained that the goal of Pre NEPA is to generate a proposed action that can be carried into and through the NEPA process as smoothly and efficiently as possible.

16. CBMR representatives reported that the Forest Service said that a critical element of the Pre NEPA process would be to determine whether the geological issues at Snodgrass could be addressed through mitigation and design.

17. CBMR representatives reported that the Forest Service identified the NEPA project team at the meeting, including Forest Service personnel, and the third party consultant that would actually prepare the draft and final environmental impact statement. The Forest Service said that the target date for release of a final decision after the NEPA process was spring 2007.

18. IAD distributed copies of the Snodgrass expansion plan and explained the main components at the meeting.

19. CBMR representatives reported that the Forest Service said on December 10, 2004 that the most pressing issue was the preparation of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Forest Service and CBMR, setting the stage for securing a third-party consultant to prepare the EIS, and formally beginning the NEPA process.

20. The Forest Service prepared a Memorandum of Understanding ("MOU") that says that it will prepare an EIS for the Snodgrass proposal. The Forest Service and CBMR signed the MOU on June 7, 2005.

Public Outreach

21. In early 2008, Forest Supervisor Charles Richmond asked CBMR to demonstrate public support for the proposed expansion.

22. Beginning in spring 2008, CBMR initiated a comprehensive public outreach campaign. CBMR hosted 11 presentations and work sessions and held scores of meetings with individuals, elected officials, administrative agencies, and other interested parties.

Forest Service Review of the Master Development Plan and Related Activities

23. CBMR met with Forest Service representatives in Gunnison on April 24, 2008 and presented a proposed outline for a Master Development Plan for the ski area.
24. In early 2009, CBMR developed a draft Master Development Plan that incorporated issues raised, and comments received, from the Forest Service during the Pre NEPA process.
25. CBMR submitted a draft Master Development Plan to the Forest Service for its review in the first week of February, 2009.
26. The Forest Service submitted detailed oral and written comments on the draft Plan.
27. On March 5, 2009, CBMR and Forest Service representatives met to discuss the draft Plan. The Forest Service made detailed oral comments on the draft.
28. In March 2009, Forest Service Winter Sports Program Manager Ken Kowynia submitted detailed written comments on the draft Plan.
29. On March 19, 2009, GMUG Snow Ranger and Wilderness Manager Kai Allen submitted detailed written comments on the draft Plan.
30. CBMR incorporated the Forest Service's comments into the final Master Development Plan that it submitted to the Forest Service in May 2009.
31. In June 2009, the Forest Service notified CBMR that the Forest Service planned to hire a Project Coordinator to manage the NEPA process for the Snodgrass Proposal, and listed four ways it could fill the position.
32. In July 2009, the Forest Service told CBMR that it had published the Project Coordinator position internally, and told CBMR that it was ready to move forward with a funding agreement for CBMR to pay costs of the NEPA process.

Planned Municipal Discussions

33. On August 16, 2009, I met with Regional Forester Rick Cables and Deputy Regional Forester Maribeth Gustafson at the Forest Service Regional Office in Golden, Colorado to discuss the Snodgrass proposal.

34. At the meeting, Mr. Cables and Ms. Gustafson asked CBMR to convene a working group of local government representatives to discuss the Snodgrass proposal. Mr. Cables made clear that the objective was for CBMR to resolve issues or concerns identified by local governments before the Forest Service would start NEPA review.

35. CBMR expended substantial resources in September and October 2009 to organize and launch the discussions with local governments, including by interviewing three potential facilitators, and by drafting organizing documents for the discussions.

36. The planned discussions were designed to resolve issues such as the effect of the expansion on transportation, utilities, schools, and other public services.

37. Deputy Regional Forester Maribeth Gustafson and Forest Supervisor Charles Richmond approved CBMR's written outline of the proposed local government discussions on September 11, 2009.

38. The municipal discussions were never held because the Forest Supervisor rejected the Snodgrass proposal on November 5, 2009.

Pre NEPA Cost

39. The Forest Service's Pre NEPA review lasted from 2004 until 2009, although the Forest Service assured CBMR in 2004 that it would take one year.

40. CBMR expended approximately \$1.8 million in the Forest Service Pre NEPA review process.

The Decision

41. On October 16, 2009, Forest Supervisor Charles Richmond called me to tell me he planned to reject the Snodgrass proposal.

42. On November 3, 2009, I met with representatives of the Forest Service in Delta, Colorado. Attending for CBMR were myself, my wife Diane, my son Ethan, CBMR Vice President Michael Kraatz, and CBMR Chief Operating Officer Ken Stone. Attending for the Forest Service were Forest Supervisor Charles Richmond, Corey Wong, and Jeff Burch.

43. At the November 3, 2009 meeting Corey Wong stated that he had talked with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service about Canada lynx issues at Snodgrass Mountain.

44. At the November 3, 2009 meeting Jeff Burch stated that the alternatives in a NEPA process, including the "no action" alternative, are legal requirements that the Forest Service does not seriously consider in the NEPA process. He also said that the Forest Service presumes when it enters the NEPA process that the outcome will be approval of the preferred alternative.

45. Forest Supervisor Richmond said on November 3, 2009 that for the Forest Service to enter NEPA it must be ready to defend a proposal "against all odds."

46. On November 5, 2009, the Forest Supervisor formally rejected the Snodgrass proposal. Hundreds of letters have been written, numerous rallies have been held, and critical articles have been written protesting the decision.

47. Three hundred citizens rallied in Crested Butte on November 13, 2009 to support NEPA review of the proposal.

48. On November 20, 2009, a group of nearly 100 local residents travelled over 200 miles to protest the Snodgrass Decision at the Forest Service Regional Headquarters in Golden, Colorado. Included among the protestors was Town of Mt. Crested Butte Mayor William Buck.

49. Over 250 people marched down Elk Avenue in downtown Crested Butte to protest the Forest Service's decision on December 7, 2009. The march ended at the Crested Butte Town Council meeting, where the Council agreed to consider drafting a letter of support for the expansion at their December 21, 2009 meeting.

50. Over 100 residents rallied in the City of Gunnison on December 11, 2009 to protest the Decision.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on December 17, 2009.


Timothy T. Mueller

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
FOR
CRESTED BUTTE MOUNTAIN RESORT
PROPOSED SNODGRASS MOUNTAIN EXPANSION

GUNNISON COUNTY
USDA FOREST SERVICE
GRAND MESA, UNCOMPAHGRE, AND GUNNISON
NATIONAL FORESTS

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CHAPTER I. PURPOSE AND NEED

A. Purpose and Need

This environmental assessment has been completed in response to a request by Crested Butte Mountain Resort, Inc. (CBMR) to begin the study process for its proposed expansion onto Snodgrass Mountain for additional downhill skiing capacity. The expansion would be authorized by amending CBMR's Special Use Permit for the Crested Butte Ski Area to include Snodgrass Mountain.

Figure 1 is a location map of the general area, while Figure 2 shows the area involved in the expansion proposal.

The purpose of this assessment is to document and disclose the analysis of environmental effects which may be associated with CBMR's proposal. This information will aid the Forest Supervisor in making a decision on whether or not to allow expansion of the Crested Butte Special Use Permit area onto Snodgrass Mountain. No decision is being made at this time regarding expansion details such as lift line locations, tower site location or design, ultimate skier capacity, or ski run configurations.

B. The Expansion Proposal

CBMR has asked the Forest Service to consider amending its Special Use Permit to allow expansion of Crested Butte Ski Area onto Snodgrass Mountain. The proposed expansion area is shown in Figure 2. About 1,550 acres of National Forest System lands are involved in the expansion proposal.

CBMR also submitted a proposed Master Plan (CBMR, 1982) that sets forth, in general terms, the manner in which it would develop the Snodgrass expansion if allowed to proceed. The proposal would add 4,500 skiers at one time (SAOT) to the 6,200 SAOT already approved by the existing Special Use Permit, for a total of 10,700 SAOT at full development. A summary of the Master Plan for the Snodgrass expansion is presented in Chapter 4 of this assessment.

C. Background

The history of skiing in the East River Valley began with the settling and development of the area in response to the opening of numerous mines. Skiing provided both recreation and a means of transportation for the people who moved in.

Pueblo Mine Hill on the south side of the Town of Crested Butte was a popular recreation ski site in the 1920's and 1930's. Slobodnick Hill, located below the Town's reservoir, also became popular. Another site was Chicken Ranch, located on the west slope of Slate Mountain. The first chair lift in Colorado was built in 1937 at Pioneer Ski Area on Cement Creek. The ski area at Rozman Hill opened in 1951 with two rope tows and a ski jump.

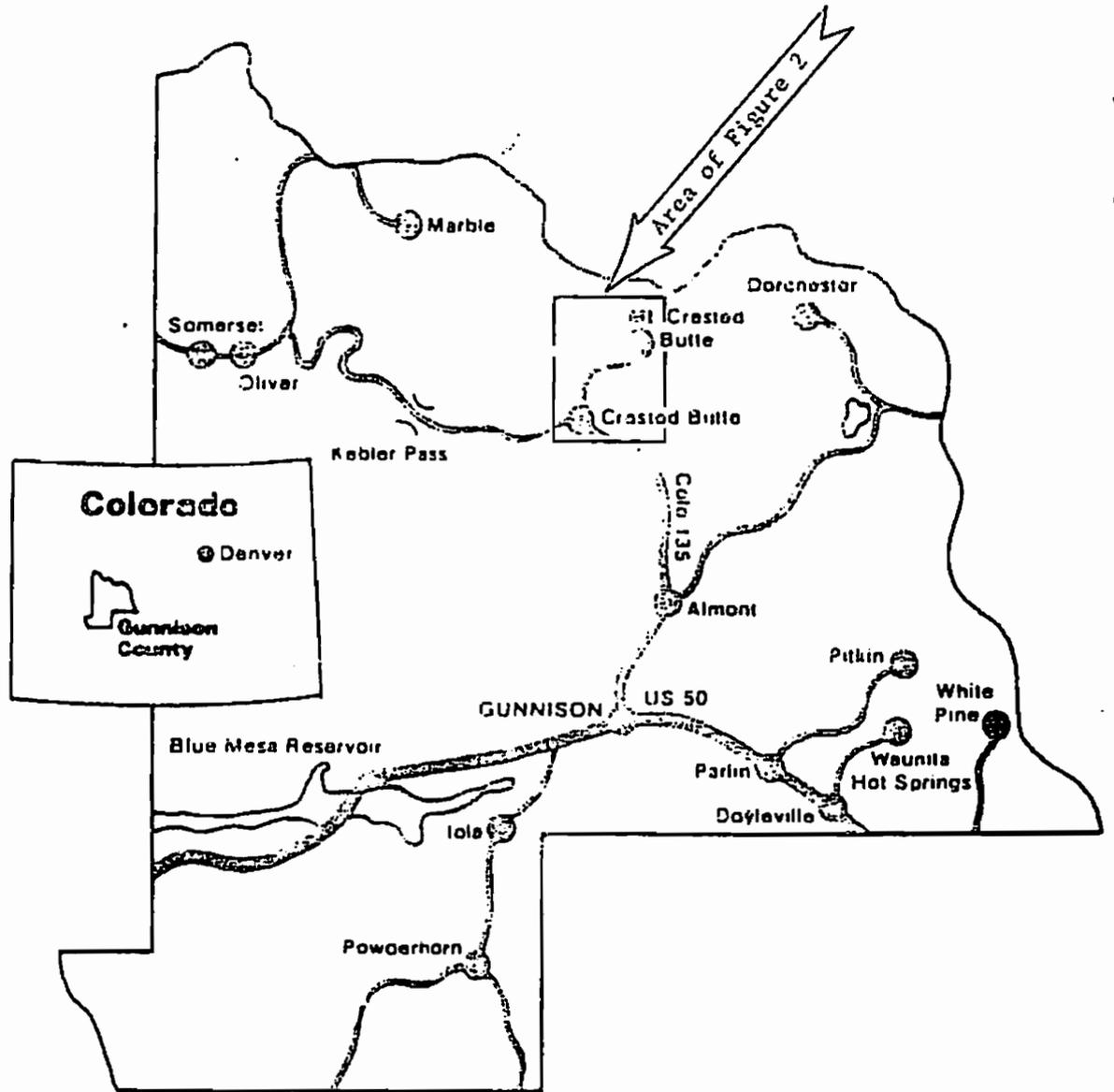


Figure 1

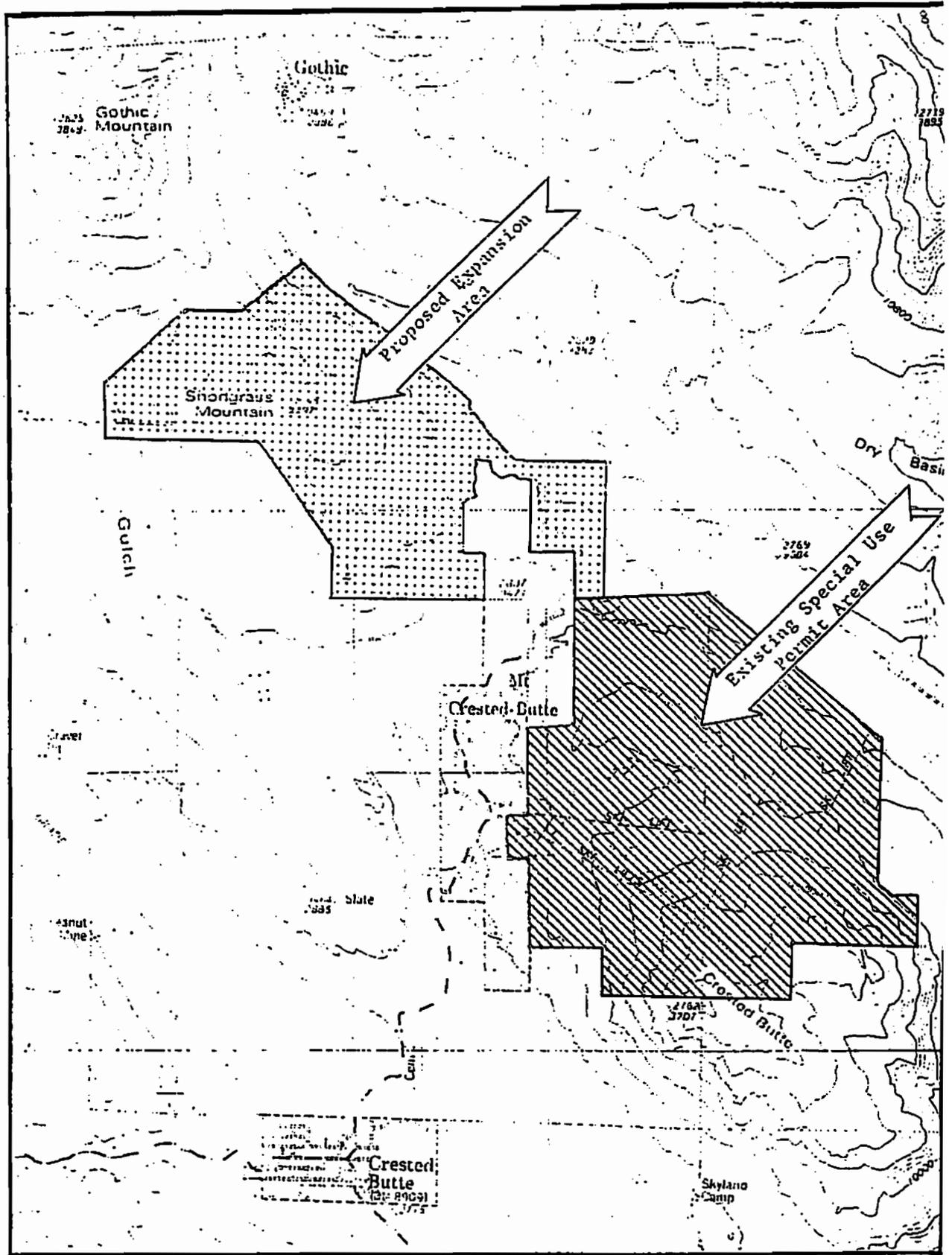


Figure 2

In December, 1960 Crested Butte Limited submitted a Special Use Application to the Forest Service for downhill skiing on Crested Butte Mountain. A Special Use Permit was issued the following year. Since then, the area has grown to become a major destination ski resort in Colorado. The development is described in Mt. Crested Butte Ski Area Master Plan, approved 1980.

The development of Snodgrass Mountain for additional skiing capacity at the Crested Butte Ski Area has been under consideration since 1975. The East River land management planning process evaluated the concept, and Snodgrass Mountain was allocated a Winter Sports Site in the September 7, 1979 Record of Decision for the East River Land Management Plan.

Sno-Engineering, Inc. was retained by CBMR during the Winter of 1981-82 to evaluate the physical and economic feasibility of adding the Snodgrass Mountain skiing terrain to the existing Crested Butte Ski Area. Sno-Engineering concluded: "With the addition of this (Snodgrass) terrain, Crested Butte Mountain could easily take its place among the leading destination resorts in Colorado in terms of skier capacity and diversity of terrain available to vacationing skiers" (CBMR, 1982, p. 5).

The Forest Service's Final EIS for the East River Land Management Plan concluded that "Snodgrass Mountain was judged as having fair suitability for development in connection with the existing development of (Mt.) Crested Butte" (Forest Service, 1979, p. B-3).

D. Joint Review Process

The Forest Service and the State of Colorado have agreed to use a coordinating process for the review of ski area development proposals. This coordination process was initially called the Colorado Review Process, and is now referred to as the Joint Review Process (JRP). The JRP is best viewed as a concept, and is defined as a voluntary administrative procedure which: coordinates federal, state, and local government review for decision making purposes; provides an opportunity for co-ordinated public involvement; provides informal forums for discussion of public issues, management concerns, and opportunities associated with proposals; provides project proponents an opportunity for coordinated public review; and promotes conflict resolution through cooperation and compromise.

To aid in meeting the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act and the intent of the JRP in the analysis of CBMR's proposal, the Forest Service, the State of Colorado, the Gunnison County Board of County Commissioners, the Town of Mt. Crested Butte, the Town of Crested Butte, the City of Gunnison, and CBMR agreed to establish a Joint Review Committee (JRC). The Mayor of Mt. Crested Butte chairs the Committee. The role of the JRC is defined in the Memorandum of Understanding entered into by all participants. (Appendix C)

The purpose of the JRC is to provide a forum for public involvement (gathering public input and disseminating information to the public) and coordination between Federal, State, and local governments and the proponent.

E. Issues and Concerns

The Forest Service began compiling a list of issues and concerns during the Fall of 1981. At the initial working group meeting of the JRC on December 16, 1981, the list was discussed and updated. The updated list was presented at a public meeting on January 20, 1982 and further public input was requested. A final list of issues and concerns was developed at a subsequent JRC meeting. The final list is as follows:

1. Need - Is there a need for more skiing capacity at Crested Butte Ski Area?
2. Economic Impacts - What will be the economic effects of the Snodgrass expansion on the following: employment, housing, transportation, County base facilities and services, and waste water treatment?
3. Social Impacts - How will additional development affect the following: opportunities for day skiers and destination skiers, opportunities for dispersed recreation?
4. Environmental Impacts - What will be the environmental effects on the following items due to further development: Soils (erosion and slope stability), geology (erosion and slope stability), water quality (sedimentation and waste water treatment), water quantity (water rights and instream flow requirements), air quality (degradation due to chimney and vehicle emissions), range resource and use (conflicts between the ski area and current range management), wetlands (loss), visual resources (visibility of the ski area's developments), Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory research projects (conflicts with ski area), avalanche hazards (on the East River side), wildlife (big game conflicts and instream flow needs), cultural resources (conflicts with Crested Butte Historic District), and timber (management opportunities).
5. Validation and Monitoring - How will the proposed development be validated to show it is feasible? How will adequate monitoring of development take place considering the current administration's restriction on Forest Service funding and manpower?

F. Jurisdictional Perspective

An environmental assessment is not a decision document. It is a document disclosing environmental consequences which may occur with the implementation of a proposed action and alternatives to that action. It is an important document for federal, state, and local governments to use in arriving at their own individual decisions regarding a proposed action and alternatives to it.

Environmental consequences which may occur on lands administered or otherwise managed by other governmental jurisdictions have been disclosed in this assessment. Other federal, state, and local authorities and jurisdictions have cooperated with and assisted the Forest Service in the development of alternatives and in the disclosure of environmental consequences which may be associated with the proposal under consideration and the alternatives to it.

The selected alternative and the resulting decision of the Forest Service will relate only to the environmental consequences which may occur on National Forest System land. The decision will be documented in a Decision Notice. Decisions by other jurisdictions to issue or not issue approvals related to this proposal can be made by them based on the disclosure of environmental impacts made in this document. Listed below are cooperating agencies in the preparation of this document and, to our knowledge, the approvals needed by the proponent.

Approvals

- Forest Service: Special Use Permit Amendment expanding the permitted area to include Snodgrass Mountain, and additional site-specific approvals as the development proceeds
- State of Colorado: Wastewater Disposal Permit, Section 401 Certification, National Pollution Discharge Elimination System Permit, air emission permits
- Gunnison County: permits as required
- Town of Mt. Crested Butte: permits as required

Cooperating Agencies

- Gunnison County
- Town of Mt. Crested Butte
- Town of Crested Butte
- City of Gunnison
- Colorado Division of Local Government
- Colorado Department of Highways
- Colorado Geological Survey
- Colorado Water Conservation Board
- Colorado Department of Health
- Colorado Division of Wildlife
- Colorado State Historic Preservation Officer

CHAPTER II. ALTERNATIVES INCLUDING THE PROPOSED ACTION

A. Alternatives Considered

1. No Action

Under this alternative, the Forest Service would not amend CBMR's Special Use Permit to include Snodgrass Mountain. The area would continue to be managed as at present.

2. Amend CBMR's Special Use Permit to Include Snodgrass Mountain (Forest Service Preferred Alternative)

Under this alternative, CBMR's Special Use Permit would be amended to include the proposed expansion area on Snodgrass Mountain shown in Figure 2.

B. Mitigation Measures

Appendix A lists mitigation measures that can be required by the Forest Service to minimize adverse impacts on National Forest System lands. For the purposes of analysis, these measures are generally assumed to be in place unless specifically discussed in Chapter 4.

Appendix B lists other mitigation measures that, in addition to those in Appendix A, could be required by other jurisdictions to minimize adverse impacts off of the National Forest System.

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) does not require that mitigation measures be implemented by the proponent or anyone else. However, NEPA does require the Forest Service to disclose impacts and consequences of a proposed action and alternatives to that action. In so doing, possible methods for mitigating those impacts are to be examined and disclosed.

The disclosure of impacts and the discussion of mitigation methods is for the purpose of providing information to agencies of federal, state, and local government which have decision authority regarding a project. This information may be used to issue or deny approvals within the authority of those agencies. This information is also provided so that the proponent and the public at large are aware of at least part of the information being used by the various agencies in making their individual decisions.

When determining what mitigation measures will be required on National Forest System lands, Forest Service officials must consider: authorities under existing law, regulation, and policy; economic feasibility; land management objectives; and the impacts and consequences disclosed in environmental assessments. Mitigation required by the Forest Service

must be in accord with Forest Service regulations applicable to the activity under consideration. The Decision Notice will identify by inclusion or specific reference any mitigation measures and necessary monitoring programs required by the Forest Service. Any mitigation required by the Forest Service will relate only to impacts on National Forest System lands.

C. Alternatives Eliminated From Further Detailed Study

An Intermediate Alternative - The Forest Service considered analyzing an alternative that involved only a portion of CBMR's proposal for Snodgrass Mountain, but concluded that there would be no practical advantage in doing so at this time. Certain portions of the expansion area (particularly the Lift 5 and Lift 11 service areas shown in Figure 5) will be difficult to develop, if they can be developed at all. (The nature of these difficulties is discussed in Chapter 4 of this assessment.) However, considerably more information than is presently available will be required before final approval or disapproval can be made regarding specific facets of the Master Plan involving those difficult areas.

D. Comparison of Alternatives

If CBMR's Special Use Permit is amended to allow expansion onto Snodgrass Mountain as proposed, 1550 acres of NFS land would be added to the permit in addition to the 2261 acres already included. If the Special Use Permit is not amended, then only the 2261 acres of NFS land already permitted would be involved in winter sports activities.

If the Permit is amended, CBMR's maximum approved skier capacity at buildout will be 10,700 skiers-at-one-time. If the Permit is not amended, the maximum will remain at the currently approved level of 6,200 skiers-at-one-time.

If the Permit is amended, visual signs of ski area development will begin to appear on Snodgrass Mountain. If the Permit is not amended, the mountain's appearance will remain undeveloped.

If the Permit is amended, demands on water treatment facilities in the Upper East River valley will increase above current projections. If the Permit is not amended, the demands will remain as projected.

If the Permit is amended, about 60,000 board-feet of timber production on Snodgrass Mountain would be lost each year due to clearing for ski area facilities. At the same time, however, some commercial timber on the mountain would become suitable for harvest due to the road access created by CBMR. If the Permit is not amended, no timber production would be lost, but no commercial timber could be harvested, either.

If the Permit is amended, grazing of cattle on Snodgrass Mountain will become more difficult. At the same time, more forage will become available for grazing once the cleared areas are revegetated. If the Permit is not amended, neither of these will occur.

If the Permit is amended, permanent basic employment could eventually be increased by about 298 jobs, and associated construction could

generate about 2,250 person-years of basic employment. Permanent population is expected to increase by about 1,400 persons at build-out. If the Permit is not amended, these increases will not occur.

If the Permit is amended, existing transportation problems could increase unless steps are taken to accommodate the increase in transportation needs. If the Permit is not amended, existing transportation problems should remain at currently projected levels.

CHAPTER III. AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

This chapter describes the environment in the areas to be affected.

A. Biophysical Environment

i. Water

The Snodgrass expansion area lies partially within the upper East River drainage (above its confluence with the Slate River) and partially within the Washington Gulch drainage (a tributary of the Slate River). The expansion area lies entirely on the slopes of Snodgrass Mountain, so it includes none of the floodplains and wetland ecosystems found in the river valleys themselves.

Quantity - Snodgrass Mountain receives about 27 inches of precipitation annually, mostly in the form of snow during the winter months. Streamflows are typical of high elevation, snow dominated regions, with high flows occurring from May through early July in conjunction with Spring snowmelt. Streamflows during the remainder of the year are considerably lower, originating almost entirely from ground water sources.

There are no major perennial streams flowing from Snodgrass Mountain. However, several small unnamed tributaries of Washington Gulch and the upper East River originate on the southeastern and eastern flanks of the mountain and flow for several months of the year. Except during the runoff season, flows are below one cfs. The only wetlands on the mountain are located along the lower reaches of these tributaries near the base area on private land. These wetland areas are small and should be relatively easy to avoid during construction.

In the past, streamflow data have been collected by the United States Geological Survey below the project area on the Slate River (0.5 miles downstream of Coal Creek) and on the East River (1.2 miles downstream of Brush Creek). Mean annual flow for the period of record (1940-1951) on the Slate River was 138.0 cfs, or 2.0 cfs/sq. mile of drainage area. Mean annual flow for the same period on the East River was 134.0 cfs, or 1.5 cfs/sq. mile. The mean annual peak flow for the East River station was about 980 cfs.

Quality - Water quality data have been collected sporadically at numerous locations in the Upper East River and Slate River drainages by the U. S. Forest Service, Environmental Protection Agency, Colorado Department of Health, AMAX, Inc. (and its consultants), Colorado State University, and the U. S. Geological Survey. In general, these data indicate that water quality is good and meets Colorado water quality standards applicable for its use as domestic, agricultural, recreational, and cold water fishery water supplies.

No water quality data are currently available on the minor streams that drain Snodgrass Mountain. Visual observations during and after the runoff period in the Spring of 1982 indicate that sediment loads are generally low. Visual observation also indicates that stream channels on the mountain are relatively stable. There is no evidence of major active soil movement on Snodgrass Mountain that contribute substantially to sediment loads.

Waste Water - The State of Colorado has proposed a Class I Cold Water Quatic Life classification for the East River, Slate River, and Washington Gulch. This classification entails water quality standards suitable to protect trout and other cold water biota. Because of the volume of waste water discharged into them, the State considers these streams to be "water quality limited", that is, they will need more extensive discharge limitations than the general effluent standards if the proposed classifications are to be met.

CDM (1982) analyzed wasteload allocations and the adequacy of waste water treatment systems in the East River valley. It concluded that, because of its persistence in receiving waters, the ammonia limitation (0.02 mg/l un-ionized ammonia) will be the most restrictive in the East River and Slate River. It also concluded that, assuming "natural" flows during the winter months, expected growth can occur, without limitation and without installing expensive ammonia removal equipment, for about 7 years in the Slate River and 13 years in the East River.

2. Air Quality

Inversions of the atmosphere are fairly common in the vicinity of the expansion area. A high volume sampler in the Town of Crested Butte has registered violations of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for Total Suspended Particulates (TSP). These violations occur in both summer and winter. Warm weather problems are caused primarily by fugitive dust; in winter they are caused by a combination of inversions, traffic, and chimney emissions. Data in CDM (1980) indicate a history of such violations in the Town of Crested Butte and projections in CDM (1981) indicate a possible worsening of this trend. Violations have not been recorded in Mt. Crested Butte, and none are projected.

The State of Colorado has the primary responsibility for monitoring and maintaining air quality.

3. Geology and Minerals

The expansion area is underlain by two radically different rock types: igneous rock and Mancos shale.

The igneous rock is a porphyry of Tertiary age. It underlies the upper portions of Snodgrass Mountain, and is similar in character to the porphyry underlying other nearby high areas such as Crested Butte, Gothic Peak, Whetstone Mountain, and Carbon Peak.

Mancos shale occurs on the flanks of Snodgrass Mountain, generally in the form of large-scale mass movement deposits which formed under substantially wetter climatic conditions than exist today. The exact time when these mass movements took place is not known, but they probably occurred more than 10,000 years ago. In essence, they "slid" off the upper slopes of Snodgrass Mountain and stopped when they reached gentler gradients at the mountain's base. In the current climate, these deposits are considered stable overall and are not expected to resume movement on a massive scale.

By its very nature, however, Mancos shale has a comparatively low cohesive strength and is prone to slope failures on a small scale. Particularly when the material has already been disturbed once (during the massive slope failures), it tends to show signs of weakness. The geologic hazard maps in CBMR (1982) accurately locate the areas of relative instability. These maps are based on soils studies by Lincoln DeVore Testing Laboratory (1973a, 1973b, 1975).

There have been no mineral activities within the proposed permit area, nor are any patented or unpatented claims known to exist within the area. Mineral potential is minimal. However, there is presently some prospecting in the area.

4. Soils

Soils in the Snodgrass Expansion Area were mapped by the Soil Conservation Service (SCS, 1977). Soils of the Leal, Stecum, and Leaps series occur respectively on the upper, middle, and lower slopes of the expansion area. These types reflect the parent materials underlying them: the Leal and Stecum soils have a moderately rapid permeability, with a sandy or gravelly texture derived from the underlying porphyry bedrock; the Leaps soils, on the other hand, have a very slow permeability, with a silty or clayey texture derived from the underlying Mancos shale mass movement deposits.

Forest Service reconnaissance indicates that soils typical of the Tilton series are also present. These include typic cryoborolls and pachic cryoborolls. Soils in the aspen stands tend to have more coarse fragments than those in the open parks.

All soils appear to have a moderately high erosion hazard, while their sensitivity to slope failure appears consistent with the mapping shown in CBMR (1982).

5. Wildlife

A complete description of wildlife in the East River Valley, which includes the expansion area, can be found in the East River Land Management Plan EIS.

Snodgrass Mountain is used by wildlife species typical of the alpine and subalpine ecosystems. It does not have any known essential habitat for threatened or endangered species.

Elk are known to be in the Snodgrass area during the summer months. Some incidental north-south movement occurs between Snodgrass Mountain and Gothic Peak, but no major migration routes have been identified in the area (AMAX, 1981, Figure A-12, and Young, 1982).

There are no fisheries on Snodgrass Mountain itself, but The East River is a good trout fishery.

6. Vegetation

Timber - Snodgrass Mountain contains 1,290 acres of spruce-fir-lodgepole forest (16.8 MMBF) and 740 acres of aspen (6.5 MMBF). The conifers tend to dominate at the higher elevations, while the aspen dominate the lower slopes.

The conifer stands are mature to over mature and their vigor is low. Some large, older trees are dead or dying. New seedlings are beginning to appear in spots, but in general the understory vegetation is scant, consisting mainly of low vigor forbs, shrubs, sedges, and grasses. Evidence of blowdown is lacking, but due to the age of the stands and the frequency of strong westerly winds, the potential for blowdown is steadily increasing.

Many of the conifers are of commercial size, but because of poor access none of the stands are presently considered suitable for harvest. Without treatment, these stands are expected to deteriorate through blowdown and bug infestations.

The aspen stands are not of commercial value because of a lack of market and small size. Understory vegetation is dense and vigorous, consisting of a variety of forbs, grasses, and some brush.

No roads are present in the coniferous stands. A primitive road passes through aspen mostly on private land; it terminates at the proposed bottoms of chairlifts S-5, S-8, and S-9.

Range Management - The expansion area involves part of three grazing allotments: Gothic C & H, Snodgrass C & H, and Meridian C & H. The only suitable range affected is on the Snodgrass Allotment.

Threatened and Endangered Species - No known threatened or endangered species exist in the expansion area.

Wetland Vegetation - There are no major perennial streams flowing from Mount Snodgrass. However, several small unnamed tributaries of Washington Gulch and the upper East River originate on the southeastern and eastern flanks of the mountain and flow for several months of the year. Except during the runoff season, flows are below one cfs. The only wetlands on the mountain are located along the lower reaches of these tributaries near the base of the proposed lift S-7 and in the vicinity of the proposed base area on private land. These wetland areas are small and should be relatively easy to avoid with development.

7. Visual Quality

The Forest Service Visual Management System for rating visual impacts was used to determine visual quality and the potential capacity of the land to withstand manmade changes. The Visual Quality Objective (VQO) for Snodgrass Mountain is mainly Partial Retention, with the northwest corner of the mountain being Modification. The Partial Retention VQO means that human activities may be evident but must remain subordinate to the characteristic landscape. The Modification VQO means that human activity may dominate the characteristic landscape but must, at the same time, utilize naturally established form, line, color, and texture.

The Visual Absorptive Capacity (VAC) is the rating an area receives in order to predict the ability of an area of land to be altered without changing or detracting from the natural scenic character. The Snodgrass area has a moderate ability to withstand man-made changes without deteriorating the existing scenic quality.

The Existing Visual Condition (EVC) is the degree of man-made disturbance which has currently taken place in the environment. It is the baseline from which all new changes can be measured. The proposed development area is relatively untouched at this time. Snodgrass Mountain is primarily seen from the road to Gothic, which passes through Mt. Crested Butte.

8. Avalanches

Avalanche potential on Snodgrass Mountain is confined mainly to the northeast portion of the mountain, where slopes with average gradients of 35 to 45 percent are found. Terrain features on this slope, such as steep confined gullies, broad unconfined slopes with different type or age of the dominant vegetation, are all indicators that this area is an avalanche site.

An avalanche site or area is a location with one or more avalanche paths. The northeast portion of the East River Road from Mt. Crested Butte to Gothic is situated in the runout zones of this avalanche site.

B. Economic and Social Environment

1. Community Services

Mt. Crested Butte has a police department consisting of four personnel and has two police vehicles. At the present time the department personnel serve as Deputy County Sheriff and has their operational territory extending from the Slate River Road turnoff and Gothic County Road to the top of Schofield Pass. Their territory includes Crested Butte Ski Area.

2. Transportation

Road System - Vehicular access to the resort is by way of Colorado Highway 135 from Gunnison to Crested Butte, and the Gothic Road from Crested Butte to Mt. Crested Butte. Traffic tie-ups frequently occur on the Gothic Road during adverse weather conditions due to steep grades, poor drainage, and alignment, and no passing lanes. A study has been prepared by Merrick Engineers entitled "Gothic Road Corridor Study". It identifies four alternative alignments to reduce problems associated with the road between Crested Butte and Mt. Crested Butte. The Gunnison County Board of Commissioners have committed to realign and upgrade the Gothic Road by 1984.

Traffic along Colorado Highway 135 has been increasing steadily in recent years. According to Colorado standards, the segment from Almont to Crested Butte is hazardous and needs improvement in order to handle current volumes. Improvements are not anticipated in the near future, however.

Bus System - The Town of Mt. Crested Butte and the Ski Area participate with the Town of Crested Butte in the funding of the Mountain Express Bus System, which operates between Gunnison and the Crested Butte Ski Area. The system is operating within the final year of a five year agreement. The present agreement stipulates that the deficit on the system be split at the following rate:

Mt. Crested Butte	30%
Crested Butte	30%
Crested Butte Mountain Resort	40%

Prior to this agreement, CBMR operated the system. The system is now operated by the Town of Crested Butte which contributes part of its deficit amount in in-kind services. A new agreement is expected to be signed in the near future, but its terms are as yet undecided.

Continental Trailways operates four 46-passenger buses into Gunnison daily on a year-round basis, providing 1,288 bus seats on a weekly basis. To supplement this scheduled service, Crested Butte Mountain Resort will operate two charter buses weekly, providing 92 seats, for a total of 1,380 bus seats.

Although scheduled bus service is not expected to increase significantly over the next several years, CBMR plans to expand its charter bus program to keep pace with the increase in air transportation. Four buses in 83/84 (184 seats), six buses in 84/85 (276 seats) and eight buses in 84/85 (368 seats) will be used both to bring groups into the resort, and to service the Gunnison airport for transfers to the ski area. CBMR plans to explore the possibility of operating weekly bus charters from the Denver and Grand Junction airports.

Parking - Parking is provided by both the Ski Area and the Town of Mt. Crested Butte. The Town of Mt. Crested Butte's zoning ordinance identifies stringent requirements for parking. The Town does not plan to reduce the requirements of this ordinance. The Town also has an agreement with the Ski Area to perpetually keep space for 425 cars in the base area.

Air Transport - Trans-Colorado Airlines provides the Gunnison area with commercial air service. Sixty flights each week connect with the Montrose and Denver airports. Colorado Airlines provides daily scheduled service between Crested Butte and Aspen. In addition, CBMR has put together an arrangement with Frontier Airlines to provide weekend jet service into Gunnison for skiers from various metropolitan areas. During the 82/83 ski season, four Frontier 737 jets will be flying into the Gunnison airport each Saturday, providing 424 air seats on a weekly basis. Combined with Trans-Colorado's sixty weekly flights using 19-passenger Metro-liners, the total available capacity will be 1,564 round-trip seats a week. Further increases are planned for the following years.

3. Utilities

Water and sewer are provided by the Crested Butte Water and Sanitation District. It is a public agency incorporated for the specific purpose of utility supply and service. The present treatment capacity for the sewer plant is .4 mgd (million gallons per day). The water and Sanitation District will expand these facilities as demand dictates.

Water is supplied to both CBMR and the Town of Mt. Crested Butte by gravity feed from a storage tank located on the present ski area. This system is primarily springfed with auxillary water pumped from the East River. Water rights investigations have been undertaken by the Sanitation District to deal with increased need in the immediate future.

Electrical service is provided by the Gunnison County Electrical Association. Work programs for expanded service are done on a two year basis at the developer's cost. Preliminary discussions with the Electric Association indicate that service and supply are available.

The water storage tanks and some utility lines are currently located on National Forest System lands. The remainder of the service facilities and the parking are on private land.

4. Population and Employment

BMML (1981) estimated current populations in the Gunnison County area and projected them through the year 1994. The results are shown in Table 1, indicating slow but steady growth with Gunnison and vicinity continuing as the main growth center. This trend is likely to hold as long as the AMAX Mt. Emmons Mining Project is not initiated. The start-up date for the project is uncertain at this time, but if and when startup does occur, the Gunnison County population will be increased as discussed in the Mt. Emmons EIS (Forest Service, 1982a,b).

Employment in Gunnison County shows a mixture of agriculture, mining, tourism, and higher education (Table 2). Of these, tourism is the largest source of employment with about 35% of estimated basic employment.

5. Housing

Total housing for Mt. Crested Butte in 1979 included 98 single-family units and 628 multi-family units, reflecting the dominance of tourist facilities such as condominiums and other skier lodgings. In the Town of Crested Butte, the total units included 358 single-family units, 130 multi-family units, and 23 mobile homes; this reflects a preponderance of year-round residents. About 2,653 units existed in the Gunnison area, reflecting its dominance as the County's population center.

6. Cultural Resources

Little cultural resource information exists for Snodgrass Mountain. Paraprofessional cultural resource specialists have completed a cursory examination of the area and no archaeological sites have been located. Descriptions of cultural resource work that has been done in the area may be found in Baker (1978) and Horvath (1981).

TABLE 1: BASELINE POPULATION

<u>Year</u>	<u>City of Gunnison</u>	<u>Gunnison Fringe</u>	<u>Crested Butte</u>	<u>Mt. Crested Butte</u>	<u>Remainder of County</u>	<u>Total</u>
1982	6343	2164	1198	256	3085	13046
1986	7461	2229	1405	305	3298	14698
1990	8698	2302	1633	359	3532	16524
1994	10320	2398	1932	431	3839	18920

Source: BMDL (1981. p. 6-24).

TABLE 2

GUNNISON COUNTY: BASIC EMPLOYMENT ESTIMATES (1978-1994)

	<u>1982</u>	<u>1986</u>	<u>1990</u>	<u>1994</u>
Agriculture, Forestry	264	253	243	233
Mining	260	310	321	334
Contract Construction/Tourism	100	125	158	199
Manufacturing	83	85	85	85
Transportation, Communications, Utilities, Tourism	32	38	46	56
Retail Trade/Tourist	192	259	350	467
Retail Trade/Western State College	65	65	65	65
Services/Tourism	532	695	898	1170
Western State College	280	280	280	280
State and Federal Governments	86	95	104	115
SECTOR TOTAL	1894	2205	2550	3004

Source: BMDL (1981)

The major historical site in the general vicinity is the Town of Crested Butte, which is a National Historic District. It lies about four miles to the south of the expansion area (Figure 2) and received its designation on May 29, 1974.

The community of Gothic lies about two miles to the north of the expansion area (Figure 2). It was once proposed as a candidate for Historic District status, but has not yet been designated as such. The area has not been completely evaluated, and many of the community's buildings have been modified in recent years.

7. Outdoor Recreation

Undeveloped Recreation Opportunities - Current recreation use of Snodgrass Mountain is light. Some hiking, hunting, and cross country skiing occurs, but an accurate use figure is not possible to estimate. Travel through the proposed base area on the Gothic Road is moderate. The recreation opportunity spectrum of the proposed development area is approximately 90 percent semi-primitive, nonmotorized and about 10 percent roaded natural.

Downhill Skiing - The existing Crested Butte Ski Area currently enjoys a reputation for providing a "high quality" skiing experience including minimal crowding. It has had significant growth in skier use with 276,070 skier days occurring this past 1981/82 season, for a total of 115,029 recreation visitor days (RVD) use. (One RVD equals 12 hours of recreation use.)

Table 3 illustrates past use at Crested Butte Ski Area. The past few years' use was affected by poor snow and poor economic conditions and does not necessarily indicate growth has slowed or stopped.

Data gathered for the Forest Plan projects a 8.4% trend increase in skiing (calculated by historic use trend path) for the Forest, which includes Telluride and Powderhorn Ski Areas as well as Crested Butte. The Draft Regional Plan projects a 7-10% growth trend for the Rocky Mountain Region.

Ski industry leaders have been worried about the growth in this industry. Some feel it has reached its peak, and will level out or decline in the future. The Rocky Mountains had the best ever season in 1979-80, but this past season (1981-82) did not show the growth expected for a good snow year. This could be taken as an indication that growth in this area for destination resorts may have peaked, although the current poor economic conditions may have influenced potential growth since nationally, skiing did grow through last season. Individually, resort growth fluctuates and some may continue to grow, even though their region as a whole declines.

Forecasting growth for skiing is difficult and as discussed above; many different results are obtained. Development of, and growth of, individual resorts mainly depends upon the particular demand that exists for that resort (which may be different than industry trends) and the economic situation of that resort.

8. Research

Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory (RMBL) is a non-profit educational and scientific institution located in the old town of Gothic, approximately four miles north of Mt. Crested Butte and one mile north of the northernmost lift of the proposed Snodgrass development (Figure 2). RMBL is involved in research and teaching and is represented by a broad spectrum of colleges and universities from across the nation. The lab was founded in 1922 and incorporated in 1928. Most of the research is done during the Summer and Fall field seasons, but some research of snow physics and avalanche data gathering is done through the Winter months.

The Gothic Natural Area was established on July 3, 1931, by order of the Chief of the Forest Service to provide secure and variable habitats for ecological research studies and for teaching. The area is 1070 acres on the north slope of Gothic Mountain, and ranges from talus at timberline to spruce-fir forests and meadowlands on the lower end. The area is approximately two miles to the north of the town of Gothic, and one mile south of Schofield Pass. The Natural Area is used primarily in conjunction with research being done by RMBL.

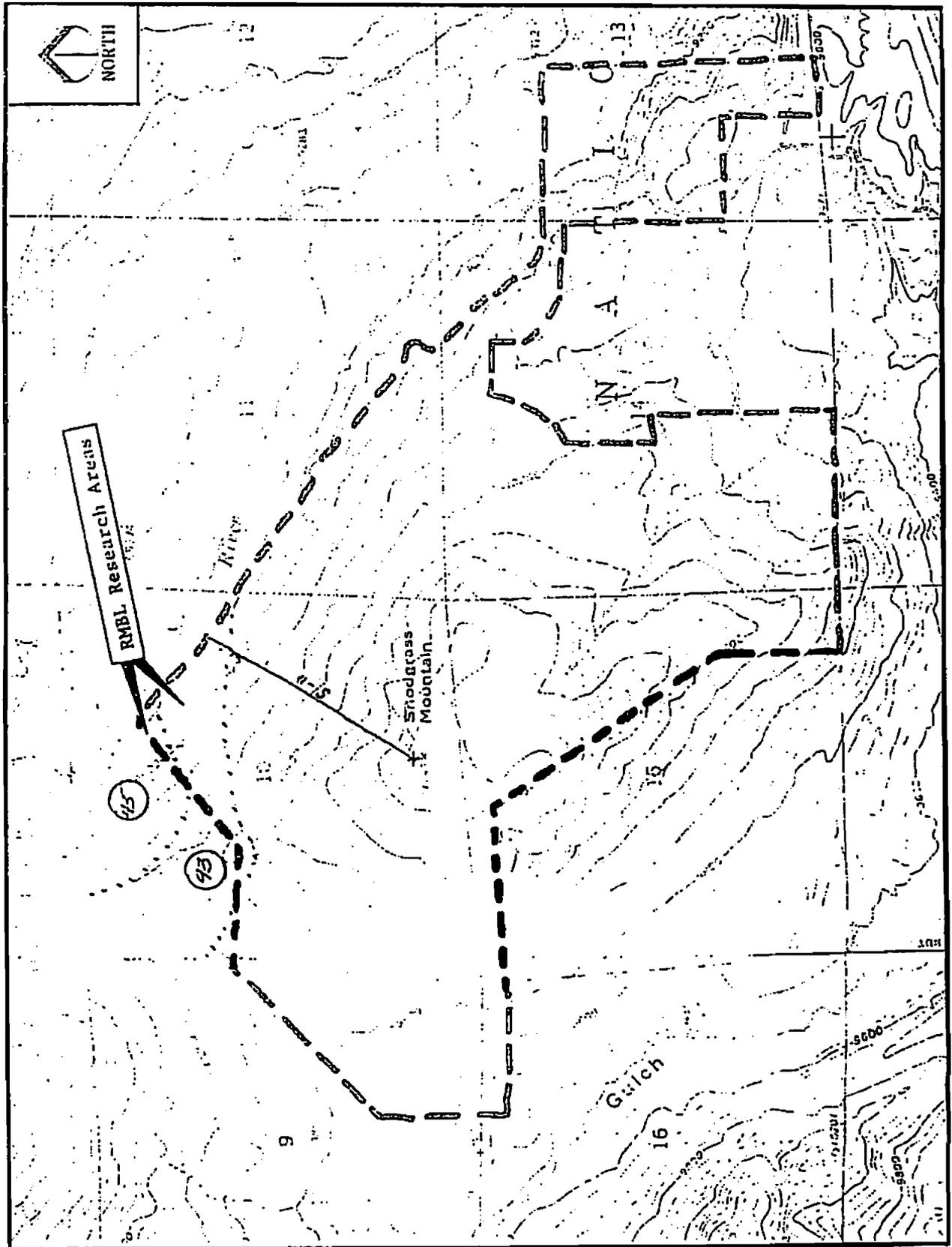
Research within the Snodgrass Expansion area is limited. RMBL has one ongoing project in the area (Figure 3). RMBL Project 93 is a research project dealing with aphids and fireweed. RMBL Project 45 deals with research on bee activities, but is outside of the expansion area.

9. Land Uses

The lands in the general vicinity of Snodgrass Mountain are used for agricultural, municipal, residential, and winter sports purposes. Figure 4 shows tracts of privately-owned land nearby. Table 4 lists the size and ownership of these tracts.

TABLE 3: Use at Crested Butte Ski Area

<u>Year</u>	<u>Skier Days</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
1969-70	39,487	Does not include season passes
1970-71	42,406	
1971-72	48,855	
1972-73	68,217	
1973-74	86,784	Includes season passes (poor snow year)
1974-75	107,086	
1975-76	142,959	
1976-77	108,542	
1977-78	207,631	
1978-79	260,088	
1979-80	282,933	
1980-81	161,895	(poor snow year)
1981-82	276,070	



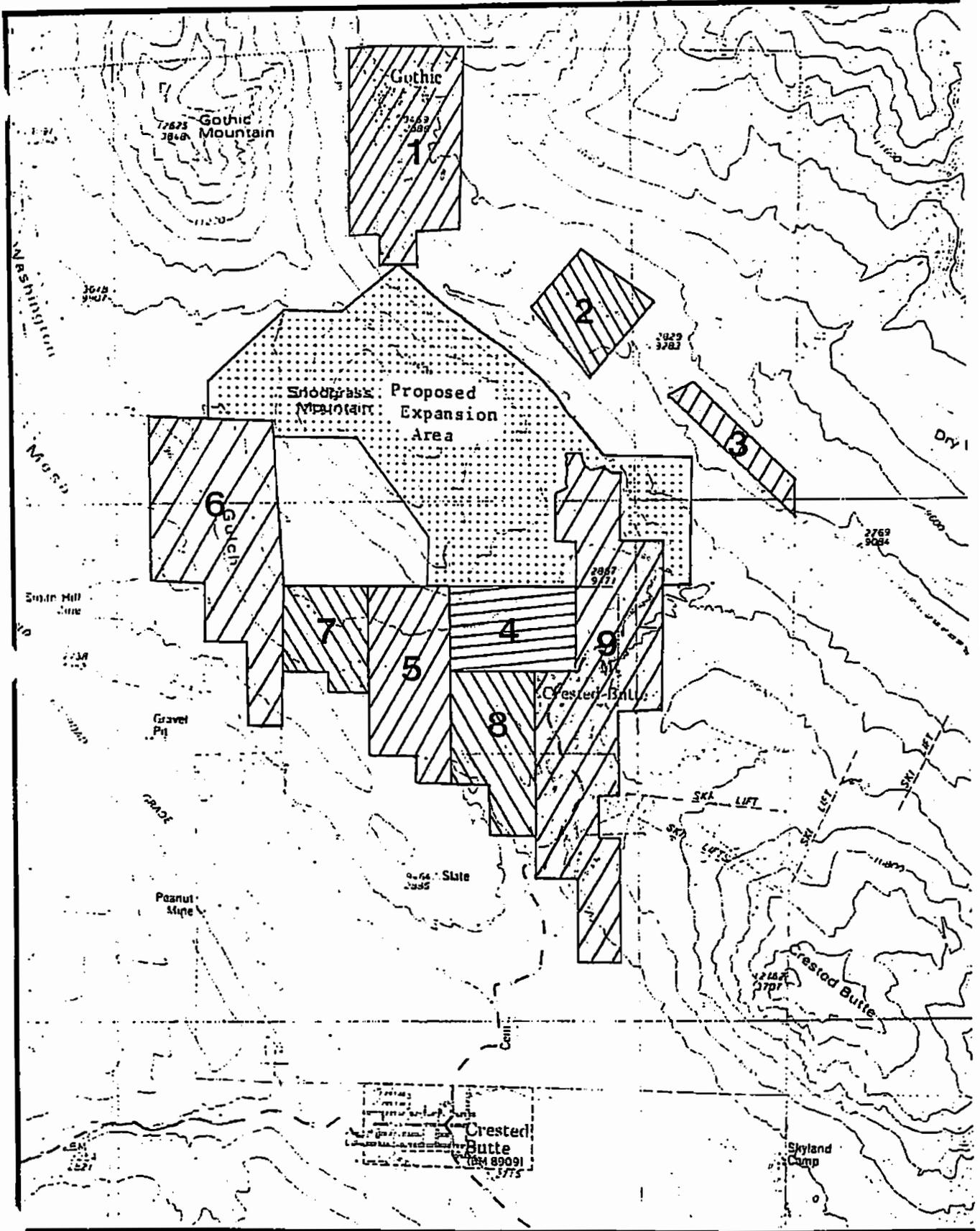


Figure 4. NEARBY PRIVATE LANDS

TABLE 4: LAND OWNERSHIP KEY FOR FIGURE 4

<u>Parcel</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Owner</u>
1	40 360 212	Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory East Side Ohio Creek Cattle Assoc. (Ralph Allen & Sons, Inc.) Site of Gothic
2	160	$\frac{1}{2}$ Trampe, Dora Mae & Maison, Alleta $\frac{1}{2}$ Trampe, William $\frac{1}{2}$ Franklin, Thelma & Rundell, Bette Mae
3	160	$\frac{1}{2}$ Trampe, Dora Mae $\frac{1}{2}$ Trampe, William $\frac{1}{2}$ Rundell, Bette Mae
4	200	Allen, Ralph R. & Sons
5	520	Allen, Ralph R. & Sons
6	640	Allen, Ralph R. & Sons
7	133	Meridian Lake, Inc.
8	280	Kapushion, Anton J. & Co.
9	700+	Town of Mt. Crested Butte

CHAPTER IV. ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

A. CBMR's Proposed Master Plan

If the Forest Service decides to amend CBMR's Special Use Permit to include Snodgrass Mountain, then development similar to that described in CBMR's proposed Master Plan will be permitted to occur. Some differences can reasonably be expected, however. This section summarizes the basic aspects of the plan. Additional information can be found in the proposed Master Plan itself. (CBMR, 1982).

1. Facilities

The major facilities proposed for the expansion area are shown in Figure 5. These include:

- 12 chair lifts (or 11 chair lifts and 1 gondola)
- 35 ski trails involving 416 acres
- snowmaking on 161 acres of ski trails
- a maximum skiing vertical of 1,700 feet
- on-mountain lodge with eating, restrooms, and ski patrol facilities
- service roads
- base area facilities at North Village and Tennis Village including:
 - main lodge with eating, restrooms, bar and lounge, locker space, ski school, ticket sales, rental, retail and office facilities.
 - secondary lodge with eating, restroom, and storage facilities.
 - maintenance building with associated facilities, mainly storage.
 - parking (9.5 acres)

All of the base area facilities would be located on private land presently zoned for development.

2. Skier Capacity

The proposed eventual capacity of the expansion is 4,500 SAOT. Combined with the 6,200 SAOT already approved under the existing Special Use Permit, this would give an eventual total capacity of 10,700 SAOT.

3. Phasing and Subsequent Approvals

Development of the Snodgrass expansion area would not begin until the area covered by the existing Special Use Permit has been substantially developed. Once the physical buildout of presently-approved expansion has been reached, development on Snodgrass would be carried out in three phases. The initial phase of expansion would add 137 acres of ski trails, 5 chairlifts for a capacity of 1,700 SAOT, and associated lodge and other operating facilities. The second phase would add 3 chairlifts and 81 acres of ski trails for a capacity of 1,800 SAOT, plus improved lodge and other operating facilities. The third and final phase would bring the skiing capacity on Snodgrass Mountain to 4,500 SAOT.

The construction (and later maintenance) work associated with these three phases will be carried out in accordance with Summer Operating Plans, which CBMR will submit to the Forest Service annually for approval prior to beginning work. In its approvals, and resulting from analysis of site-specific activities, the Forest Service will specify the design changes, mitigation measures, and other stipulations that it will require CBMR to employ.

Total ski trail acreage on Snodgrass would be 416 acres (942 acres for the total ski area). It is possible that one proposed chairlift (S-3) could be replaced by a gondola to the top of the mountain, which would allow better egress from the base area in the winter and access in the summer, but would not significantly affect the total capacity of the area.

It is always possible that complete buildout will not occur. This could be due to any of the following reasons: (1) growth in the skier market falls short of expectations; (2) construction financing proves more difficult than expected; or (3) CBMR concludes at some point that complete buildout is not desirable.

B. Biophysical Environment

1. Water

Alternative 1 would result in continuation of present trends and would not create any new or additional impacts on the hydrology of the East River drainage. Alternative 2 would result in ground surface disturbance which will locally accelerate erosion and sedimentation. No significant impacts are expected.

Under Alternative 1, waste water discharges would not increase beyond expected trends. Under Alternative 2, waste water discharges will increase at a faster rate and their cumulative effects may result in additional treatment facilities being needed (particularly for ammonia) sooner than is currently anticipated.

Diversion of water from the East River for snow-making will occur during the Winter months (October to March). Most diverting will be done during October-December when a well-packed base is being established. These diversions may lead to lower dilution of discharged waste waters (thus advancing the time when additional water treatment facilities are needed), but this impact could be lessened by the fact that the period of greatest diversion (October-December) does not greatly overlap with the period of greatest skier influx (January-March). In addition, diversion during low-flow periods (December-February) could impair the East River fishery. To help insure against this impact, an agreement was reached between CBMR, the Colorado Department of Natural Resources and the Colorado Division of Wildlife regarding East River diversions. (See Appendix D.)

According to the agreement, "... CBMR shall utilize its best efforts to maintain not less than 7 cfs of flow in the East River, and to minimize the duration of its diversions which cause said flow to fall below 7 cfs..." A provision for restocking the East River is also included.

Waters arising from National Forest System lands and used thereon shall be reserved to the United States. These waters arising from National Forest System lands and used on private lands may be decreed to private ownership. To this end, CBMR and the Forest Service have entered into an agreement whereby CBMR conveys to the United States 4.8 cfs of the water decreed to CBMR in Water Division No. 4 Case No. 31-CW-69, and CBMR retains the balance. CBMR further agrees not to divert more water from the East River than will permit 7.0 cfs of water to remain in the East River immediately below the point of diversion; provided, however, that during December of each year, CBMR may divert water in a quantity which will leave not less than 6.0 cfs in the East River for a duration not to exceed 360 hours.

2. Air Quality

Total suspended particulates (TSP) is the primary pollutant of concern. Even without expansion into the Snodgrass area, TSP levels could increase from construction activities (condominiums and currently-approved ski area facilities), chimney emissions, and road dust. These activities are expected to occur during buildout of the existing permitted area, as discussed in the Environmental Assessment for the CBMR Master Plan. Further increases can be expected to accompany expansion into the Snodgrass area.

However, TSP increases are not expected to be significant, for the following reasons: (1) A continuation of the paving programs in the Towns of Crested Butte and Mt. Crested Butte will reduce the contribution of road dust to TSP levels. (2) Continued efforts to regulate fireplace construction in the two towns will keep chimney emissions from significantly adding to TSP levels. (3) Fugitive dust from construction activities will not be significant. (4) Typical wind-flow patterns will continue to flush Mt. Crested Butte emissions down-valley and keep them away from the Town of Crested Butte. (See Appendix C of the Environmental Assessment for the existing CBMR Master Plan).

Motor vehicle emissions are expected to increase slightly, even if mass transportation and automobile disincentives are increased.

3. Geology and Minerals

As discussed in Chapter 3, the lower and mid-elevation slopes on Snodgrass Mountain are underlain by ancient slope failure deposits composed mostly of Mancos Shale. Under present-day climatic conditions, these deposits are considered stable. However, some potential exists for small-scale slope failures.

Under Alternative 1, this potential will not be altered and slope failures will occur only on rare occasions and under strictly natural circumstances.

Under Alternative 2, there will be a certain amount of surface disturbance taking place, including clearing for ski trails and other facilities, and earthmoving for roads and fall-line adjustment. These disturbances will increase the potential for small-scale slope failures. Careful engineering and design will be needed to keep the potential to a minimum, but some failures can nonetheless be expected to occur. Although exact failure locations cannot be predicted, the likelihood for failure will be greater on steeper slopes and in areas of high water tables. Failure will be most likely to occur during the Spring snowmelt and during prolonged periods of rainfall. The impacts of small-scale slope failures will ordinarily be minor, although roads may temporarily be rendered unserviceable. Repairs will often be necessary.

Where underlain by ancient slope-failure deposits, some settling or shifting of foundations may occur. The potential for this can be minimized through proper engineering and design. The upper slopes of Snodgrass, being underlain by igneous rock (a good foundation material) are not expected to encounter foundation problems.

The Lift 5 and Lift 11 service areas are of particular concern because of their steepness. The potential for small-scale slope failures is greatest in these areas. It may turn out that earth-moving in certain locations within these areas could entail failure risks that are unacceptably high, and that such disturbances cannot be allowed. Additional information will be needed, however, before conclusive determinations of this nature can be made. Soils engineering characteristics and detailed design plans will be particularly important, and should become available during the implementation phase of the proposed Master Plan.

Although the mineral potential of the proposed permit area is very low, a conflict between winter sports activities and minerals activities could arise if the area is not withdrawn from mineral entry and valid rights to the mineral estate can be established at certain locations. Should such conflicts occur, it will be necessary to closely coordinate the reasonable desires of the claimant and CBMR to minimize disruptions in the activities of both interests.

4. Soils

Problems related to slope stability are more a function of the underlying geologic materials than of soils characteristics. See the preceding section on Geology.

Erosion will take place in areas of surface disturbance, but employment of appropriate mitigation measures should minimize the degree of impact.

5. Wildlife

Small game and other wildlife will be temporarily adversely affected under Alternative 2 by clearing for trails and constructing towers and roads. These impacts will not be significant considering the small part of the total populations involved that will be affected. Clearing will eventually create openings and grazing areas for deer and elk. There possibly may be a change in fall migration patterns, but most of this change will occur away from the expansion area and away from areas of new developments for base facilities.

Snowmaking will require that additional water has to be pumped from the East River. East River is presently a valuable self-sustaining brown trout fishery. The brown trout lay their eggs in the river gravels during October and November. These eggs must be continuously covered with water during the winter to keep them alive. In order to protect the brown trout fishery in reaches below the pumping plant, CBMR and the Colorado Division of Wildlife have entered into an agreement in which CBMR agrees not to reduce East River flows at the pumping plant below 7 cubic feet per second. The text of the agreement is contained in Appendix D.

Potential adverse impacts are greatest from secondary development. Big game migration routes may be altered, and cumulative increases in human activity in the general area may result in greater disturbance of wildlife.

6. Vegetation

Timber Management - Approximately 400 acres of coniferous forest and 100 acres of aspen forest will be cleared for trails. The volume of wood on these acres amounts to 5.20 MMBF spruce-fir-lodgepole pine, and .70 MMBF aspen sawtimber. These acres would be removed from timber production during the life of the ski area, and would amount to a loss of 60 MBF of timber annually. An additional 30 acres of coniferous timber (0.38 MMBF) would be lost to the construction of roads.

After trails have been cleared in the conifers, the edges of the uncut forest will suffer some blowdown, particularly along the eastern edges. Blowdown could also be a problem on the top of Snodgrass if the clearings coalesce into large areas. In the aspen stands, blowdown should be very light. Blowdown trees, if not removed, could give rise to bark beetle buildups. Openings created by windfall could continue to enlarge through further wind damage, and would result in a temporary loss in tree cover.

Once road access has been constructed to the top of Snodgrass, much of the commercial timber there will become suitable for harvesting. A timber sale program could be initiated in conjunction with ski area needs. Mature forest remaining after trails are cleared will continue to decline in vigor and die out if not intensively managed. This would reduce the protection provided by mature trees along the trails.

Most of the trails (300 acres) will produce late summer forage for domestic stock, amounting to 40 animal unit months.

Considerable forest debris will be created from the clearing of trails, and will need some treatment in order to use the trails and avoid an increase in bug problems.

Range Management - The use of Snodgrass Mountain for grazing would become more difficult under Alternative 2, but no reduction in stocking levels is expected.

The anticipated impacts and necessary mitigation measures are:

Maintenance of Fences - Maintenance of fences on the private land boundary is the responsibility of the private landowner if he wishes to keep cattle off of his land. Sometimes landowners adjacent to National Forest System lands do not maintain these fences, and then control of livestock from leaving the National Forest System land becomes impossible. If this occurs, then the permittee will either have to maintain the fence or chase after the cattle. There are no interior or pasture fences. There is one fence that separates the Snodgrass Allotment from the Gothic Allotment. The maintenance of this fence will continue to be the responsibility of the permittees on the Gothic and Snodgrass Allotments. Any damage caused by CBMR will be CBMR's responsibility to fix.

Movement of Cattle by Truck - These impacts on the grazing of livestock will primarily occur during the construction phase when towers and roads are being built and ski trails are being cleared, shaped, and revegetated. Some movement of cattle is expected. The loudness, duration, location, and time of the use of the equipment all combine to determine the severity of the problem. If cattle are not intentionally harrassed, the impact should not be great as judged by similar situations in other areas.

Added Expense in Tending Cattle - There will be some added expense in tending cattle because of the need to move cattle back into good feed areas more often after they have been disturbed, or to keep cattle off of reseeded areas.

Risk of Loss Due to Larkspur Poisoning - Larkspur is present on Snodgrass Mountain and in places it may be abundant. Cattle that have eaten larkspur are prone to heart failure for a period of time following ingestion, and any disturbance (such as by heavy equipment) tends to increase the possibility of death. Alternative 2 will increase the chances of this happening.

Damage to Grazing Resource Through Clearing, Grooming, etc. - This damage will be short term. The end result will be that grazing forage will improve both in quantity and quality once clearing and reseeding are completed.

The use of National Forest System lands for skiing and livestock grazing is common throughout the western United States. While impacts are often annoying, time-costly, and usually more expensive to the permittee, they are seldom so severe that grazing is totally incompatible with ski area development or use.

Interference with the grazing program will result from human pressure and dog harrassment and predation. These impacts will occur under all alternatives, except that the rate of increase will be least under Alternative 1.

Water availability will not be adversely affected by the project as the existing springs and streams on Snodgrass Mountain will not be tapped. Stock water distribution could actually be improved with the installation of waterlines on the mountain for snowmaking in the winter. CBMR has said that it can charge the lines in the summer and thus make water available for livestock .

7. Visual Quality

The visual quality objective (VQO) for the expansion area was determined by combining the variety class rating, the distance from which the area is viewed, and the sensitivity of the viewer. The main viewing areas are along the Gothic Road, in the proposed additional base area, under the Glory Hole area, and in Gothic.

The recommended VQO for the proposed addition on Snodgrass Mountain is mainly Partial Retention with the northwest corner of the mountain being Modification. Ski area development is compatible with these objectives with the exception of open areas where tree cover is not present and chairlift facilities are planned. These areas would appear as Modification where Partial Retention is the objective. The bottoms of proposed chairlifts S-1, S-2, S-3, S-4, and S-5 are in the open and plainly visible. The bottoms of these proposed chairlifts are adjacent to the proposed base area facilities, and seeing them will not significantly detract from the view since they will appear as an extension of the base area facilities. Most of proposed chairlift S-11 is in the open and could be seen by viewers in Gothic and from the Gothic Road in the vicinity of the proposed chairlift bottom terminal. Viewing of chairlift S-11 from the Gothic road will be an intrusion to the viewers since it will be an obvious altering of the landscape. Chairlift S-11, if painted to blend in with the surrounding vegetation, will not be as visible from Gothic due to the viewing distance, putting it into the middleground. Development on Crested Butte Mountain can presently be seen from the Town of Gothic.

Modification of some of the proposed ski trails (particularly the tops of #6, #7, #8, #9, #16, and #23) will be needed to meet the Partial Retention VQO. Slight relocations, "feathering" of edges, and leaving tree islands in ski trails can reduce the visual impacts of the proposed development in order to meet the Partial Retention objectives.

8. Avalanches

Avalanche activity in the proposed expansion area will remain unchanged with the implementation of Alternative 1. Avalanche control activity in the form of explosives, protective skiing, etc., with the implementation of Alternative 2, will increase the number of avalanches at least threefold. An increase in the number of avalanches through avalanche control activity can decrease the size of avalanches in avalanche zones, lessening the probability of climax avalanches. An increase in skiers and snowmachine activity can threaten lives and property when the activity takes place in avalanche zones. Under extreme unstable snow conditions, avalanche control with explosives could result in the propagation of snow release for several miles away from the control site. This situation is relatively rare and has not been observed in this area during the years that observations have been taken in the Gothic area. These same observations have verified that avalanche activity in the proposed expansion area is frequent and does at certain times reach the road leading to Gothic. Other so-called "triggers" can also release avalanches, such as sonic booms and minor earth tremors. However, the expansion area is in a low risk seismic area (Kirkham and Rogers, 1978), and tremors are not considered an important factor.

An operating plan will be developed later outlining specific mitigating measures to deal with these problems. Suggested mitigations are as follows: control by restriction through the use of signing; control by

compaction to densify and strengthen the snow in avalanche starting zones; and control by explosives for the release of avalanches in un-compacted paths and areas of deep-slab instability. Other mechanisms used for the protection of roads and villages are defense structures, reforestation, land-use regulation, and avalanche zoning.

C. Economic and Social Environment

1. Community Services

There will be no effect on community services (i.e. law enforcement, fire protection, medical facilities, and schools) from implementing of Alternative 1. With implementation of Alternative 2, the following consequences are expected:

The additional burden on the Sheriff's Department for law enforcement and traffic control under Alternative 2 will be in direct proportion to the number of users.

Increased use by dispersed recreationists during the Summer and Fall will increase fire potential. Fire protection will be required for ski area base facilities and surrounding development, especially at expansion levels.

2. Transportation

With proper mitigation and coordination, the impact on local and surrounding road systems is expected to increase at only a moderate level. Coordination is presently occurring between local governments on paving as well as plowing, reconstruction, and equitable financing of these roads.

The car pooling incentive along with expansion of the existing mass transit (bus) system will reduce traffic. The reduction will be more significant as use increases. A charge parking plan was instituted for the 80/81 season, which has proven extremely successful at other ski areas in reducing traffic volumes.

The present bus system is receiving greater acceptance and use yearly. Present plans are to expand the system and encourage County participation in the funding. Several additional sources of funding may be available including federal grants and state aid. The Colorado Legislature is reviewing the need for public transit for resort areas.

CBMR plans to participate in a new transit agreement whereby it would continue to participate on a fair share basis once the existing agreement expires. The Ski Area is committed to solving the current traffic problems in cooperation with the involved governmental agencies.

A new airport terminal facility at Gunnison with improved landing facilities, scheduled air service, and a resumption of charter flights into Gunnison will also serve to reduce vehicular traffic.

Congestion and hazard problems on Colorado Highway 135 are expected to persist until the highway is improved. This highway has been identified as the highest priority in the state. Funding of the project requires legislative action.

3. Utilites

Alternative 1 would have no effect on utilities or utility locations. Implementation of Alternative 2 will trigger increased demands for utility locations on National Forest System lands. Pre-planning of base area facilities will significantly reduce these occurrences.

4. Population and Employment

Development of the Snodgrass Expansion Area will generate new basic employment through hiring at the ski area itself, hiring of construction workers during the development phases, and hiring in the service and retail trade sectors. These are summarized in Table 5.

Hiring at the ski area, assuming 0.5 person-years per seasonal employee, will raise annual basic employment in Gunnison County by 129 persons once buildout of the expansion area is completed. This amounts to about 4% of total basic employment in the county.

Basic employment will be created during construction of both the expansion area and the lodging facilities needed to accommodate the additional skiers. Assuming 0.5 person-years of construction employment per SAOT of new capacity, 2250 person-years of basic employment will be generated. If the construction stage lasts for ten years, then the annual average will be 225 employees, or about 7% of total basic employment in the county.

Additional basic employment will be created in the retail trade and service sectors. Assuming 0.05 employee-years per SAOT of new capacity and 75% utilization, basic employment will be raised by 169 persons, or about 5% of the county's total at buildout.

The above estimates assume that all visitors are skiers, but it is probable that some additional visitors will come, yet not ski. As such amenities as restaurants, shops, and other sources of entertainment become more available, the rate of non-skiers visitations is expected to increase.

Using a total employment: basic employment ratio of 2.17 (BMML, 1981a, p. 415-21), total new employment in Gunnison County will be 647 employee-years, or about a 9% increase over levels projected by BMML (1981a, p. 415-25), exclusive of construction employment.

The total population increase will be about 1400 persons, assuming a total employment: total population ratio of 40:60 (BMML, 1981a, p. 4/5-25). However, it is possible that a major portion of new employment could come from existing residents, which would result in a smaller population increase. The availability of local labor will be subject to job competition levels prevailing at the time of expansion.

TABLE 5 : NEW BASIC EMPLOYMENT

(NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES)

	<u>Permanent</u>	<u>Seasonal</u>
Ski Area Employment	34	191
Retail Trade/Service Employment	<u>45</u>	<u>202</u>
Total	79	393
Construction*	225	

*Assumes a 10-year construction period.

Source: CBMR and Forest Service estimates.

TABLE 6 : RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES

<u>ROS*</u>	<u>Alt.1</u>	<u>Alt.2</u>
Urban		15%
Rural		60%
Roaded Natural	10%	4%
Semi-primitive:		
Motorized		5%
Non-Motorized	90%	1.6%

*Recreation Opportunity Spectrum

5. Housing

Housing requirements for the expansion-related total population will be 389-700 units, using occupancy rates of 3.6-2 persons per unit. How much of this housing will be new will depend on how much new employment comes out of the existing population and how much must be imported.

Housing for new population will be obtained depending on employment status and current market conditions. Town of Mt. Crested Butte Ordinance 10, Series 1979, requires that one unit of employee housing be created for every eight thousand square feet of saleable floor area constructed in all multiple family projects of eight units or more in a project or of 8,000 square feet or more. This provides a substantial amount of employee housing. In the past, CBMR has also made arrangements for employee housing in Almont. It would be speculative to discuss the nature of such arrangements several years prior to the need for them, but past practices indicate that CBMR is aware of employee housing needs and is prepared to act in behalf of its employees to locate housing.

Employees in the construction, services, and retail trade sectors will also require housing, but it is not always so common for employers to make arrangements similar to those made by CBMR. Employee housing in these sectors is more of an individual matter. Depending on the availability of housing at the time of new employee hiring, difficulties may or may not be encountered. This will also be influenced by whether new hires are existing residents or move into the area in response to job opportunities.

In recent years, a considerable number of employees in the Crested Butte - Mt. Crested Butte area have lived in or near to Gunnison. This has been a function of housing availability and prices. Although it is a somewhat speculative matter, this pattern could still be in existence at the time of Snodgrass expansion. If 80% of the new population at buildout settled in Gunnison, this would bring 1132 new people into the community and could place a noticeable strain on the housing market.

Housing for skiers will be provided by a combination of commercial lodging facilities and private homes. CBMR estimates an ultimate destination site skier: day use skier ratio of 80:20, which means that commercial lodging facilities will be needed for an additional 3600 visitors once the Snodgrass expansion has been completed. As non-skiing visitors increase in numbers, additional lodging capacity will be needed.

Most skier housing for the Snodgrass expansion is expected to be created at Mt. Crested Butte, although some skiers will continue to use facilities in the Gunnison area.

6. Cultural Resources

Increased skiing induced by the Snodgrass expansion will lead to an increase in transient and permanent populations and general activity in the general area, but these should have no significant effect on the historical or cultural character of the Crested Butte Historic District beyond the emphasis on recreation that already exists.

Specific indirect impacts on the physical elements of the District are also unlikely to be significant. Most of the new housing units that will be constructed to serve Snodgrass skiers will be built in Mt. Crested Butte or in Gunnison rather than in the Historic District. Also, the Historic District's building codes should prevent any adverse changes

in the architectural character of the District resulting from the construction that does occur. Access to the Snodgrass expansion will be over existing roads which pass through the District, but this should have no significant effect on the historical or cultural character of the District because the highway does not go through the center of the District. In addition, the Snodgrass expansion should produce no significant increase in noise levels within or adjacent to the Historic District and, thus, have no adverse effect on the District.

Impacts on the community of Gothic (direct and indirect) should be minimal. The road to Gothic is closed during the Winter, and the community is accessible only by ski, snowshoe, and snowmobile. Some increase in tourist activity during the Summer could occur as a result of new residents moving into Mt. Crested Butte due to the Snodgrass expansion, but this increase should be a small percentage of the existing Summer activity. The historical and cultural character of Gothic should not be changed by this increase.

7. Outdoor Recreation

Undeveloped Recreation Opportunities - Under the No Action Alternative (Alternative 1) no significant changes are anticipated. Development under Alternative 2 would change the natural setting that exists now to one of an urban or rural nature. Summer-Fall recreation opportunities would change under each alternative as shown in Table 6.

The opportunity to recreate on Snodgrass Mountain in a natural, undisturbed setting would be reduced significantly by Alternative 2. Other areas would remain available for this use, and the net reduction of opportunities would be minimal.

Downhill Skiing - Implementation of the No Action Alternative will not affect the current recreation status of National Forest System lands. Crested Butte Ski Area would have a design capacity of 6,200 SAOT unless a revised master plan for the existing area is proposed and approved that allows additional^o capacity. The quality of skiing may decline if demand exceeds the ultimate capacity of the ski area. The opportunity for supplying additional skiing capacity on Snodgrass Mountain would be postponed.

Development of Snodgrass Mountain would allow the Crested Butte Ski Area to expand to meet potential/additional skiing demand in excess of the current 6,200 SAOT now approved for conceptual development. The present "high quality" skiing and minimal crowding could be maintained with the additional development until the ultimate capacity is reached. Development will provide for a higher recreational use of Snodgrass Mountain. Approximately 472,500 additional skier visits/season could be provided for Alternative 2. (These figures are calculated as follows: 4,500 SAOT X .75 efficiency X 140 operating days = 472,500 skier visits.) Skiing will be the dominant land use in the winter with year-round outdoor recreation use becoming more available.

8. Research

The bottom end of proposed lift S-11 crosses a small portion of RMBL research area 93 (Figure 3). Installation of the S-11 bottom terminal, and associated skiing, would affect less than 10% of the delineated research area.

Skiing development on Snodgrass will have no measurable effects or consequences on the Gothic Natural Area.

9. Land Use

Figure 3 shows the location of privately-owned tracts of land near Snodgrass Mountain, including the Town of Mt. Crested Butte. At the present time, most of these tracts are undeveloped. However, as ski area expansion occurs and secondary growth follows, it can be expected that pressures will increase to develop some of these lands for residential uses. The result could be a scattering of subdivisions throughout the area. This growth will be regulated according to the terms of the Gunnison County Land Use Resolution and the Town of Mt. Crested Butte's zoning regulations.

Figure 4 shows the location of proposed facilities within the proposed permit area. Not all of the area would be occupied by facilities; some portions would be left undeveloped. This creates two disadvantages: (1) the Forest Service could encounter complications in working with CBMR to manage these undeveloped portions for other resource purposes; (2) CBMR would incur liabilities regarding public health and safety in these same locations, yet it has not expressed an interest in developing them. The situation could be avoided through modification of the permit area boundary to include only those lands actually needed for ski area development.

CHAPTER V. LIST OF AGENCIES AND PERSONS CONSULTED

The following agencies and persons were consulted during the preparation of this Environmental Assessment:

Gunnison County
Town of Mt. Crested Butte
Town of Crested Butte
City of Gunnison
Colorado Division of Local Government
Colorado Department of Highways
Colorado Geological Survey
Colorado Water Conservation Board
Colorado Department of Health
Colorado Division of Wildlife
Colorado State Historic Preservation Officer
Gus Larkin (CBMR, Executive Vice President)

CHAPTER VI. LIST OF PREPARERS

The following individuals assisted in the preparation of this assessment:

Shammy Somrak - *Team Leader*
Tom Eberhard
Jim Barry
Jim Paxon
Miles Weaver
Jerry Chonka
Bob Russell
Arnie Arneson
Ray Kingston
John Hill

APPENDIX A. FOREST SERVICE MITIGATION MEASURES

This Appendix contains mitigation measures that can be required by the Forest Service for activities on National Forest System Lands. These measures will be required, as appropriate, in the course of approving Summer Operating Plans submitted by CBMR. When the Summer Operating Plan is submitted, the measures required could well be more specific than the ones in this appendix. This is because very detailed site-specific work plans will be available, which will make it possible to discuss mitigation in greater detail.

A. Biophysical Environment

1. Water

- a. Provide start of revegetation promptly after disturbance.
(See Vegetation item c.)
- b. Provide adequate facilities to treat sewage.
- c. Leave or allow regrowth of low-growing shrubs along stream courses.
- d. Direct drainwater from parking lots and buildings across vegetated, noncritical soil areas before discharging into streams.
- e. Provide adequate primary drainage structures at all stream crossings and install secondary drainages where design criteria dictates.
- f. Place hard surfacing on parking areas to reduce sedimentation.
- g. Employ only those logging methods that are compatible with the local topography and cause the least disturbance.
- h. Locate ski runs to minimize disturbance and maintain the integrity of natural drainages and drainage-ways. Avoid paralleling drainages with ski trails, where possible.
- i. Avoid construction of facilities or soil disturbance in areas with permanently high water tables or standing surface water (i.e. wetlands).
- j. Use temporary sediment barriers near drainages to reduce sedimentation during the period between construction and the re-establishment of vegetation.
- k. Install and maintain waterbars or crossdrains on all ski trails and roads to control runoff. Drains must discharge into stable, undisturbed areas and be designed to avoid excessive concentrations of water.
- l. Drain moist areas in roads and ski trails using culverts, ditches or other techniques to minimize risk of mass soil movement and eliminate ice sheeting problems.

2. Air Quality

- a. Control fugitive dust during construction through prompt revegetation of disturbed areas and dust abatement treatment on roads.
- b. Follow Forest Service smoke management practices which set forth atmospheric conditions under which burning can be done without concentrating smoke. Alternatives to burning (such as chipping) shall be explored and should be utilized to the extent practical.
- c. Require surfacing or dust abatement on all public access roads and parking areas.

3. Geology and Soils

- a. locate lifts, buildings, or roads away from high hazard areas. Use professional geologic and soils engineering advice in areas of questionable slope stability.
- b. Revegetate disturbed areas promptly. (See Vegetation item c.)
- c. Drain or direct water away from unstable soils areas.
- d. Use aerial or minimal ground impact equipment for tree removal and tower construction if ski trail soil grooming is not required for that area. (See Vegetation item c.)
- e. Construct waterbars or other aids to prevent excess runoff. (See Water item k.)
- f. Employ minimum cuts and fills for all aspects of construction.
- g. Leave stumps in the ground on slopes over 40% that have been identified as potentially unstable.
- h. On potentially unstable soils, major cuts and fills will be stabilized using retaining walls or other structural measures as required.
- i. Use helicopters for chairlift installations on steep slopes (60% and above) and on identified potential unstable slope areas.
- j. Develop critical areas (potentially unstable slopes, etc.) in stages to minimize the amount of unstabilized earth work existing at any given time.

4. Wildlife

- a. Restrict use of roads on area by public.
- b. For site-specific proposals, conduct a field review for identification of important wildlife habitat areas (nesting, roosting, feeding or breeding sites).
- c. Prevent sedimentation of streams through proper erosion control procedures.

5. Vegetation

- a. Locate lifts and trails to minimize windthrow.
- b. Manage and treat stands between ski trails. (See item g below.)
- c. Prepare, seed, and fertilize (where necessary) all disturbed areas within two weeks of the cessation of disturbance, and mulch (where necessary) within four weeks of the cessation of disturbance, or complete these activities before the snow flies, whichever is soonest. For subsoils that do not have the fertility or moisture-holding capacity for adequate revegetation, stockpile the disturbed topsoil and respread it prior to starting revegetation efforts. Use jute matting, hydromulching, or other temporary erosion control measures on erodible soils to assist in the re-establishment of vegetation.

- d. Locate developments as much as possible in open areas.
- e. Use construction and clearing practices which will minimize ground disturbance.
- f. Limit clearing or surface disturbance to those areas needed for parking lots, ski runs, roadbeds, trails or building sites.
- g. Prepare a vegetation management plan including: inventory, silvi-cultural and range prescriptions, and vegetation management methods including fire, insect, and wildlife considerations.
- h. Timber Removal -
 - 1) Confine tree removal to time of year when disturbance will be least for the particular location and logging method being used.
 - 2) Use over-the-snow log removal where terrain permits to reduce impacts to soils and vegetation.
 - 3) Use specialized low-impact ground equipment if appropriate.
 - 4) When possible, dispose of commercial timber through commercial timber sales. Dispose of other timber through firewood offerings, burning, scattering, chipping, etc.
 - 5) Clean up all debris.
- i. Livestock Grazing -
 - 1) Revegetate disturbed areas with grass species that will stabilize soils and improve forage.
 - 2) Repair damages to range improvements.

6. Visual Quality

- a. Minimize the visual effects of straight lines. Create irregular clearing edges by leaving sound groups of trees near the edges at varying intervals and clearing beyond normal clearing lines.
- b. Leave islands of trees within the ski runs where they will reduce visual impacts yet remain safe for skiing.
- c. Tie ski runs into natural openings when possible.
- d. Clean up all debris from construction.
- e. Revegetate promptly. (See Vegetation item c.)
- f. Use colors which blend with the natural environment for facilities on the mountain (chairlifts, buildings, etc.)
- g. In critical viewing areas (East River, Gothic Road, Mt. Crested Butte, the existing Ski Area), analyze proposed clearing patterns using visual computer analysis programs.

7. Avalanches

- a. Install protection or diversion devices for facilities which must be located in potential avalanche areas.
- b. Maintain and initiate long-term studies in the areas where avalanche danger is apparent and facilities or runs are planned.

8. Cultural Resources

- a. Cause CBMR to complete an intensive survey of all areas proposed for soil disturbance once accurate construction plans are available. Consult with the State Historic Preservation Officer and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation in accordance with 36 CFR 800.
- b. Complete a determination of effect for all cultural resources located within the impact area that are eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.

APPENDIX B. OTHER MITIGATION MEASURES

This Appendix lists mitigation measures that, in addition to those in Appendix A, could be required by other jurisdictions to minimize adverse impacts beyond the confines of the National Forest System lands affected by the Snodgrass expansion.

A. Biophysical Environment

1. Air Quality

- a. Pass town and county ordinances to restrict wood and coal burning devices.
- b. Pass town and county ordinances requiring more energy-efficient structures.
- c. Use more efficient modes of transportation.
- d. Monitor air quality as development progresses to determine how well standards are being met.
- e. Prohibit the use of road sanding agents that grind into a powder.

2. Wildlife

- a. Enforce Mt. Crested Butte dog control ordinance

B. Economic and Social Environment

1. Community Services

- a. Keep individual expansion projects commensurate with public service capabilities.

2. Transportation

- a. Expand the Gunnison airport by implementing the airport's Master Plan.
- b. Induce visitors to use mass transit facilities to reach the Ski Area. Regulate the amount of parking space available. Impose parking fees. Establish incentive programs.
- d. Improve Colorado Highway 135 and the Gothic Road to meet projected demands.

3. Utilities

- a. Coordinate with Federal agencies during the planning stage prior to installing or upgrading utility systems that cross Federal lands.

4. Cultural Resources

- a. Complete an intensive survey of all areas proposed for soil disturbance once accurate construction plans are available. Consult with the State Historic Preservation Officer and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation in accordance with 36 CFR 800.
- b. Adjust location of facilities to avoid any significant archaeological or historical materials which may be found as a result of intensive survey, or else salvage them.
- c. Develop an informational program for known cultural resources in the area which includes appreciation of heritage and protection of those resources.
- d. Carry out strict enforcement of existing laws and regulations protecting cultural resources.
- e. Complete a determination of effect for all cultural resources located within the impact area that are eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.

5. Outdoor Recreation

- a. Design developed facilities to harmonize with the natural environment of the area.
- b. Maintain balanced support facilities and lift capacities, including destination/day-skier ratios.
- c. Health and Safety Measures -
 - 1) Insure that all local, state, and federal codes for construction and inspection are strictly followed.
 - 2) Annually update Ski Area safety and operating plans to reflect current situations and needs.

6. Research

- a. Maintain a list of all known research projects in adjacent and proposed development areas.
- b. Avoid important current research areas if adverse impacts cannot be mitigated.

APPENDIX C

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
WITH
GRAND MESA, UNCOMPAGRE AND GUNNISON NATIONAL FORESTS
STATE OF COLORADO
GUNNISON COUNTY, COLORADO
TOWN OF MT. CRESTED BUTTE, COLORADO
TOWN OF CRESTED BUTTE, COLORADO
CITY OF GUNNISON, COLORADO
AND
CRESTED BUTTE MOUNTAIN RESORT, INC.
CONCERNING THE ASSESSMENT AND REVIEW
OF THE EXPANSION OF THE CRESTED BUTTE
SKI AREA ONTO SNODGRASS MOUNTAIN

I. THE PARTIES

The Parties to this Memorandum of Understanding ("MOU") are the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service ("Forest Service"), the State of Colorado ("State"), Board of County Commissioners of Gunnison County, Colorado ("County"), Town of Mt. Crested Butte, Colorado ("Mt. Town"), Town of Crested Butte, Colorado ("Town"), City of Gunnison, Colorado ("City"), and Crested Butte Mountain Resort, a Colorado Corporation ("Proponent").

II. INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE

The East River Land Management Plan allocated Snodgrass Mountain as a Winter Sports Site when developed in conjunction with the Crested Butte Ski Area. The East River Land Management Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement, dated September 7, 1979, cover the issues and concerns as known at that time related to the allocation of Snodgrass Mountain for winter sports use. Authorization to study this ski area expansion was given by Regional Forester Craig Rupp on October 15, 1981.

The parties to this MOU find it appropriate and in the public interest to gather information on the Crested Butte Ski Area Expansion Proposal to Snodgrass Mountain for inclusion in the Environmental Assessment (EA) to be prepared for and under the direction of the Forest Service. The conditions and procedures for the simultaneous accomplishment of and compliance with the Forest Service Joint Review Process ("JRP"); the NEPA Process; and preparation of an Environmental Assessment under the framework of CEQ Reg. 40 C.F.R. 1506.5 will be followed.

The purpose of this MOU is to provide a forum for public involvement (gathering public input and disseminating information to the public) and coordination between Federal, State, and local governments.

III. JRP COMMITTEE - MEMBERSHIP

The Forest Service, State of Colorado, Gunnison County, Town of Mt. Crested Butte, Town of Crested Butte, City of Gunnison and Crested Butte Mountain Resort, Inc., as signatories to this MOU, will designate one employee or agent to serve as the principal contact representing that signatory. The persons so designated shall comprise the committee. A list of designees will be compiled, attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference. Such list shall be updated when necessary.

IV. ROLES

The Forest Service is responsible for the administration of the National Forests and the policies and plans for the use thereof.

The State has jurisdiction over the health, safety, and welfare of persons within the State and certain specific responsibilities, such as the enforcement of air and water quality standards, the protection of wildlife and the provision for and maintenance of State highways.

The proponent is responsible for providing information about the proposal to evaluate it, to show potential means of mitigating adverse effects to meet the criteria and standards established and to show how the work will be performed in accordance with approved plans.

The Mt. Town has jurisdiction over health, safety, and welfare of persons within the boundaries of the Mt. Town, and specifically, the authority for the planned and orderly use of private and other non-federal land and for regulating the use of land on the basis of the impact thereof on the Mt. Town.

The County has the jurisdiction over health, safety, and welfare of person within the unincorporated boundaries of the County, including the authority for the planned and orderly use of that non-federal land and for regulating the use of that land on the basis of the impact on the County.

The Town and the City and the other parties to this MOU are responsible for providing any and all appropriate information relative to the proposal so that it may be properly evaluated. Further, the Town and the City and the other parties here are responsible for reviewing in a timely manner the Environmental Assessment to assure all significant issues have been addressed and potential adverse impacts have been adequately disclose

V. IMPLEMENTATION

All parties agree to further study the Crested Butte Ski Area proposal for expansion onto Snodgrass Mountain and agree to establish a Joint Review Committee and cooperate in the following manner:

A. Each and all parties will:

1. Be responsible for certain concerns and activities as to be mutually agreed upon.
2. Assist in the preparation of a schedule for assessment and review and diligently adhere to it.
3. Share expertise with other parties.
4. Provide the analysis of those elements of the proposal which are subject to their individual jurisdiction.
5. Share information related to the proposal with all parties.
6. Define required criteria and base date in their areas of responsibility.

B. The Forest Service will:

1. Serve as the lead agency and will prepare or supervise the preparation of the Environmental Assessment.

The Environmental Assessment will be prepared and distributed in a manner and format prescribed by the Forest Service and will satisfy:

- (a) All requirements under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and guidelines promulgated pursuant to the Act; and
- (b) All guidelines for reports and statements established by the Council on Environmental Quality.

C. The State will:

1. Review information received including Environmental Assessment documents to assure that those areas for which the state has responsibility (ex. air and water quality, state highways and wildlife) are addressed.

D. The Proponent will:

1. Provide information and data related to the expansion proposal.
2. "If needed, pay reasonable costs incurred by retention of a private and independent consultant whose responsibility will be to provide technical assistance for such information that might be needed to evaluate this expansion proposal that is not already available. The Forest Service and the proponent shall mutually approve the need for such consultant.

E. The Mt. Town will:

Review information received including Environmental Assessment documents to assure that those areas for which the Town has primary responsibility are addressed.

F. The County will:

1. Review information received including Environmental Assessment documents to assure that those areas for which the County has primary responsibility are addressed.

G. The Town and City will:

1. Review information received including Environmental Assessment documents to assure that those areas of appropriate Town and City concern are addressed.

VI. AMENDMENTS

Any change or amendment to this MOA or attachments hereto may be made only with the consent of the parties hereto.

VII. MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

All parties shall have an opportunity to participate in the development of the work outline for items within their individual areas of jurisdiction.

"The failure of any parties to execute this Memorandum of Understanding, or to fulfill its purpose, shall not impede the progress of the remaining parties, who shall diligently pursue the review process envisioned by the Memorandum of Understanding."

Nothing in this MOU shall be construed as obligating the U. S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, State of Colorado, Gunnison County, the Town of Mt. Crested Butte, the Town of Crested Butte or the City of Gunnison to expend funds, or as involving the United States, County, Towns, City, or the State of Colorado in any obligation for future payment of money, in excess of appropriations authorized by law by the Towns, County, City, Congress, or the State General Assembly.

No member of or delegate to Congress, or resident commissioner shall be admitted to any share or part of this MOU, or to any benefit that may arise therefrom; but this provision shall not be construed to extend to this MOU if made with a corporation for its general benefit.

In carrying out the terms of this MOU, there shall be no discrimination against any person because of race, creed, color, sex or national origin.

Any party may terminate their participation in this MOU by providing 30 days written notice to the other parties.

Any party may hire any additional consultant(s) at its own costs and without the approval of the other parties hereto.

This Memorandum of Understanding shall be effective 30 days after the date of the first signature hereto.

DATED THIS 27 DAY OF January 1982

[Signature]
Town of Mt. Crested Butte

DATED THIS 9 DAY OF February 1982

[Signature]
United States Forest Service

DATED THIS _____ DAY OF _____ 1982

[Signature]
State of Colorado

DATED THIS 20th DAY OF January 1982

[Signature]
Gunnison County

DATED THIS _____ DAY OF _____ 1982

[Signature]
Crested Butte Mountain Resort, Inc.

DATED THIS 30 DAY OF Jan 1982

[Signature]
City of Gunnison

DATED THIS 30 DAY OF Jan 1982

[Signature]
Town of Crested Butte

DECISION NOTICE AND
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
FOR THE
CRESTED BUTTE MOUNTAIN RESORT SKI AREA
SNODGRASS EXPANSION ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
USDA - FOREST SERVICE
GRAND MESA, UNCOMPAHGRE, AND GUNNISON NATIONAL FORESTS
TAYLOR RIVER RANGER DISTRICT
GUNNISON COUNTY, COLORADO

My decision is to adopt Alternative 2 in the Crested Butte Mountain Resort's (CBMR) Ski Area Snodgrass Expansion Environmental Assessment. This will amend CBMR's special use permits to include expansion onto Snodgrass Mountain as shown in CBMR's proposed Master Plan.

Specific details of my decision are as follows:

- No construction activities are to be initiated on Snodgrass Mountain until the area covered by the current special use permits has been substantially developed as described in Crested Butte Ski Area Master Plan, approved 1980.
- For site-specific construction and operating activities involved in the development on Snodgrass Mountain, CBMR is required to submit construction and operating plans to the Taylor River District Ranger for approval prior to any ground disturbance.
- For all operations on National Forest System lands, CBMR is required to employ the mitigation measures listed in Appendix A of the Environment Assessment for Crested Butte Mountain Resort Ski Area, Snodgrass Expansion.
- Appendix B of the Environmental Assessment lists possible mitigation measures developed with assistance of the Snodgrass Expansion Joint Review Committee that could be required by other jurisdictions to minimize adverse impacts beyond the confines of National Forest System lands.
- Prior to approving any Operating Plans related to the Snodgrass Expansion, the Taylor River District Ranger is directed to complete a Vegetation Management Plan in cooperation with Crested Butte Mountain Resort for the expansion area. This plan is to include

specific proposals for management of the timber, range, and wildlife habitat resources in concert with development on Snodgrass Mountain. The details of the plan are to be implemented by Crested Butte Mountain Resort with coordination from the Taylor River District Ranger to the degree practicable during the development and operation of the expansion area.

- The Taylor River District Ranger will monitor all facets of CBMR's Summer and Winter operating plans to insure optimum surface resource protection and adherence to the terms of this decision and the amended Special Use Permit.

Although Snodgrass Mountain is in an area of low mineral potential, this decision cannot restrict operations done according to the mining laws and the surface management regulations (36 CFR 228). It is recognized that ski area development and mineral operations are a real potential for conflict. Withdrawal from mineral entry, in accordance with Section 204 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, is a possible action that would eliminate this conflict (in favor of ski area development). I plan to initiate a request to the State Director of the Bureau of Land Management that the lands within the permit area be withdrawn from mineral entry.

I based my decision on the analysis contained in the Environmental Assessment for Crested Butte Mountain Resort Ski Area Snodgrass Expansion. This assessment analyzed numerous physical, biological, social, and economic factors. All practical means to avoid or minimize environmental impacts have been or will be (for subsequent actions) taken. Development for Snodgrass Mountain will have minimal environmental impacts.

Specifically, my reasons for making this decision include:

- Water quality will be adequately protected.
- Air quality will be maintained to acceptable standards.
- Geologic and soil concerns will be monitored as outlined in the environmental assessment - - Appendix A.
- Wildlife and fishery environments will be maintained at acceptable levels as per the Cooperative Agreement, Division of Wildlife - Crested Butte Mountain Resort dated 06/22/81.
- Visual quality will be adequately protected.
- Avalanche protection will be required as outlined in the environmental assessment.
- Valid mineral rights will be protected.
- Provides opportunity for a viable economic operation which allows for a satisfactory and a higher quality skiing experience.

Other factors which I considered and used include:

- The economic base for Gunnison County will be improved by development.

- Public services development is remaining current with increased growth
- Current public transportation is being maintained and supported.
- Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory research projects will not be adversely affected by this proposal.
- Ample parking will be provided.
- The environmentally preferable alternative is Alternative 2 which best balances the protection of physical resources with sound economic development.

Based upon the Environmental Assessment for Crested Butte Mountain Resort Ski Area Snodgrass Expansion, I have determined that no significant effect on the human environment will be caused by the implementation of my decision, therefore, an environmental impact statement will not be prepared. The major factors considered in this determination include:

- No activity will be permitted until it is certain that water quality in and adjacent to the proposed project area will be adequately protected.
- Air quality will be maintained at acceptable standards.
- Mitigation measures will be implemented to minimize disturbances related to forage production, livestock use, wildlife activity, fisheries, geologic and soil concerns, visual and avalanche problems.
- Key public service development (water, sewer, and electricity) is remaining current with growth.
- The existing bus system is effective, supported, and equitably financed. Retention of the system will depend on the continued financial commitment of all parties involved (Towns of Crested Butte, Mt. Crested Butte, and the Crested Butte Mountain Resort).
- Detailed site plans and construction designs will be required for each facility proposed. Site-specific environmental analysis will be completed for each development phase prior to construction approval.

The alternatives considered were:

Alternative No. 1 - No Expansion Beyond Present Approved Development

Under this alternative, the Forest Service would not amend CBMR's Special Use Permit to include Snodgrass Mountain. The area would continue to be managed as at present.

Alternative No. 2 - Amend CBMR's Special Use Permit to Include Snodgrass Mountain

Under this alternative, CBMR's Special Use Permit would be amended to include the proposed expansion area on Snodgrass Mountain.

This decision is subject to administrative review pursuant to 36 CFR 211.19. A Notice of Appeal must be filed within 45 days from the date of this decision, or within 30 days of the date of receipt of this decision by persons entitled to notification of the decision under 36 CFR 211.19(d)(1). Notice of Appeal must be in writing and submitted to me.

Tom Phillips 12-3-82
Forest Supervisor Date

Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, and
Gunnison National Forests
2250 Highway 50
Delta, CO 81416



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest Service

Delta, Colorado



FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

GRAND MESA,
UNCOMPAHGRE,
AND GUNNISON
NATIONAL FORESTS

Volume 1
Summary, Chapters I-V



Lifestyles - Ranching is dependant on the National Forest System for livestock grazing. The water resource has been extensively developed in the past for irrigation use. Tourism is a significant employer. Tourists are attracted by recreation opportunities including big game hunting, fishing, and downhill skiing primarily on National Forest System land. Downhill skiing is centered around the day use Powderhorn Ski Area. Oil and gas exploration personnel work in the HRU on a seasonal basis.

Attitudes, Beliefs, and Values - This unit is ranching oriented. Interest and concern about land and resource management, especially water and grazing, is high. Public issues were raised opposed to additional wilderness designation or additional road construction.

Social Organization - The Collbran HRU is rural and sparsely settled. Limited fire, law enforcement, search and rescue, medical, local news media, and local planning services are available in the area. Education through high school is available. Most residences travel outside the unit, to Grand Junction, for the majority of their purchases.

Population and Land Use - Agriculture continues to be a dominant land use. Private land holdings within the Forest are used primarily for ranching and grazing. There is local speculation that oil shale development may effect population and current land uses. The 1980 census shows a 30% growth rate for the Collbran division of Mesa County for the period 1970 to 1980.

Social Change - Some significant social change may take place in this HRU regardless of Forest Service action. These changes are due to energy and minerals development. Primarily oil and gas and oil shale development.

Crested Butte Human Resource Unit

The Crested Butte HRU is located in the north central part of Gunnison County where the Elk Mountain Range forms the Forest and County boundary. It is essentially the East River drainage including Ohio Creek and part of the Spring Creek drainage.

Prior to 1860, the county was unexplored and used as a summer hunting ground by the Ute Indians. In 1861 gold was discovered in Washington Gulch. In 1872 silver was discovered in the Elk Mountains. The area has a history of gold, silver, and coal mining. The railroad arrived in 1881. In 1952 the last coal mine closed and railroad service ended. The area was revived in 1964 with the development of a downhill ski area. This has established a new economic base for the HRU. By the early 1970's it brought new prosperity to Crested Butte. The resort community of Mount Crested Butte has formed at the Crested Butte Ski Area.

Mining could become a significant element in this HRU. Exploration for the proposed Mount Emmons mining project began in 1974. The company has discovered a large molybdenum deposit in Mount Emmons.*

Source: *Mount Emmons Mining Project, Final EIS, October 1982.

Lifestyles - Ranching and tourism are dependent on National Forest System land. Summer recreation emphasized fishing, boating, picnicking, and camping. Four-wheel drives are popular. Downhill skiing is centered at Crested Butte. Cross-country skiing and snowmobiling occurs throughout the high country surrounding Crested Butte. The water resource is important for irrigation, snow making, and domestic use.

Attitudes, Beliefs, and Values - Public issues indicate local opposition to minerals development and the effect growth will have on water quality and big game population.

Social Organization - The Crested Butte HRU is a rural unit centered around the ski area. Limited fire, law enforcement, search and rescue, medical, local news media, local planning, and commercial trade services are available. Education is available through high school. Most residents travel outside the unit for major purchases.

Population and Land Use - Crested Butte is one of the most sparsely populated HRU's surrounding the Forest. The population is located around Crested Butte and Mount Crested Butte.

Continued rapid growth is expected if the proposed Mount Emmons Mining Project starts. Much of this activity will occur around Gunnison in the adjacent HRU. The 1980 census shows a 237% growth for the Crested Butte division of Gunnison County for the period 1970 to 1980.

Social Change - Some significant social change may take place in this HRU regardless of Forest Service action. These changes are due to minerals development.

Grand Junction Human Resource Unit

The Grand Junction HRU is located at the confluence of the Gunnison and Colorado Rivers. The south border follows the Mesa-Delta County line to the point where the boundary changes to the Mesa-Montrose County line to the State line (omitting the Manti-LaSal National Forest). The west boundary follows the State line to the Mesa-Garfield County line. The north boundary follows the Mesa-Garfield County line. The east boundary is a line between the Grand Valley and Plateau Valley. Considerable public interaction exists across this boundary with the Colibran HRU.

The original settlers migrated in the 1880's from the east into the Colorado and Gunnison River Valleys. Water, climate, and protection provided by the surrounding mountains and plateaus helped establish the farming and ranching industry. The railroad was extended from Denver and Salt Lake City to the Grand Valley in the 1880's. This turned the area into a major distribution center by the turn of the century. This increased the market for agricultural production and the need for more workers.

Lifestyles - Support services and light industry are the major employers in the area. The population is in the middle to slightly younger age group. A secondary employer is ranching and farming. The Forest's water resource is important for irrigation and domestic use. Summer recreation focuses on fishing, camping, four-wheel driving, hiking, and other opportunities on National Forest System land.

TABLE III-5.

DEVELOPED RECREATION DEMAND
(Thousand RVD's Per Year Excluding Downhill Skiing)

	Time Period					
	1981-1985	1986-1990	1991-2000	2001-2010	2011-2020	2021-2030
Developed Recreation Demand	617	695	812	968	1,124	1,280

Downhill Skiing

Current Use and Management - The three downhill ski areas on the Forest supported 222,000 RVD's during the 1980 season. Capacity in 1980 on the three ski areas was 737,592 RVD's. Table III-6 displays the existing and potential capacities for the three ski areas and the possible Monarch Ski Area expansion onto the Forest. The ski areas have a potential capacity of 3.04 million RVD's. Crested Butte, Powderhorn, and Telluride have approved master plans. The Crested Butte master plan includes expansion onto Snodgrass.

Demand Trends - Demand for downhill skiing has increased. With the projected annual growth rate of 8.4%, downhill skiing use will account for 50% of the Forest's developed recreation use by the year 2010. Downhill skiing use is expected to reach 1,063,000 RVD's annually by year 2030. Crested Butte, the Monarch expansion, Powderhorn, and Telluride have potential capacity to supply downhill skiing opportunities to meet projected demand through 2030. Table III-7 displays the average annual demand for downhill skiing on the Forest.

In comments on the Draft EIS the High Country Citizens' Alliance stated, "The Plan projects a quadrupling of downhill skiing through the year 2030. There are indications that for reasons of economics and demographics, downhill skiing may be approaching its peak of popularity. Neither the Plan nor the EIS offer any analysis or references to support this growth assumption."

Demand projections were developed using trend line analysis. As additional data becomes available demand projections may be revised.

TABLE III-6.

DOWNHILL SKI AREA CAPACITY**

Area	Existing Capacity		Total Approved Master Plan Capacity		Potential Capacity	
	PAOT*	RVD*	PAOT*	RVD*	PAOT*	RVD*
Crested Butte	4,050	341,717	10,700	902,812	10,700	902,812
Monarch	0	0	0	0	5,400	437,500
Powderhorn	1,800	147,375	4,500	368,438	4,500	368,438
Telluride	2,800	248,500	15,000	1,331,250	15,000	1,331,250
TOTAL	8,650	737,592	30,200	2,602,500	35,600	3,040,000

* PAOT = People at one time.
RVD = Recreation visitor days.

** The existing Monarch Ski Area is on the San Isabel National Forest. It could potentially expand onto the Forest. The figures represented here exclude the San Isabel capacity.

TABLE III-7.

DOWNHILL SKIING DEMAND
(Thousand RVD's Per Year)

	Time Period					
	1981-1985	1986-1990	1991-2000	2001-2010	2011-2020	2021-2030
Downhill Skiing Demand	269	362	502	689	876	1,062

The Forest retains downhill skiing opportunities on eight potential sites by utilizing management activities compatible with their long-term future as downhill ski areas. Existing area expansion is encouraged over new site development. The Forest does not actively encourage new development, but responds to proponent interest on an individual basis. Table III-8 displays the potential ski sites using the four-level Priority System disclosed in the Regional Guide. This priority system facilitates land management allocation decisions and guides development scheduling of allocated winter sport sites.

TABLE III-8.

POTENTIAL SKI SITES*

Area	Regional Priority*
Mt. Axtell (Gibson Ridge)	1
Salt Creek	2
Wilson Ridge	2
Carbon Peak	3
Double Top	3
Rambouillet - Slumgullion	3
Twin Peaks	4
Park Cone Mountain	4

Dispersed Recreation

Current Use and Management - The Forest provides opportunities for a wide variety of dispersed recreation activities. Total dispersed recreation capacity is approximately 10.2 million RVD's annually. The Forest can supply 847,560 RVD's of semi-primitive non-motorized recreation use and 2,637,154 RVD's of semi-primitive motorized recreation use each year.

These supplies are taken from the existing Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) Class calculations and are assumed to be constant for the 50-year planning horizon. Some increase in capacity would be created with the addition of access required for vegetation treatment during this time. However, this increase is figured to be less than 10%.

Dispersed recreation use for 1980 was 1.2 million RVD's. Most use occurs along and adjacent to roads. Non-motorized use is expected to increase faster than motorized use. The current use by ROS class is displayed in Table III-9. Current acres by ROS class are displayed in Figure III-4.

Source: * Final Rocky Mountain Regional Guide.

RETURNS TO THE U.S. TREASURY

Total returns to the U.S. Treasury were calculated for each alternative from the returns for each revenue-producing activity on the Forest. Estimates were made of the revenues that would be produced at the midpoint of each of the planning periods. Estimates are displayed in Table IV-52.

PAYMENTS TO COUNTIES

Each year, 25% of the value of receipts from National Forest outputs goes to the State for distribution to the counties where the particular National Forest is located. A discussion of the "25 Fund" is presented in Chapter III. Projected payments to counties from the "25 Fund" by alternative are displayed in Table IV-53.

In addition to these payments, additional payments in lieu of taxes are authorized for some counties where other payments are less than 75 cents per acre. This program is dependent on annual Congressional appropriations and is administered by the USDI, BLM.

SOCIAL EFFECTS

Some significant social changes will take place in the ten-county planning area regardless of alternative. These changes are due to energy and minerals development.

The general lifestyle within SRU H is rural. Approximately half of the population lives within twenty miles of Grand Junction. This area is developing as the energy center of the west slope.

Attitudes, beliefs, and values range from no-growth to desires for continued economic expansion. These attitudes will apply to specific resource management issues regardless of the alternative implemented and the management strategies applied.

The SRU is one of the most rapidly growing areas in Colorado. Most of this growth can be attributed to factors other than National Forest System land management.

Increasing population is likely to cause additional subdivision effects on the Forest. These effects include access and big game winter range loss.

The Forest has two destination ski areas, Crested Butte and Telluride and one day-use ski area, Powderhorn. Monarch ski area, located on the Pike and San Isabel National Forest, has potential for expansion onto the Forest. The two destination ski areas are orientated to tourism. The alternatives which increase or decrease grazing and logging would have minor effects on the overall economy of these areas. All alternatives allow existing ski areas to expand.

The amount of Forest timber offered annually in Alternatives 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, and 8 will provide access and firewood volumes sufficient to meet demand. Alternatives 4, 6, and 9 will not provide access and fuelwood volumes sufficient to meet demand. Firewood shortages will occur in Alternatives 4, 6, and 9.

Rapidly increasing populations can impact a community by overloading support services such as law enforcement and medical facilities.

Both Crested Butte and Telluride are currently accommodating rapid growth attributed to ski areas.

Alternatives are based on different management emphases. These different emphases produce different output levels, and generate various social effects. The output levels of all alternatives fall within a range determined by resource capabilities, National and Regional needs, and legal constraints. The overall social effects of any alternative will often be subtle and difficult to discern.

The goods and services that result from the various alternatives will have varying effects within the HRU's. This is due to the degree of dependency of that HRU on the Forest. Timber, fuelwood, range, and recreation outputs, will have the most significant effects.

Alternatives 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, and 8 will increase permitted livestock over present levels; and alternatives 4, 6, and 9 would decrease grazing levels. The magnitude of the effect would be dependent on the health of the livestock industry and the availability of alternate forage sources.

The recreation industry is expected to grow over the next decades, with National Forest use contributing to that growth. Recreation use will increase under all alternatives, but the mix of recreation types will vary. Alternatives 2, 5, 7, and 9 provide no additional developed recreation facilities to meet increasing demand. Alternatives 1, 6, and 8 meet 50% of increased demand over current capacity; and alternatives 3 and 4 meet all of the anticipated increased demand. Alternatives 4 and 6 place greatest emphasis on dispersed non-motorized recreation opportunities.

Growth related to alternatives 1, 3, 5, 7, and 8 is not great enough to cause problems with providing social services required in any HRU's. The growth associated with alternatives 4, 6, and 9 would have fewer impacts. Increasing population associated with the alternatives is too small to have a significant land use effect off the Forest.

In Cannibal Plateau FPA and Fossil Ridge WSA, no significant social changes will take place in any alternatives.

SOCIAL EFFECTS OF ALTERNATIVES BY HUMAN RESOURCE UNIT

Collbran Human Resource Unit

The general lifestyle within the Collbran HRU is rural. The livestock industry, and to a lesser extent the recreation industry is dependent on the Forest. These would be most affected by implementation. Public issues indicate the predominant attitude in the HRU is against wilderness designation and against further large scale roading. The public wishes to maintain the quality and quantity of the rural livestock industry. Alternatives 4 and 6 provide the most dispersed recreation opportunities, and recommend no additional wilderness near the HRU. These alternatives have a negative impact on the rural livestock industry due to scheduled decreases in permitted livestock numbers. The area is also increasingly impacted by energy development, in particular oil and gas drilling. Access needs conflict with the public's desire to limit road access in the HRU.

Crested Butte Human Resource Unit

The Crested Butte HRU is oriented toward tourism, with a lesser dependence on the logging and livestock industry than other parts of Gunnison County. Alternatives which increase or decrease grazing and logging would have minor effects on the overall economy. All alternatives allow Crested Butte ski area expansion onto Snodgrass Mountain which is within the existing permit area.

The predominant attitudes of the Crested Butte HRU favor wilderness preservation and dispersed recreation opportunities.

Grand Junction Human Resource Unit

The lifestyle within the Grand Junction HRU is largely urban. The recreation industry, and to a less extent the livestock industry, is dependent on the Forest. They would be affected by alternative implementation. A large segment of the urban population is dependent to some extent on obtaining fuelwood for their homes. The area is also dependent on the Forest for its municipal water supplies.

The Grand Junction area is growing rapidly due to its emergence as an energy development center. This increasing population will demand more recreation opportunities in the Grand Mesa and Uncompahgre Plateau areas.

Gunnison Human Resource Unit

This HRU is probably affected more by Forest land management than the other HRU's. The recreation, logging, and livestock industries are largely dependent on the Forest. Minerals extraction from the area could have increasingly major impacts (such as the proposed Mt. Emmons Mining Project). Decisions regarding recreation opportunities and resource development will have a significant impact in the HRU due to its dependence on the tourist industry.

North Fork Human Resource Unit

The lifestyle within the North Fork HRU is rural. The livestock, logging, and recreation industries are dependent on the Forest. They would be affected by



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest Service

Delta, Colorado



LAND AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

GRAND MESA,
UNCOMPAHGRE,
AND GUNNISON
NATIONAL FORESTS



Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, and Gunnison National Forests
LAND AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Rocky Mountain Region
USDA, Forest Service

PREFACE

PURPOSE OF THE PLAN

The purpose of a Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (the Plan) is to address local, regional, and national issues related to National Forest management; to define a mix of management activities that will promote the sustained use and protection of forest resources; guides development of multi-year implementation programs for the Supervisor's Office and Ranger Districts; and provides direction to the Supervisor's Office and Ranger Districts for identifying activities and expenditures to achieve on-the-ground results. The Plan is needed to address the conflicting desires between forest user groups. There is a need to resolve these conflicts, and to update and display information in one Plan that integrates management direction for all forest resources. The Plan provides a management program reflecting a mix of management activities to achieve a healthy, vigorous forest environment. The environment must be capable of supporting a wide range of natural processes and human activities. Vegetation treatment is the major tool the Forest utilizes to achieve this overall goal. The Plan will also satisfy guiding legislation. To accomplish this the Plan will:

- Establish management direction and associated long-range goals and objectives for the Forest, for the next 50 years.
- Specify the standards, guidelines, approximate timing, and vicinity of the practices necessary to implement management direction.
- Establish monitoring and evaluation requirements needed to ensure direction is implemented and to determine how well outputs and effects were predicted.

The Plan will be reviewed every five years, and updated at least every ten to fifteen years.

Forest Plan preparation is required by the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act (RPA), as amended by the National Forest Management Act (NFMA). Assessment, disclosure, and display of environmental impacts is required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the implementing regulations of NFMA. The Plan incorporates or supersedes all previous resource management plans prepared for the Forest.

The key element for achieving the goals and objectives of this Plan is a healthy Forest. The Plan and Final EIS discuss numerous needs and rationales for using vegetation treatment as one of the most practical and efficient methods of achieving many goals and objectives. Vegetation treatment is a management technique in administering the multiple-use resources of the National Forest to attain the overall goal of a healthy, vigorous forest. It is used to adjust existing plant communities to best meet the vegetation needs and resource goals and objectives. Vegetation treatment is accomplished without impairment of land productivity and is guided by the Management Requirements of the Plan, Chapter III. Through commercial and non-commercial treatment activities, vegetation treatment is directed towards the following:

- Providing additional recreation opportunities;
- Providing downhill ski areas;
- Providing public service through utility corridors and electronic sites;
- Increasing opportunities for significant cultural resource discovery;
- Improving visual quality;
- Increasing big game winter range;
- Increasing non-game wildlife habitat diversity by increasing edge;
- Improving range conditions;
- Providing wood fiber;
- Increasing tree growth and vigor;
- Increasing water yield without impairing water quality;
- Increasing the forest's resistance to insect and disease infestations;
- Reducing unwanted fuel accumulations;
- Returning revenue to the U.S. Treasury;
- Maintaining industries dependent on National Forest System land management.

When vast acreages of forest cover are uniformly mature, wildlife diversity is limited to relatively few species dependent on mature forests. Burning, cutting, or other vegetation treatment activities will increase vegetation diversity which will provide wildlife habitat diversity. Treatment also reduces the amounts of unwanted fuels. Mature and overmature forests are more susceptible to epidemic insect attack. The attack can spread over large areas creating undesirable effects similar to large burns or clearcuts. If age, size class, and species diversity are enhanced the risk of wide spread epidemic is reduced. Water yield increases also depend on forest resource management. Other outputs and effects as diverse as maintaining visual quality and firewood availability are closely related to the amount of vegetation treated.

Costs associated with vegetation treatment and other activities necessary to achieve the Plan's goals are significant. It is often difficult to justify vegetation treatment expense to achieve goals associated with visual quality maintenance, cultural resource discovery, wildlife habitat improvement, insect and disease prevention, water yield improvement or commercial timber harvest. Doing so may maximize the use of some resources but reduce the total outputs and long-term potential of other resource uses. Individually the costs are too great and the long-term benefits too small. By applying an integrated approach to management overall goals are cost-efficient. For example, timber harvest in aspen enhances wildlife habitat diversity, visual quality, and returns dollars to the U.S. Treasury. This approach has the added benefit of maintaining existing employment in communities dependent on the timber industry. In other cases, prescribed burning, firewood removal, or cutting by Forest Service crews and volunteers may be the most efficient way to treat vegetation.

Vegetation treatment can require road construction. Roads take land out of production and impact the soil and water resources. However, Management Requirements in the Plan, Chapter III, ensure impacts are short-term. An environmental analysis occurs before road construction. Considerations are given to the physical and biological land characteristics as well as the goals of the management area in determining how and where to construct the road.

Lifestyles - Ranching is dependent on the National Forest System for livestock grazing. The water resource has been extensively developed in the past for irrigation use. Tourism is a significant employer. Tourists are attracted by recreation opportunities including big game hunting, fishing, and downhill skiing primarily on National Forest System land. Downhill skiing is centered around the day use Powderhorn Ski Area. Oil and gas exploration personnel work in the HRU on a seasonal basis.

Attitudes, Beliefs, and Values - This unit is ranching oriented. Interest and concern about land and resource management, especially water and grazing, is high. Public issues were raised opposed to additional wilderness designation or additional road construction.

Social Organization - The Collbran HRU is rural and sparsely settled. Limited fire, law enforcement, search and rescue, medical, local news media, and local planning services are available in the area. Education through high school is available. Most residences travel outside the unit, to Grand Junction, for the majority of their purchases.

Population and Land Use - Agriculture continues to be a dominant land use. Private land holdings within the Forest are used primarily for ranching and grazing. There is local speculation that oil shale development may effect population and current land uses. The 1980 census shows a 30% growth rate for the Collbran division of Mesa County for the period 1970 to 1980.

Social Change - Some significant social change may take place in this HRU regardless of Forest Service action. These changes are due to energy and minerals development. Primarily oil and gas and oil shale development.

Crested Butte Human Resource Unit

The Crested Butte HRU is located in the north central part of Gunnison County where the Elk Mountain Range forms the Forest and County boundary. It is essentially the East River drainage including Ohio Creek and part of the Spring Creek drainage.

Prior to 1860, the county was unexplored and used as a summer hunting ground by the Ute Indians. In 1861 gold was discovered in Washington Gulch. In 1872 silver was discovered in the Elk Mountains. The area has a history of gold, silver, and coal mining. The railroad arrived in 1881. In 1952 the last coal mine closed and railroad service ended. The area was revived in 1964 with the development of a downhill ski area. This has established a new economic base for the HRU. By the early 1970's it brought new prosperity to Crested Butte. The resort community of Mount Crested Butte has formed at the Crested Butte Ski Area.

Mining could become a significant element in this HRU. Exploration for the proposed Mount Emmons mining project began in 1974. The company has discovered a large molybdenum deposit in Mount Emmons.*

Source: *Mount Emmons Mining Project, Final EIS, October 1982.

Lifestyles - Ranching and tourism are dependent on National Forest System land. Summer recreation emphasized fishing, boating, picnicking, and camping. Four-wheel drives are popular. Downhill skiing is centered at Crested Butte. Cross-country skiing and snowmobiling occurs throughout the high country surrounding Crested Butte. The water resource is important for irrigation, snow making, and domestic use.

Attitudes, Beliefs, and Values - Public issues indicate local opposition to minerals development and the effect growth will have on water quality and big game population.

Social Organization - The Crested Butte HRU is a rural unit centered around the ski area. Limited fire, law enforcement, search and rescue, medical, local news media, local planning, and commercial trade services are available. Education is available through high school. Most residents travel outside the unit for major purchases.

Population and Land Use - Crested Butte is one of the most sparsely populated HRU's surrounding the Forest. The population is located around Crested Butte and Mount Crested Butte.

Continued rapid growth is expected if the proposed Mount Emmons Mining Project starts. Much of this activity will occur around Gunnison in the adjacent HRU. The 1980 census shows a 237% growth for the Crested Butte division of Gunnison County for the period 1970 to 1980.

Social Change - Some significant social change may take place in this HRU regardless of Forest Service action. These changes are due to minerals development.

Grand Junction Human Resource Unit

The Grand Junction HRU is located at the confluence of the Gunnison and Colorado Rivers. The south border follows the Mesa-Delta County line to the point where the boundary changes to the Mesa-Montrose County line to the State line (omitting the Manti-LaSal National Forest). The west boundary follows the State line to the Mesa-Garfield County line. The north boundary follows the Mesa-Garfield County line. The east boundary is a line between the Grand Valley and Plateau Valley. Considerable public interaction exists across this boundary with the Collbran HRU.

The original settlers migrated in the 1880's from the east into the Colorado and Gunnison River Valleys. Water, climate, and protection provided by the surrounding mountains and plateaus helped establish the farming and ranching industry. The railroad was extended from Denver and Salt Lake City to the Grand Valley in the 1880's. This turned the area into a major distribution center by the turn of the century. This increased the market for agricultural production and the need for more workers.

Lifestyles - Support services and light industry are the major employers in the area. The population is in the middle to slightly younger age group. A secondary employer is ranching and farming. The Forest's water resource is important for irrigation and domestic use. Summer recreation focuses on fishing, camping, four-wheel driving, hiking, and other opportunities on National Forest System land.

The 1981 Colorado Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) identified three recreation activities that the Forest Service in the Region 10 Planning Area should provide additional opportunities for. These are picnicking, four-wheeling and downhill skiing.

Developed Recreation - Existing developed recreation sites on the Forest include: 5 observation sites, 67 family campgrounds, 11 family picnic grounds, 2 group picnic grounds, 2 organization camps, 5 privately owned resorts, 3 concession sites, 2 information sites, and 12 recreation residence sites. These developed recreation sites can support approximately 744,000 RVD's. There are a few private campgrounds near the Forest. Approximately 80% of the developed recreation use occurs at recreation sites on the Forest.

Use in 1980 of National Forest System developed recreation sites was approximately 578,000 RVD's annually. Some sites are more popular and receive more use than others. Currently developed recreation demand exceeds capacity on the Grand Mesa and along Taylor River. Over the last ten years, developed use has increased from 46% to 82% of capacity. Use in the private sector has increased at a greater rate than the public sector.

Demand is increasing for all types of developed recreation. National Forest System developed recreation use is increasing at approximately 2.7% per year. At this rate demand for National Forest System developed recreation will exceed supply after 1990. Table II-2 displays average annual developed recreation demand for the 50-year planning horizon.

There are more than enough potential development sites to meet demand through 2030, if enough budget were available to construct the necessary new sites and it was a goal of the Forest.

TABLE II-2.

DEVELOPED RECREATION DEMAND
(Thousand RVD's Per Year Excluding Downhill Skiing)

	Time Period					
	1981-1985	1986-1990	1991-2000	2001-2010	2011-2020	2021-2030
Developed Recreation Demand	617	695	812	968	1,124	1,280

Downhill Skiing - The three downhill ski areas on the Forest supported 222,000 RVD's during the 1980 season. Capacity in 1980 on the three ski areas was 737,592 RVD's. Table II-3 displays the existing and potential capacities for the three ski areas and the possible Monarch Ski Area expansion onto the Forest. The ski areas have a potential capacity of 3.04 million RVD's. Crested Butte, Powderhorn, and Telluride have approved master plans. The Crested Butte master plan includes expansion onto Snodgrass.

Demand for downhill skiing has increased. With the projected annual growth rate of 8.4%, downhill skiing use will account for 50% of the Forest's developed recreation use by the year 2010. Downhill skiing use is expected to reach 1,063,000 RVD's annually by year 2030. Crested Butte, the Monarch expansion, Powderhorn, and Telluride have potential capacity to supply downhill skiing opportunities to meet projected demand through 2030. Table II-4 displays the average annual demand for downhill skiing on the Forest.

Demand projections were developed using trend line analysis. As additional data becomes available demand projections may be revised.

TABLE II-3.

DOWNHILL SKI AREA CAPACITY**

Area	Existing Capacity		Total Approved Master Plan Capacity		Potential Capacity	
	PAOT*	RVD*	PAOT*	RVD*	PAOT*	RVD*
Crested Butte	4,050	341,717	10,700	902,812	10,700	902,812
Monarch	0	0	0	0	5,400	437,500
Powderhorn	1,800	147,375	4,500	368,438	4,500	368,438
Telluride	2,800	248,500	15,000	1,331,250	15,000	1,331,250
TOTAL	8,650	737,592	30,200	2,602,500	35,600	3,040,000

* PAOT = People at one time.
RVD = Recreation visitor days.

** The existing Monarch Ski Area is on the San Isabel National Forest. It could potentially expand onto the Forest. The figures represented here exclude the San Isabel capacity.

TABLE II-4.

DOWNHILL SKIING DEMAND
(Thousand RVD's Per Year)

	Time Period					
	1981-1985	1986-1990	1991-2000	2001-2010	2011-2020	2021-2030
Downhill Skiing Demand	269	362	502	689	876	1,062

The Forest retains downhill skiing opportunities on eight potential sites by utilizing management activities compatible with their long-term future as downhill ski areas. Existing area expansion is encouraged over new site development. The Forest does not actively encourage new development, but responds to proponent interest on an individual basis. Table II-5 displays the potential ski sites using the four-level Priority System disclosed in the Regional Guide. This priority system facilitates land management allocation decisions and guides development scheduling of allocated winter sport sites.

TABLE II-5.

POTENTIAL SKI SITES*

Area	Regional Priority*
Mt. Axtell (Gibson Ridge)	1
Salt Creek	2
Wilson Ridge	2
Carbon Peak	3
Double Top	3
Rambouillet - Slumgillion	3
Twin Peaks	4
Park Cone Mountain	4

Source: * Final Rocky Mountain Regional Guide.

This planning question deals with the quantity and location of developed recreation facilities on National Forest System land. There is a need for adequate up-to-date developed recreation facilities for winter and summer use. Existing developed recreation capacity is inadequate to meet increasing demand. An issue related to this planning question is the extent to which the Forest should compete with the private sector in providing developed recreation opportunities. The Forest has a large resource of dispersed recreation opportunities not available in the private sector. If management was oriented more toward providing dispersed opportunities, part of the developed recreation demand could be met by the private sector.

The Plan responds to this planning question by meeting 50% of increased demand above existing capacity for National Forest System developed recreation opportunities after 1990. There is an opportunity for the private sector to supply developed recreation opportunities to meet demand not supplied by the Forest. Off National Forest System land, the private sector and other government agencies will be indirectly encouraged to meet demand. The Forest will provide this indirect encouragement by avoiding competition with other facilities. On National Forest System land, concessionaire-operated sites will be considered in the annual program planning and budgeting process. The Forest will respond to proponent interest in developing private recreation facilities through the special use permitting process. Development level, capital investment requests, and management levels will be specified in concessionaire agreements or special use permit requirements based on site-specific needs.

The Forest will manage 331,425 RVD's at full service management level at the end of the first ten years of the Plan. Efficient campground management will lead to relocation, removal, or conversion of some sites. One hundred seventeen camping units will be constructed by 1990 and an additional 40 will be constructed by 1995. Appendix A displays the fifty-year capital investment action plan for developed recreation. Table II-19 displays the developed recreation use for the Plan.

TABLE II-19.

**DEVELOPED RECREATION USE
AND PROJECTED DEMAND
(Thousand Recreation Visitor Days Per Year)**

Time Period	Non-Skiing Developed Recreation		Downhill Skiing	
	Use	Demand	Use	Demand
1981-1985	617	617	269	269
1986-1990	695	695	362	362
1991-2000	778	812	502	502
2001-2010	866	968	689	689
2011-2020	924	1,124	876	876
2021-2030	1,012	1,280	1,063	1,063

The Plan schedules the following developed recreation construction and reconstruction activities by 1990: Convert Crag Crest and Eggelston campgrounds to day use facilities; Expand Lakeview campground; and construct Mary E. and Grand Mesa campgrounds. Currently in these areas demand for developed recreation exceeds capacity. Appendix A displays the fifty-year capital investment plan for developed recreation. Chapter III, Forest Direction and Management Area Prescription 1A, provides for existing and proposed developed recreation sites. These sites include existing and proposed campgrounds, picnic grounds, trailheads, visitor information centers, summer home groups and waterbased support facilities.

Demand for downhill skiing opportunities can be met by expanding existing sites. Expansion will be permitted to meet demand. Crested Butte, Powderhorn and Telluride have approved master plans. The Crested Butte master plan includes expansion onto Snodgrass.

Potential long-term capacity for downhill skiing will be 35,600 persons at one time, and is displayed in Table II-20.

TABLE II-20.

DOWNHILL SKI AREA CAPACITY
(Existing Sites)**

Area	Existing		Total Approved Master Plan Capac.		Potential Capacity	
	PAOT*	MRVD*	PAOT*	MRVD*	PAOT*	MRVD*
Crested Butte	4,050	341.7	10,700	902.8	10,700	902.8
Monarch	0	0	0	0	5,400	437.5
Powderhorn	1,800	147.4	4,500	368.4	4,500	368.4
Telluride	2,800	248.5	15,000	1,331.2	15,000	1,331.2
TOTALS	8,650	737.6	30,200	2,602.1	35,600	3,040.0

* PAOT = People at one time.
RVD = Recreation visitor days.

** The existing Monarch Ski Area is on the San Isabel National Forest. It could potentially expand onto the Forest. The figures represented here exclude the San Isabel capacity.

The Forest will retain downhill skiing opportunities on eight potential sites identified in the Final Rocky Mountain Regional Guide. Management activities will be compatible with their long-term future as downhill ski areas. Chapter III, Forest Direction and Management Area Prescription 1B, provides for existing and potential winter sports sites. Management integrates ski area development and use with other resource management to provide healthy tree stands, vegetation diversity, forage production for wildlife and livestock, and opportunities for non-motorized recreation.

Planning Question 2 - How much roadless, non-wilderness recreation opportunity should the Forest provide and where should it be located?

The major parts of this planning question involve conflicts between the motorized and non-motorized types of recreation uses. Some individuals want additional opportunities for non-motorized recreation activities such as hiking, cross-country skiing, hunting, and fishing; and consider too much of the Forest roaded. Table II-21 displays the average annual recreation demand for dispersed recreation on the Forest.

Environmental assessments and environmental impact statements, when needed, will supplement the Forest Plan Environmental Impact Statement. Future environmental analyses will use Plan direction as an umbrella. Additional detail will be included in the environmental documents for future project level decisions.

The management direction of this chapter is composed of two major parts: (1) Forest Direction and (2) Management Area Direction.

Forest Direction consists of goals, objectives, and management requirements for the Forest. The goals and objectives provide broad overall direction regarding the type and amount of goods and services the Forest will provide. The management requirements contained in the Forest Direction set the minimum standards that must be maintained while achieving these goals and objectives. Management requirements establish the broad multiple-use management direction and generally apply to all areas of the Forest.

Management Area Direction consists of individual management area prescriptions applicable to specific management areas. The management area prescriptions contain management requirements specifying which activities will be implemented to achieve goals and objectives. Management requirements are specific to individual management area prescriptions within the Forest and are applied in addition to the Forest Direction Management Requirements. The management area map attached to this document indicates where the individual management area prescriptions will be applied.

Additional direction and information is displayed in Appendices A through R attached to this document.

FOREST DIRECTION

GOALS

The following goals are concise statements describing a desired condition to be achieved sometime in the future. They are expressed in broad general terms and are timeless. They have no specific date by which they are to be completed. These goal statements are the principal basis for the objectives listed later in this chapter. These goals respond to the Planning Questions listed in Chapter II as well as appropriate laws, regulations, and policies.

Vegetation

--Manage vegetation in an economically efficient manner to provide and maintain a healthy, vigorous environment capable of producing a range of multiple-use outputs and conditions; i.e., outdoor recreation, fish and wildlife habitat, livestock grazing, visual quality, water, wood fiber, research, cultural opportunities, and economic benefits to society.

Recreation

--Meet 50% of increased demand above existing capacity for developed recreation opportunities over the 50-year planning horizon on National Forest System land.

--Meet demand for downhill skiing.

--Meet demand for dispersed recreation outside wilderness.

--Preserve and manage cultural resources and ensure that these resources remain available for research and education uses.

Wilderness

--Emphasize primitive wilderness opportunities.

--Recommend an increase in the total number of acres designated wilderness on the Forest.

--Manage a majority of the wilderness acres at the full service management level.

--Implement indirect methods for controlling wilderness use.

Fish and Wildlife

--Increase National Forest System winter range carrying capacity for elk and deer.

--Increase or improve wildlife habitat diversity.

--Improve fisheries habitat.

--Increase vertical and horizontal diversity.

Range

--Increase permitted livestock grazing.

--Increase investments in structural and non-structural range improvements on range with high potential for improvement.

Timber

--Improve tree size class and age class distribution.

--Increase programmed sales offered on land suitable for timber production.

--Meet the demand for commercial and non-commercial firewood.

--Maintain availability of timber for local dependent industries.

--Accomplish the current reforestation needs.

Water

--Manage surface uses to maintain water quality above Federal, State, and local standards.

-
- Increase water supply, while reducing soil erosion and stream turbidity.
 - Protect the water quality in streams, lakes, riparian areas, and other water bodies.

Minerals

- Encourage environmentally sound energy and minerals development.
- Coordinate mineral extraction with surface resource management.
- Integrate mineral exploration and development within the National Forest System with the use and protection of other resource values.
- Emphasize oil, gas, geothermal, and mineral exploration and development outside wilderness areas.
- Mitigate unavoidable adverse environmental effects on National Forest System land.

Human and Community Development

- Provide the opportunity for economic growth of industries and communities dependent upon Forest outputs.

Protection

- Provide a cost-efficient fire management program.
- Manage protection activities for air quality compatible with Federal and State laws.
- Prevent and control insect and disease infestations.

Lands

- Increase opportunities for exchange and transfer of National Forest System land.
- Acquire rights-of-way needed to support management of National Forest System resources.
- Post and mark the Forest boundary.

Soils

- Conserve soil resource.
- Maintain long-term land productivity.

Facilities

- Improve cost effectiveness and efficiency of road management.
- Coordinate transportation facilities to meet the needs of the Forest.
- Provide a safe, efficient and environmentally sound transportation system.
- Reduce total trail miles while emphasizing improvement on trail miles remaining.
- Maintain roads to Regional Acceptable Work Standards.
- Implement an effective travel management program.
- Update existing facilities and structures to meet State and Federal standards.
- Replace facilities and structures that are deficient from a structural, functional, mechanical, electrical, or energy efficient standpoint.

OBJECTIVES

The objectives listed in Table III-1 are concise, time-specific, measurable results that respond to the goals listed previously. These objectives are the basis for the management requirements listed in the Forest and Management Area Direction sections which follow.

The projected budget level associated with each time period is the amount necessary to implement the Plan direction and achieve multiple-use objectives. The annual budget, as authorized by Congress, may be different from that necessary to carry out the intent of the Plan. For that reason short-range objectives must be flexible to accommodate the variation. The long-range objectives must be used to guide the development of the annual budget request to ensure completion of Plan direction.

TABLE III-1.

PROJECTED AVERAGE ANNUAL OUTPUTS, EXPENDITURES, COSTS AND RETURNS

Activity*	Unit of* Measure	1981	Time Period					
			1981- 1985	1986- 1990	1991- 2000	2001- 2010	2011- 2020	2021- 2030
RECREATION								
Developed Recreation Use (Inc. VIS)	MRVD	578	617	695	778	866	924	1,012
Management Level	% FSM/ RSM	45/55	45/55	45/55	45/55	45/55	45/55	45/55
Increased Developed Recreation Capacity	MRVD	0	0	34	88	58	88	0
Downhill Skiing Use	MRVD	222	269	362	502	689	876	1,063
Dispersed Recreation Use								
Hunting	MRVD	165	166	167	169	171	173	175
Fishing	MRVD	243	263	283	304	324	344	364
Other	MRVD	823	885	1,029	1,254	1,563	1,873	2,183
Off-Road Motorized Use	MRVD	168	179	202	236	281	326	371
Trail Const/Reconst.	Miles	0	50	50	50	50	50	45

TABLE III-1. (Cont.)

- * Activity
NWPS = National Wilderness Preservation System. FPA = Further Planning Area.
WSA = Wilderness Study Area. T&E = Threatened and Endangered.
Thr. Stand Improv = Timber Stand Improvement. ROW = Rights-of-Way.
S.U. = Special Use. FAGO = Fire, Administration and Other
General Purpose.
- * Unit of Measure
MRVD = Thousand Recreation Visitor Days. % FSM/RSM = Percent Full Service Management/
M Acres = Thousand Acres. Reduced Service Management.
MWVD = Thousand Wilderness Visitor Days. Ac Treated = Acres Treated.
M Animals = Thousand Animals. MAUM = Thousand Animal Unit Months.
MMBF = Million Board Feet. MM Ac Ft = Million Acre Feet.
No. Oper. Plans = Number Operating Plans. M/\$ = Thousand Dollars.
- ** This total includes only Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forest's acres for the Big Blue, Collegiate Peaks, La Garita, Lizard Head, Maroon Bells-Snowmass, Mount Sneffels, Raggeds and West Elk Wilderness areas and 13,599 acres of Cannibal Plateau Further Planning Area identified suitable for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System.
- ** All costs and returns are shown in constant 1978 dollars.
- ** The current year benefit and cost information is for fiscal year 1981. The actual total Appropriated Funds and total National Forest System Funds for fiscal year 1982 (1978 dollars) are \$6,519,590 and \$6,922,415 respectively.
- ** Leasing recommendations may be further analyzed on a project level with the criteria displayed in the Forest Direction if lease applications are received.

MANAGEMENT PRESCRIPTION 1B

(Provides for existing and potential winter sports sites.)

Management emphasis provides for downhill skiing on existing sites and maintains selected inventoried sites for future downhill skiing recreation opportunities. Management integrates ski area development and use with other resource management to provide healthy tree stands, vegetative diversity, forage production for wildlife and livestock, and opportunities for non-motorized recreation.

Visual resources are managed so that the character is one of forested areas interspersed with openings of varying widths and shapes. Facilities may dominate, but harmonize and blend with the natural setting. Harvest methods in forested areas between ski runs is clearcutting in aspen, and lodgepole pine, shelterwood in interior ponderosa pine and mixed conifers, and group selection in Engelmann spruce-subalpine fir, or as specified in the permittee's site-specific Master Development Plan.

**MANAGEMENT
ACTIVITIES**

**GENERAL
DIRECTION**

**STANDARDS &
GUIDELINES**

Visual Resource
Management
(A04)

01 Emphasize visually appealing landscapes (vista open-
ings, rock outcroppings, diversity of vegetation, etc)
(0104) (1B)

a Do not allow negative deviation
from an Adopted Visual Quality Ob-
jective (VQO) of modification
(80290M) (1B)

b Apply rehabilitation practices
where the above objectives are not
currently being met
(606B) (1B)

Recreation Site
Construction and
Rehabilitation
(A05 AND 06)

01 Design and locate improvements on winter
sport sites to provide safety to users and to
harmonize with the natural environment
(0358) (1B)

a Follow construction;
reconstruction standards
specified in the approved Master
Development Plan
(6282) (1B)

Management of
Developed
Recreation Sites
(A08, 09, 11 &
13)

01 Provide opportunities for year-round recreation
use of the permitted area and facilities
(0359) (1B)

Wildlife
Habitat
Improvement and
Maintenance
(C02, 04, 05
and 06)

01 Emphasize non-game wildlife management
(20630M) (1B)

Range Resource
Management
(D02)

01 Manage livestock grazing to enhance recreation
opportunities in existing and proposed recreation sites
(0110) (1B)

a Maintain vegetation in
fair or better range condition
(6061) (1B)

Silvicultural
Prescriptions
(E03, 06 & 07)

01 Manage forest cover types on the permitted area
to enhance visual quality, diversity, and recreation
opportunities, and to provide for a healthy forest
cover in existing and proposed winter sports sites
(0480) (1B)

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**MANAGEMENT
ACTIVITIES**

**GENERAL
DIRECTION**

**STANDARDS &
GUIDELINES**

CONTINUATION OF
Silvicultural
Prescriptions
(E03, 06 & 07)

02 Manage forested areas between ski runs using the following harvest methods

- Clearcut in aspen and lodgepole pine,
 - Shelterwood in interior ponderosa pine and mixed conifer,
 - Group selection in Engelmann spruce-subalpine fir,
 - or those specified in the permittee's Ski Area Master Development Plan
- (0740) (1B)

a Apply harvest treatments to forest cover types as specified below or as specified in the permittee's Ski Area Master Development Plan where these plans exist for the area
(6666) (1B)

b Silvicultural Standards
(These standards may be exceeded on areas managed for old growth)

1 Clearcut

	Forest Cover Type		
	Lodgepole Pine-	Aspen	Other Forest Cover Types
Rotation Age	90-140 yrs	80-120 yrs	100 or more yrs
Growing Stock Level	80-120	N/A	40 to 120
Thinning Cycle	20-30 yrs	N/A	20 to 30 yrs

2 Two-Step Shelterwood

	Forest Cover Type	
	Interior Ponderosa pine & Mixed Conifer	Other Forest Cover Types
Rotation Age	100-140 yrs	100 or more yrs

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MANAGEMENT
ACTIVITIES

GENERAL
DIRECTION

STANDARDS &
GUIDELINES

CONTINUATION OF
Silvicultural
Prescriptions
(EO3, 06 & 07)

Growing Stock Level	80-120	60-120
Thinning Cycle	20-30 yrs	20-30
First cut (seed cut)	Remove 40 to 70 percent of the basal area or	
Cut to	BA 25-60	BA 20-60
Second Cut (removal cut)	Remove all overstory when regenerated stand meets minimum stocking standards	
3 Three-Step Shelterwood		
	Forest Cover Type	
	Interior	
	Ponderosa Pine & Mixed Conifer	Other Forest Cover Types
Rotation Age	100-160 yrs	100 or more yrs
Growing Stock Level	80-120	60-120
Thinning Cycle	20-30 yrs	20-30 yrs
First Cut (preparatory cut)	Remove 10 to 40 percent of the basal area or	
Cut to	BA 60-80	BA 50-80
Second Cut (seed cut)		

MANAGEMENT
ACTIVITIES

GENERAL
DIRECTION

STANDARDS &
GUIDELINES

CONTINUATION OF
SILVICULTURAL
Prescriptions
(E03, 06 & 07)

Remove 40 to 50 percent of the
remaining basal area or

Cut to BA 25-50

10-20 yrs after pre-
paratory
cut

Third Cut (removal cut)

Remove all overstory when
regenerated stand meets
minimum stocking standards

4 Selection

Forest Cover Type

Engelmann
Other

spruce-
fir
Forest
Cover
Types

Residual BA 80-120

Cutting
Cycle 20-30 yrs

(6294) (1B)

20-40 yrs

03 Limit timber harvest activities to periods of low
recreation use activity or to coincide with ski area
construction activity (0468) (1B)

04 Utilize firewood material using both commercial
and noncommercial methods (0147) (1B)

05 The combined water yield effects of type conversion
on ski runs and increased on-site water from stand re-
generation must be determined. Do not exceed threshold
limits of water quality and drainage system stability
deterioration (0610) (1B)

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**MANAGEMENT
ACTIVITIES**

**GENERAL
DIRECTION**

**STANDARDS &
GUIDELINES**

**CONTINUATION OF
Silvicultural
Prescriptions
(E03, O6 & O7)**

**O6 For management purposes of forested areas
between ski trails or other permanent openings,
a cut-over area is considered an opening until
such time as**

- Increased water yield drops below 50 per-
cent of the potential increase;
- Forage and/or browse production drops below
40 percent of potential production;
- Deer and elk hiding cover reaches 60 per-
cent of potential;
- Minimum stocking standards by forest cover
type and site productivity are met; and
- The area appears as a young forest rather
than a restocked opening, and takes on the
appearance of the adjoining characteristic
landscape

(O501) (1B)

a When the Visual Quality
Objective of an area is modifi-
cation or maximum modification,
the regenerated stand shall meet
or exceed all of the following
characteristics before a cut-
over area is no longer considered
an opening

Forest Cover Type	Minimum Stocking Level (Trees/ acre)	Tree Stand Height (ft) 1/
Inland Ponderosa Pine	190	6
Mixed Conifers	190	6
Lodgepole Pine	150	6
Engelmann Spruce- Subalpine fir	190	6
Aspen	300	6
Forest Cover Type	Crown Closure (Percent)	Distri- bution 2/
Inland Ponderosa Pine	30	70%
Mixed Conifers	30	75%
Lodgepole		

III-III
66-III

**MANAGEMENT
ACTIVITIES**

**GENERAL
DIRECTION**

**STANDARDS &
GUIDELINES**

CONTINUATION OF
Silvicultural
Prescriptions
(E03, 06 & 07)

Pine 30 75%

Engelmann
Spruce-
Subalpine
fir 30 75%

Aspen 30 75%

1/ Applies to trees specified as
minimum stocking level
2/ Percent of plots or tran-
sects that are stocked

(6014) (18)

Local Road
Construction and
Reconstruction
(L11, 12, & 13)

01 Design and locate local roads in the permitted area

- a To facilitate management of tree stands and
wildlife as well as recreation; and
- b With the minimum of mileage and earthwork
(0467) (18)

Fire Planning
and
Suppression
(P01)

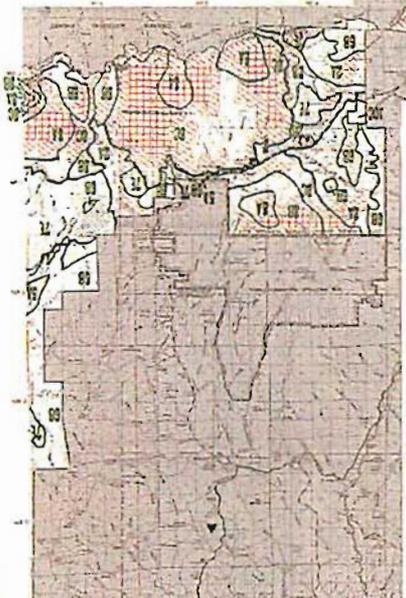
01 Provide a level of protection from wildlife that
is cost efficient and that will meet management ob-
jectives for the area
(22230M) (18)

a Reduce or otherwise treat
all fuels so the potential fire-
line intensity will not exceed
100 BTU's/sec/ft (B13B) on 90%
of the days during the regular
fire season
(82240M) (18)

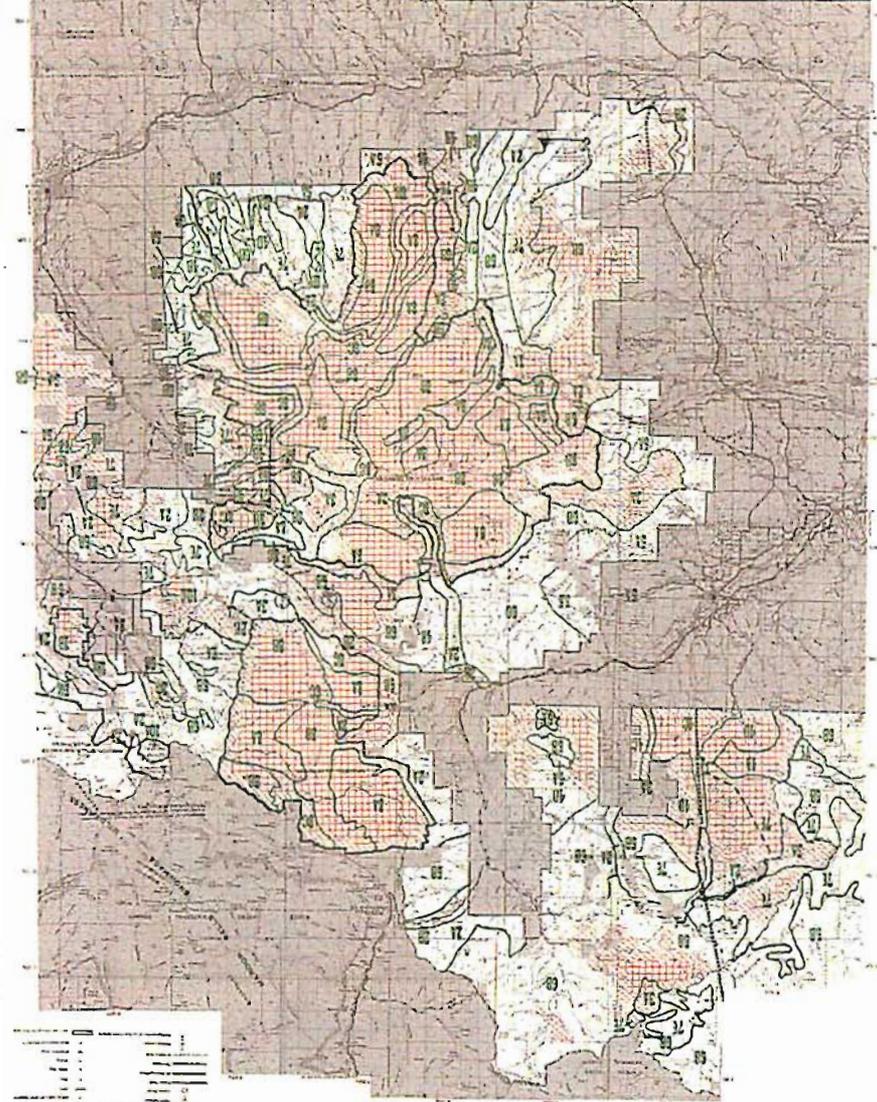
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PROPOSED LAND MANAGEMENT PLAN

GRAND MESA, UNCOMPAHGRE, AND GUNNISON NATIONAL FORESTS

Responsible Official: Charles S. Richmond, Forest Supervisor
Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, and Gunnison
National Forests
2250 Highway 50
Delta, Colorado 81416

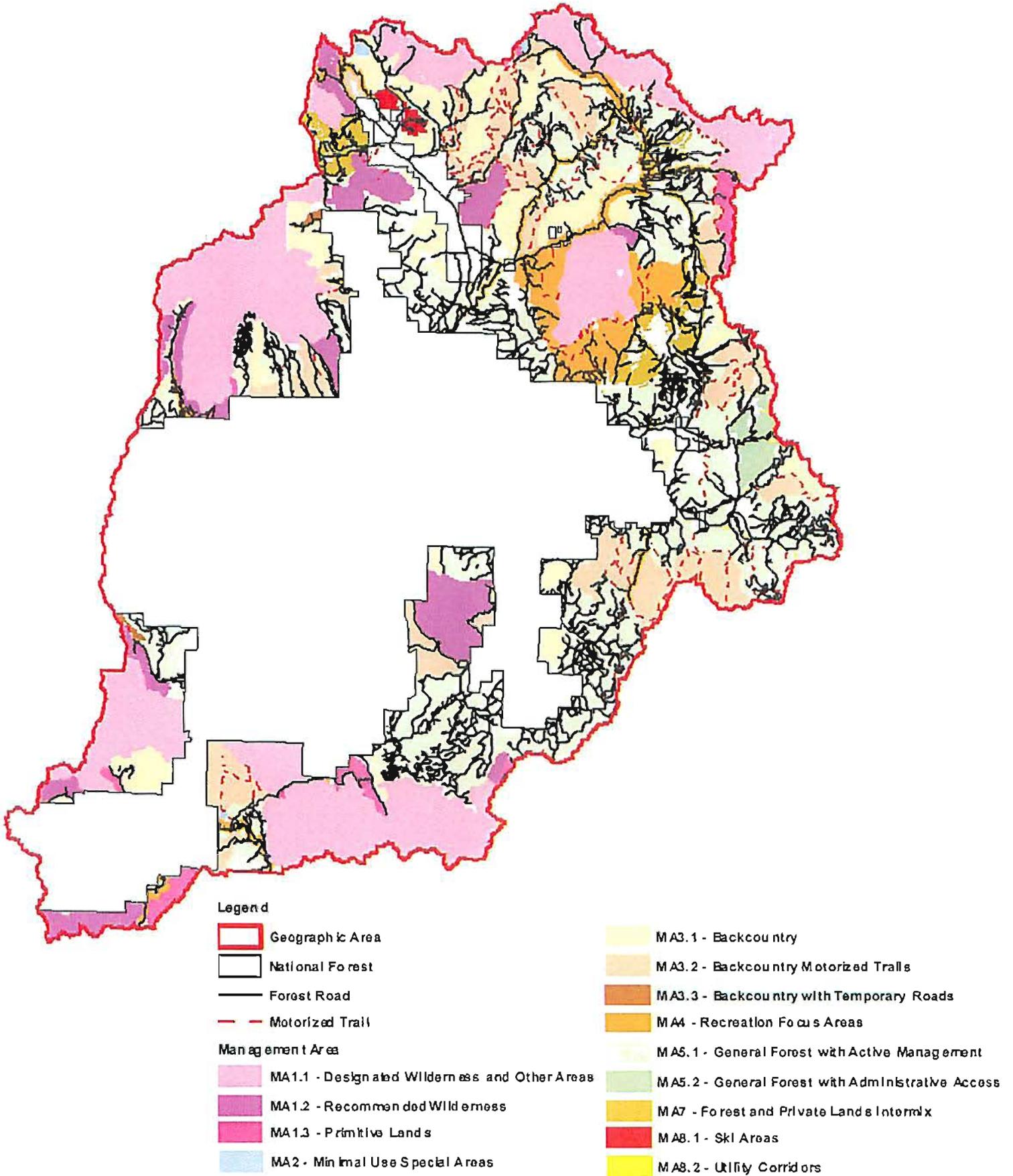
For Information Contact: Carmine Lockwood
Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, and Gunnison
National Forests
2250 Highway 50
Delta, Colorado 81416

Send Comments To: Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, and Gunnison
National Forests
Forest Plan Team
2250 Highway 50
Delta, Colorado 81416
Email: r2_GMUG_planning@fs.fed.us
Website: www.fs.fed.us/r2/gmug/policy/plan_rev/

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Figure 16. Gunnison Basin Geographic Area Proposed Management Area Distribution.



relationships between private landowners, local governments, and agencies with jurisdiction. Management pursues opportunities for coordinated, multi-jurisdictional management approaches to address resource issues and impacts that transcend the national forest boundary. ROS settings within this MA are generally RN-NM, RN, or R. Scenic Integrity Objective is generally Moderate.

Generally suitable activities and uses within this MA are:

- ◆ Other Timber Harvest
- ◆ Forest Road Construction
- ◆ Temporary Road Construction
- ◆ Summer Motorized Recreation
- ◆ Winter Motorized Recreation
- ◆ Summer Motor-free Recreation
- ◆ Winter Motor-free Recreation
- ◆ Mechanized Recreation
- ◆ Dispersed Camping
- ◆ Livestock Grazing
- ◆ Utility Corridors
- ◆ Water Development

2.C.12. MA8.1 – Ski Areas

Desired Conditions

MA8.1 areas comprise a very small portion of the Plan Area, at less than one percent. These areas include the permit areas of three downhill ski resorts on the GMUG. Ecological conditions are likely to be permanently changed by human activities to the degree that landscape appearance and ecological processes are substantially altered. These areas are small in scale. Ecological values are provided to the extent possible while protecting the public and meeting primary use objectives. The intensive uses of these small areas produce relatively large socioeconomic effects. ROS settings within this MA are generally RN-NM, or RN. Scenic Integrity Objective is generally Moderate.

Generally suitable activities and uses within this MA are:

- ◆ Other Timber Harvest
- ◆ Forest Road Construction
- ◆ Temporary Road Construction
- ◆ Summer Motor-free Recreation
- ◆ Winter Motor-free Recreation
- ◆ Mechanized Recreation
- ◆ Dispersed Camping
- ◆ Livestock Grazing
- ◆ Utility Corridors
- ◆ Water Development

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Cooperator Tax ID
Cooperator Agreement No.

09-MU-11020407-036

5/27/05

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
between
USDA FOREST SERVICE
GRAND MESA, UNCOMPAHGRE AND GUNNISON NATIONAL FORESTS
and
CRESTED BUTTE, LLC

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is hereby entered into by and between the USDA Forest Service, Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre & Gunnison National Forests, hereinafter referred to as the Forest Service, and Crested Butte, LLC, hereinafter referred to as the Proponent.

A. PURPOSE

The purpose of this MOU is to articulate the working arrangement for the proposed expansion onto Snodgrass Mountain with connected actions on Crested Butte Mountain, inclusive of a pre-NEPA pre-application process, proposal application submittal with subsequent NEPA analysis and record of decision, and approval of a Master Development Plan and implementation of development (only if the NEPA decision is one of action). The MOU further articulates the working arrangement whereby a third-party contractor (Prime Consultant) will be chosen by the Forest Service to prepare an environmental analysis to analyze the Snodgrass Mountain Expansion proposal submitted to the Forest Service by the Proponent.

B. STATEMENT OF MUTUAL INTERESTS AND BENEFITS

The parties agree that it is mutually beneficial that the proposal application has considered and addressed physical, biological, and social conditions and issues. Therefore, the Proponent will identify issues in a front end, or pre-NEPA process, to formulate a well-thought out formal proposal designed to move efficiently through the NEPA process.

The Forest Service is required to accept and approve a Master Development Plan before any development can proceed, and as part of this project approval process, the Forest Service must comply with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), the National Forest Management Act of 1976, the Forest Service special-use permit regulations in 36 C.F.R. 251, and other applicable statutes, regulations, Executive Orders, and the Forest Service Manual and Handbook direction (collectively, the applicable legal requirements).

Based upon a project description and other information provided by the Proponent, and an initial assessment of the Project, the Forest Service has determined that the Project will be addressed in an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) that will be prepared by a contractor in a manner consistent with the applicable legal requirements.

The parties agree that the analysis will be given a high priority, will be initiated and completed promptly, will utilize existing information and resource specialists to the greatest extent appropriate, will focus on key environmental issues, and will provide an opportunity for full



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participation by interested members of the public and governmental agencies consistent with the applicable legal requirements.

The parties recognize that the Forest Service retains sole responsibility for making decisions with regard to the analysis, however, the Proponent and the Forest Service shall work together in good faith to establish reasonable deadlines for completion of the various portions of the Project.

C. IN CONSIDERATION OF THE ABOVE, THE PARTIES AGREE AS FOLLOWS:

1. It is understood by the Proponent and the Forest Service that the Proponent will use a pre-NEPA process prior to proposal submittal. The purpose of this pre-NEPA work is to incorporate identified issues and concerns into the proposal design(s), and to formulate a well-thought out formal proposal designed to move efficiently through the NEPA process.
2. It is understood by the Proponent and the Forest Service that the Proponent has the responsibility for the pre-NEPA process and analysis, which will occur prior to proposal submittal. The Forest Service has a support role during the pre-NEPA process and will appoint a Project Coordinator to assist with inter-agency coordination, as well as coordination between the Proponent and the Forest Service (see D.1). The Project Coordinator is hired and supervised by the Forest and paid for by the Proponent.
3. It is understood by the Proponent and the Forest Service that the NEPA related analysis will be prepared by a Prime Consultant, hired and paid for by the Proponent. The Prime Consultant will be chosen solely by and serve under the direct supervision and control of the Forest Service. The Prime Consultant may obtain technical assistance or information from one or more independent, third party subcontractors subject to Forest Service approval. The combination of the Prime Consultant and any required subcontractors working under the direction of the Forest Service Project Coordinator, in consultation with Forest Service interdisciplinary resource specialists, should be sufficient to prepare the NEPA analysis.
4. It is understood by the Proponent and the Forest Service that Forest Service resource specialists will be needed for input, direction and technical assistance during all phases of the three-step process. The Forest Service interdisciplinary resource specialists will serve as resource oversight for the Prime Consultant and any required subcontractors. They will assist with contract preparation of the Prime Consultant to ensure that all resource requirements for NEPA are included in the contract and program of work. They will review and give input into respective resource work. Forest Service resource specialists will be directly supervised by the Forest Service and paid for by the Proponent.
5. Based upon a review of the project and the information developed to date, the Forest Service and the Prime Consultant will make every effort to meet a time schedule mutually agreed upon in writing by the Proponent and the Forest Service. The schedule may be subsequently modified due to events or conditions beyond the control of the parties. In this event, the Forest Service will work with the Proponent on a new schedule.

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6. Meetings between the Proponent and the Forest Service, for the purpose of exchanging facts and/or information, and updating the status of the analysis, will occur throughout the review, and at a minimum, at the following key points in the process:
- a. During the pre-NEPA front-end loading process in which the Proponent and Forest Service identify issues and incorporate them into project design(s) before the submittal of the Proposal Application.
 - b. Prior to selection of the Prime Consultant or subcontractors.
 - c. Prior to the determination of an estimated budget.
 - d. Prior to establishing a written time schedule for the preparation of the analysis.
 - e. The pre-work meeting with the Prime Consultant to review this MOU and the contract.
 - f. Prior to determination of the Proposed Action and Purpose and Need.
 - g. Prior to any change in the scope of this analysis which increases the cost of the studies necessary by more than 5% of the total budget.
 - h. Prior to determination of significant issues that will be addressed in the analysis.
 - i. Prior to determination of mitigation measures.
 - j. Prior to the selection of alternatives to be studied and before making major changes to these alternatives.
 - k. After assimilation of comments on the analysis, but prior to substantial effort to finalize the EIS.
 - l. Prior to issuance of the Record of Decision (ROD).
7. These meetings in no way limit the communications between the Proponent and the Forest Service regarding questions of procedural matters, scope of analysis, technical feasibility, mitigation, or other matters. All such meetings will generally include the Forest Service Project Coordinator and the principal contact of the Proponent.

D. THE FOREST SERVICE SHALL:

1. Establish a principal point of contact for the Forest Service (see F.11) as the Project Coordinator on all matters relating to the process, including pre-NEPA work, environmental analysis and preparation of the document, and implementation (only if the decision is one of action). The duties of the Project Coordinator shall include oversight

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of all analyses (including pre-NEPA) using past relevant studies and reports, and information supplied by the Proponent, the Forest Service, other agencies, the Prime Consultant, and any subcontractors where necessary; facilitate communications between the Forest Service, the Proponent, the Prime Consultant, subcontractors, and Forest Service resource specialists, to assure a timely and thorough exchange of relevant information among the parties; oversee the public involvement plan developed by the Forest Service, including, without limitation, all necessary scoping meetings and other public reviews; and be responsible for other duties as required to complete the analysis. The goal is to facilitate appropriate and efficient communication between the Forest Service, the Prime Consultant, the Proponent, the public, and affected Federal State and local agencies, to expedite the flow of information necessary for the analysis.

2. Consider the views of the Proponent, in choosing the Prime Consultant, and in managing the contract. The Forest Service shall select the Prime Consultant based on past experience, technical competence, availability to perform work, cost factors and an absence of conflict of interest.
3. Review and accept the contract to be used by the Proponent to contract with the Prime Consultant. Acceptance will be in writing on the signature page of the contract. The contract will be in accordance with the terms of this MOU.
4. Furnish copies of the following information to the Prime Consultant and/ or Proponent:
 - a. The Prime consultant shall be provided with the agreed-upon schedule of work between the Forest Service and the Proponent.
 - b. An outline of the format to be used and the contents of the analysis as specified at 40 C.F.R. 1500-1508.
 - c. A copy of the Forest Plan, Forest Plan environmental analysis, and Record of Decision with all amendments.
 - d. Copies of the statutes, regulations, Executive Orders, Forest Service Manuals and Handbooks which control or guide the preparation of the analysis and the formulation of the legal concerns related to each of the issues.
 - e. Any final reports prepared by the Prime Consultant or subcontractors and any underlying documents pursuant to the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act.
 - f. The Prime Consultant shall be provided with written comments or reports prepared by the Forest Service interdisciplinary resource specialists for inclusion in the administrative record.

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- g. Letters, comments or other materials received by the Forest Service from interested parties or agencies in the scoping session, comments on the document, or at other stages in the analysis process.
5. Make its own independent evaluation of the information submitted by the Prime Consultant, subcontractors, the proponent, or others, and have responsibility for its accuracy (40 CFR 1506.5(b)). Make the final determination of the inclusion or deletion of material from the analysis and in all instances involving questions as to the content of any material (including all data, analysis, and conclusions).
 6. Convene an interdisciplinary team (ID Team) of resource specialists as required by 40 CFR 1500 to oversee the environmental analysis (including pre-NEPA). It is anticipated that the resource specialists will function principally as a review team, providing technical guidance to the Project Coordinator, Prime Consultant, and subcontractors regarding the issues and alternatives to be addressed in the analysis. They will provide input and guidance on the adequacy of existing data and studies, and such additional matters as are useful to the prompt and efficient completion of the analysis in compliance with the applicable legal requirements. Every effort will be made to avoid duplication of tasks between the Project Coordinator, Prime Consultant, subcontractors, and ID Team resource specialists, and to focus the analysis on significant issues.
 7. Provide the necessary personnel and other resources to complete their responsibilities in a timely and professional manner.
 8. Upon request, make available all records provided to the USDA Forest Service, pursuant to the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), 5 U.S.C. 552 and the Privacy Act, 5 U.S.C. 552a. Submitters of business information will be provided prompt notification of a request for that information. The business information submitter will be given reasonable time in which to object to the disclosure of any specified portion of the information. The business information submitter will be notified of any determination to disclose such records prior to the disclosure date, in order that the matter may be considered for possible judicial intervention. Business information submitters will be promptly notified of all instances in which FOIA requesters bring suit seeking to compel disclosure of submitted information. 7 CFR 1.12.
 9. Supervise the preparation of the analysis in compliance with applicable legal requirements including, but not limited to, public review of the analysis, analysis of public comments, and decision documentation. In exercising this responsibility, the Forest Service will endeavor to foster cooperation among other relevant agencies and to integrate NEPA requirements with other environmental review and consultation requirements in order to avoid, to the fullest extent possible, duplication of efforts by such agencies. (40 CFR 1500.5(g)-(h), 1501.2(d)(2), 1506.2) However, the Forest Service will not delegate to any other agency its authority over the scope and content of the analysis or its approval of the Project.

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10. Via the Prime Consultant, and consistent with the applicable legal requirements, maintain the official administrative record for the project until the decision is signed. At that time, the project record will be delivered to the Forest Service.
- a. The Forest Service shall provide direction to the Prime Consultant for design, organization, indexing, preparation and maintenance of the administrative record for the project.
 - b. The Prime Consultant and subcontractors shall document the sampling, testing, field observations, literature searches, analysis, recommendation, and other work, which provides source material for the analysis, and any Supplements to them. The Prime Consultant and subcontractors shall also document all the Forest Service's records in a similar and compatible manner.
 - c. The documentation shall be assembled in some organizational system which will make it possible for the responsible official to refer conveniently to specific documents or pages within documents. The source documents shall be listed. The list shall show the date, author, addresses, subject and document or page number. The list shall be an appendix to the analysis and used to incorporate by reference the items on the list in the analysis.
 - d. The list shall be prepared on a current basis throughout the environmental analysis and documentation processes so that it reflects the following information for each document: date, document number, page number, author, addressee, issue, sub-issue, and by page number. Provision should be made for printing reports of the sorted information.
 - e. Two complete copies of the record will be available to the public during the Draft analysis comment period. Any documents added after the comment period is prepared shall be included in the set of documents.
11. Through the Project Coordinator, develop a protocol upon application submittal to facilitate communication and coordinate the exchange of information between the Proponent, the Forest Service, and the Prime Consultant. This protocol will be determined considering the complexity of the proposed action, the Federal Advisory Committee Act, the Freedom of Information Act, and related agency guidance.
12. The Project Coordinator will keep the Proponent informed of the status of the analysis and will discuss with the Proponent any additional data needs, and of changes needed in the terms of the third-party contracts.
13. Via the Prime Consultant and subcontractors, and as documented in their respective written contracts, and consistent with the applicable legal requirements:
- a. Develop a public involvement plan for the public scoping.

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- b. Arrange for and participate in the agency and public scoping meetings and make available to the Proponent and the public any summary of the results.
 - c. Design visual aids for meetings and open houses including maps, handouts, poster boards, mailers, etc.
 - d. Develop an information mailer/newsletter and news releases for the scoping period and comment period, as well as for the release of the final analysis and decision documents.
 - e. Develop a mailing list and, at the direction of the Forest Service, draft responses to comments for Forest Service approval.
 - f. Be responsible for conducting and completing all necessary studies, inventories, and suitable reports for all resource values in the scoping process. These resource values may include but not be limited to: Cultural features; sensitive, threatened and endangered plant and animal species; wetlands; visual esthetics; fisheries and; riparian zones, and tundra environments.
14. Invite the Proponent to attend meetings with federal, state, regional, and local agencies and the public whenever possible and as appropriate (e.g., discussions on procedural matters; physical, biological, and social issues; the proposal and alternative actions; impacts and their mitigation; and other compliance requirements).
 15. Meet with the Proponent as early as possible to discuss the project description, and various components of the analysis as needed to determine mitigation measures necessary to avoid or mitigate adverse impacts.
 16. Address Proponent-proposed alternatives and respond to comments submitted by the Proponent during the analysis process, whether of a procedural or substantive nature.
 17. Be responsible for the public review of the analysis, public hearings, analysis of public comments, distribution of the documents, within established time frames, with input as required from the Proponent.
 18. Be recipient of all comments on the Draft analysis resulting from the public comments. Determine any necessary modification of the text as a result of public comments with input from the Proponent.
 19. To the fullest extent possible, utilize existing information, inventories, studies, and reports to support the analysis. Accept and utilize information submitted within the established time schedule by the Proponent, consultants working for the Proponents, and other parties provided that such information can be verified by the Forest Service and is accurate as required by 40 CFR 1506.5(a) and (c).

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20. Be responsible with the release of the Decision Document, in coordination with the Prime Consultant and the Proponent.

E. THE PROPONENT SHALL:

1. Establish a principal point of contact (see F.11) for the Proponent on all matters relating to the three-step process including pre-NEPA, environmental analysis, and implementation (only if the NEPA decision is one of action).
2. Be solely responsible for all Primary Consultant and subcontractor fees, costs, and expenses and make no claim against the Forest Service for such fees, costs, and expenses.
3. Develop and execute a contract with the Prime Consultant for the completion of the NEPA analysis on the project which will be subject to review and written acceptance by the Forest Service. The Proponent's views on the selection of a Prime Consultant will be solicited and considered, but the Prime Consultant will be selected solely by the Forest Service.
4. Require a disclosure statement to be executed by the Prime Consultant, the Prime Consultant's professional personnel, and the Prime Consultant's subcontractors stating that the Prime Consultant, the Prime Consultant's professional personnel and the Prime Consultant's subcontractors have no financial interest in the outcome of the analysis or any Biological Assessment pertaining to the project proposed by the Proponent (40 CFR 1506.5(c)).
5. Provide to the Prime Consultant or the Forest Service any justifiable, necessary, or relevant technical or environmental information it may have, which is needed (at the Forest Service's discretion) for analysis preparation.
6. Provide in contracts with the Prime Consultant and any subcontractors that they are not to conduct public surveys or questionnaires without prior approval of the Forest Service.
7. Respond to data requests and provide review comments (e.g., on description of the project and changes thereto) within a reasonable time set by the Forest Service. If the Proponent fails to provide requested materials on schedule, the analysis schedule will be adjusted by the Forest Service to the extent necessary for timely completion of the proposal.
8. Be responsible for Forest Service identified costs which are mutually agreed upon, and associated with salaries of the Forest Service Project Coordinator, and interdisciplinary resource specialists who provide direction, support, and review of the Prime Consultant and contractors.
9. Attend meetings and participate in the formulation of mitigation measures and related agreements as requested by the Forest Service.

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10. Fund all reproduction, printing, and distribution of preliminary, Draft, and Final documents, unless otherwise agreed to by the Forest Service.

F. IT IS MUTUALLY AGREED AND UNDERSTOOD BY THE PARTIES THAT:

1. The Prime Consultant will be under the supervision of the Forest Service, and the Forest Service will make the final determination concerning the scope and contents of the consultant's work. The contract between the Proponent and the Prime Consultant will specify compliance with all applicable legal requirements.
2. All information and data collected by the Prime Consultant and any subcontractors will be inserted in the administrative record.
3. The complexity and the independent nature of the NEPA process requires a common understanding of the roles of the Forest Service personnel, the Proponent, the Prime Consultant, and other interested persons, agencies, and organizations. The role of the Proponent is the same as it would be if the process were being entirely performed by Forest Service personnel, with no Proponent financing.
4. The independent nature of the NEPA process creates the need to conduct the process with integrity. As specified in D. 12, the Forest Service Program Coordinator will establish the process for the efficient flow of communication between the Prime Consultant, the Proponent and the Forest Service. Oral and written communications among Forest Service interdisciplinary resource specialists are protected from disclosure to preserve the integrity of the deliberative process. Individuals who disclose this kind of information to the public and/or the proponent will be excluded from further participation in the analysis.
5. The Prime Consultant is an important part of the interdisciplinary process and will aid and support the Forest Service interdisciplinary resource specialists.
6. All planning data, maps, files, reports, computer, audio or video tapes, and disks and other records will be made a part of the permanent administrative record.
7. In the event of a challenge to the legality or adequacy of the Forest Service compliance with NEPA with respect to the proposal of the Proponent, the Proponent, the Prime Consultant, the Prime Consultant's professional personnel, and the subcontractors shall, at the Proponent's expense, make available to the federal government all pertinent non-privileged information under their control, and to the extent reasonable, discuss such information with the government, and testify at deposition or trial regarding such information.
8. As required by NEPA, the Forest Service will give full consideration to a "No Action Alternative" and other alternatives identified by the Forest Service Interdisciplinary Resource Specialists that are technically and economically feasible and address the

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purpose and need and significant issues. The Proponent's financing of this analysis will have no bearing on the consideration given to the "No Action" or other alternatives.

9. Either party, in writing, may terminate this MOU in whole, or in part, at any time before the date of expiration. In the event of termination, it is agreed to as follows:
 - a. The analysis preparation process will terminate.
 - b. All documentation, reports, analyses, and data used in the analysis developed by the Proponent, the Prime Consultant, or the Prime Consultant's subcontractors up to the date of termination will be delivered to the Forest Service and be placed in the administrative record.
 - c. The Proponent's contract with the Prime Consultant will require the Prime Consultant to submit to the Forest Service a written report on the environmental work and analyses done by the Contractor.
 - d. Preparation of the analysis may be initiated by the Forest Service, consistent with federal government manpower and budget limitations.
10. This MOU in no way restricts the Forest Service or the Proponent from participating in similar activities with other public and private agencies, organizations, and individuals.
11. The principal contacts for this MOU are:

Sandra Guerrieri, Special Projects Coordinator, Gunnison Ranger District, 216 N. Colorado, Gunnison, CO 81230, 970-642-1122;

John Norton, Crested Butte Mountain Resort, P.O. Box 5700, Mt Crested Butte, CO 81225, 970-349-2205.
12. This MOU is neither a fiscal nor a funds obligation document. Any endeavor involving reimbursement, contribution of funds, or transfer of anything of value between the parties to this instrument will be handled in accordance with applicable laws, regulations, and procedures including those for Government procurement and printing. Such endeavors will be outlined in separate agreements that shall be authorized by appropriate statutory authority. This MOU does not provide such authority. Specifically, this MOU does not establish authority for noncompetitive award to the Proponent of any contract or other agreement. Any contract or agreement for training or other services must fully comply with all applicable requirements for competition.
13. Changes within the scope of this MOU shall be made by the issuance of a bilaterally executed modification.
14. This MOU is executed as of the last date shown below and expires no later than December 31, 2009 at which time it is subject to review and renewal, or expiration.

FS Agreement No. 06-MU-11020407-034
Cooperator Agreement No. 5/27/05

15. AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVES. By signature below, the cooperator certifies that the individuals listed in this document as representatives of the cooperator are authorized to act in their respective areas for matters related to this agreement.

THE PARTIES HERETO have executed this MOU.

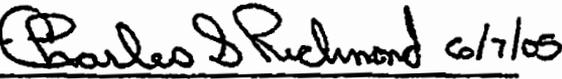
CRESTED BUTTE, LLC

**USDA FOREST SERVICE
Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre &
Gunnison National Forests
Gunnison Ranger District**



Timothy T. Mueller
President

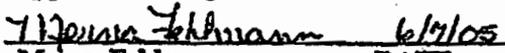
5/27/05
DATE



Charles S. Richmond
Forest Supervisor

6/7/05
DATE

The authority and format of this instrument has been reviewed and approved for signature.



Merna Fehlmann
FS Agreements Coordinator

6/7/05
DATE



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Grand Mesa,
Uncompahgre and
Gunnison
National Forests

2250 Highway 50
Delta, CO 81416
Voice: 970-874-6600
TDD: 970-874-6660

File Code: 2720

Date: October 13, 2006

TIM MUELLER
PRESIDENT
CRESTED BUTTE LLC
77 OKEMO RIDGE ROAD
LUDLOW, VT 05149

Dear Tim:

Enclosed is the Forest Service's report entitled "Snodgrass Mountain Geologic Hazards and Assessment of Potential Effects of Ski Area Development on Slope Stability." Also enclosed is a copy of the letter transmitting the report to other interested parties.

You have presented to us a convincing argument supporting a need for more intermediate skiing terrain at Crested Butte. I concur with that need and am willing to entertain a proposal for the development of this terrain on Snodgrass Mountain, subject to the constraints and limitations presented in this report, and those that preceded it.

This document is a Forest Service technical report. The report comes to no final conclusion and does not represent a Forest Service decision. It is my hope that you will use this report to guide you in your development of a proposal for ski area improvements on Snodgrass Mountain, to meet the need for more intermediate skiing terrain. Ken Kowynia, Forest Service Rocky Mountain Region Winter Sports Specialists, (970) 531-2050, is available to assist you as you develop your proposal and to lend you his expertise in the appropriate design of ski facilities on National Forest lands.

I and my staff will review any proposal that is developed in light of the findings and information in this report. The Forest Service will determine at that time whether to accept the proposal as a Federal proposed action and to begin the environmental analysis process under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

While we accept comments on this report from all parties, we are not seeking comments. There is no formal period associated with this report's release. If you have comments, please submit them in writing to District Ranger Jim Dawson at your convenience.



Should you have any questions, please contact Corcy Wong. I appreciate your patience in the long effort it took for us to complete this report.

Sincerely,

/s/ Charles S. Richmond
CHARLES S. RICHMOND
Forest Supervisor

cc: John Norton
CBMR
James R Dawson
Ken Kowynia

Town of Crested Butte

P.O. Box 39

Crested Butte, Colorado 81224

-A National Historic District-



Phone: (970) 349-5338
FAX: (970) 349-6626
www.townofcrestedbutte.com

May 19, 2008

Charles Richmond
Forest Supervisor, GMUG
2250 Highway 50
Delta, CO 81416

RE: Snodgrass Expansion – Crested Butte Mountain Resort

Dear Mr. Richmond:

The Town of Crested Butte appreciates your request for input regarding the proposed ski area expansion on forest land and has submitted a more detailed list of concerns under a separate cover. We are very interested in being actively involved if the United States Forest Service decides to pursue a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process on this proposed expansion.

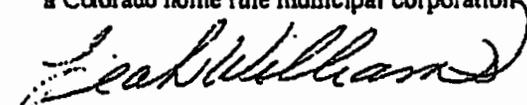
We encourage the United States Forest Service (USFS) to fully and completely evaluate any of our initial concerns related to the proposed project and possible alternatives including: impact to traffic in and around the Town of Crested Butte, anticipated effects to land use and development, avalanche risks, increases in traffic noise, air quality associated with any traffic increases, consistency of the proposed expansion plans with Town's land use planning, impacts to natural resources, open space and wildlife migration, and finally the cumulative impacts to the Town and the significance of those impacts.

Once you have determined the level of environmental impact, we would like to have an opportunity, as a collaborating agency, to review the proposed methodology and criteria planned for use in evaluating induced growth impacts and cumulative impacts. We would like to have an opportunity to participate in analyses of the sustainability of the ski area expansion.

Please forward additional information about upcoming public involvement, lead agency and cooperating agency involvement in this process and the role anticipated for the Town in this process. We urge the Forest Service to implement a collaborative NEPA process, if necessary, that includes the Town staff, elected officials and community residents.

Respectfully,

TOWN OF CRESTED BUTTE,
a Colorado home rule municipal corporation



Leah Williams, Mayor Pro Tem

Town of Crested Butte

P.O. Box 39

Crested Butte, Colorado 81224

-A National Historic District-



May 19, 2008

Phone: (970) 349-5338
FAX: (970) 349-6626
www.townofcrestedbutte.com

Charles Richmond, Forest Supervisor
Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forests
2250 Highway 50
Delta, CO 81416

Re: Proposed Ski area expansion onto Snodgrass Mountain.

Dear Mr. Richmond,

Crested Butte has been proactively soliciting public opinion regarding development of Snodgrass Mountain with lift served skiing for many months. The Crested Butte Town Council heard four presentations from Crested Butte Mountain Resort (CBMR) and The Friends of Snodgrass. On March 24, 2008 our Town sponsored a public meeting in the Crested Butte Center for the Arts because our regular Town Council meeting room might be too small. One hundred sixty-six people attended. Nearly sixty people spoke at that public meeting.

The sentiment expressed at the March 24th meeting, especially from Crested Butte residents, but also from people who live in the Upper East River Valley (UERV), is that Snodgrass Mountain is not an appropriate location for lift served skiing. Since that meeting we have heard from many more people via letters, e-mails, petitions and polls who continue to state opposition to lift served skiing on Snodgrass Mountain but also statements of support for development. Given this effort to generate public opinion, we feel the following is a balanced representation of the UERV. We define the UERV as the area from Round Mountain to the Town site of Gothic and Gothic Mountain.

Some key issues from public comments stand out and we will summarize them below. Comments in quotations are direct comments we have heard from the public.

Major reasons the Town Council heard for keeping Snodgrass Mountain lift free.

1. Open Space.

- o In surveys over the last 20 years, open space has always ranked highly regarding what residents and visitors to the UERV value.
- o "Open space is why so many of us moved here and is one of our most valuable assets."
- o We spend so much with the Crested Butte Land Trust (CBLT) to preserve open space, yet the permit boundary is 2,000 acres and the current

proposal would develop at least 260 acres of land that is already public open space.

- o Our community has spent thousands of hours and millions of dollars to preserve and maintain open space. Since 1991 CBLT has preserved 4,100 acres at a cost of over ten million dollars in nearly 50 transactions including the donation of about 25 conservation easements. The Town has spent another 1.7 million dollars and, with the help of CBLT, has accepted 13 open space and trail conservation easements to preserve an additional 750 acres as open space.
- o Open space is not just a local resident priority. We could not have preserved as much land as has been preserved without the help of our second home owners, visitors, and people from across the country who have contributed substantially to the preservation of open space. Great Outdoors Colorado, has contributed almost \$2,500,000. What this means is people from across the state and across the country see the preservation of open space in the UERV as very important. Loss of such a substantial amount of existing open space would deteriorate our quality of life, tourism and the associated economic drivers in our community.

2. Sustainability / Balance.

- o "Snodgrass is an important, sustainable economic and community asset." It is used by runners, hikers, mountain bikers, horseback riders, cross country skiers, snowshoers, the Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory (RMBL), and people on wildflower expeditions.
- o "Global climate change has businesses all over the world trying to be greener. Why not here?" Instead, we are considering a proposal for lift served skiing on low (10,000 to 11,000 foot elevations) east and west aspects that is not sustainable.
- o "Crested Butte is a diamond in the rough. If CBMR can't make it shine, why move to a new area?" The current mountain could suffice if all the proposed improvements are made.
- o "It is more important to protect the environment of Snodgrass than to have a few more bucks in my pocket."

3. Development of Snodgrass Mountain will lead to the development of Washington Gulch.

- o This is a deal breaker for many people in the Town of Crested Butte and many others in the UERV. Washington Gulch is currently an incredible asset to the community and should remain lift free. In a response to public demand, the Forest Service recently re-established snowmobiling rules for that valley to help keep it pristine in the winter months. Development of Snodgrass Mountain would lead to the development of Washington Gulch and the UERV in the vicinity of the Gothic Townsite.
- o Telluride will be paying \$50,000,000 to preserve the valley at the entrance to their town. We have the opportunity to keep the UERV around the

Gothic Townsite and Washington Gulch pristine, without spending that kind of money. We ask you to help us.

Given the limited amount of terrain that would be accessed on the Washington Gulch side of Snodgrass, and the broad ranging effects of a lift on the entire Washington Gulch valley, lift served skiing should not be allowed in the Washington Gulch Valley.

4. Although the proponents of the expansion believe it will be an economic boost, the evidence presented is inconclusive.

The data that does exist suggests it would not be an economic boost, that it would not increase skier days, and that revenues to the communities would not increase due to lift served skiing. Increased terrain at other ski resorts in the past 10 years has not resulted in either increased skier days or increased sales taxes for the communities. It is unknown whether we will see an economic boost. Therefore, it should not be a factor in determining if a ski area should expand.

5. Ecology of Snodgrass Mountain will change.

o Water.

Snodgrass Mountain does not receive as much snow as Crested Butte Mountain. It has been estimated that a 50% increase in water usage would be needed to create snow on a much smaller area of Snodgrass Mountain, compared to the area served by snowmaking on Crested Butte. In light of the fact that our valley has been experiencing severe water shortages in recent years, this seems like an inappropriate use of water in the valley. In addition, this amount of water on Snodgrass would change the ecology of the mountain.

o Wetlands.

We understand that the reservoir necessary for snow making is now proposed to be on private land owned by CBMR. The reservoir site would cover a large wetland. What mitigation is planned for the loss of the wetlands?

o Timbering.

In the current Snodgrass proposal, about 96,000 trees would be cut.

o Habitat loss.

According to Colorado Division of Wildlife WRIS data, there is an elk migration corridor on the south and east sides of Snodgrass Mountain. These same elk summer in the Slate River Wetlands Preserve just north of Crested Butte and our residents and visitors enjoy their stay when we hear them bugling from our front porches and when we see them from the roads surrounding the wetlands. These elk are part of the hunting economy and the summer visitor economy of Crested Butte. If developing ski terrain and maintaining it over time disrupts the migration corridor, it would be a quality of life impact and an economic impact to Crested Butte.

Major reasons the Town Council heard in support of lift served skiing on Snodgrass Mountain.

1. Snodgrass is an amenity for the development of the North Village.
2. Increased tourism and tax revenues.
Expanding skiing terrain to include Snodgrass Mountain is a reasonable economic stimulus for the Valley that would increase tax revenues and tourist business for our local business. Expanding the amount of intermediate terrain to Snodgrass would be a reason for more families to come to Crested Butte and increase total skiing to 600,000 skiers per day.
3. Natural location to expand.
Snodgrass is the natural area to expand skiing to at Crested Butte and that expansion would benefit the community.
4. More intermediate terrain.
Crested Butte is an intermediate and advanced skiing area with little skiing for the beginner. We need to expand our terrain to fit the needs and wants of visitors. Visitors would stay longer and return more often if there is more intermediate terrain. The community should give more support to the Muellers (CBMR owners) and let them address the major complaint of the current ski area, not enough intermediate terrain. Their scaled down proposal, compared to earlier proposals, indicates their willingness to listen to the community and compromise.
5. More business people would speak out, but will not, because they may lose customers.
6. Begin the NEPA process.
Many trust that the NEPA process will provide for the responsible development of Snodgrass, otherwise the permit will be denied.

At the very least, lift served skiing on Snodgrass Mountain is a very divisive issue in our town, valley and county. Having heard these comments and presentations, we find that too many of the people of the Town of Crested Butte, many people in the UERV, and many people in Gunnison County, do not want lift served skiing expanded onto Snodgrass Mountain. Therefore, the majority of the Town Council finds there is not enough community support for this project. There should be more community acceptance before lift served skiing is allowed on Snodgrass Mountain.

We ask that the Forest Service help Crested Butte become an environmental leader. Help Crested Butte and the Gunnison National Forest become the place that everyone else tries to emulate. There are alternatives for ski areas to lead the path in environmental stewardship. We feel this could be an opportunity for the Forest Service to be an inspiration and a leader by using public land for something other than private fiscal speculation by a few people.

The Town of Crested Butte understands that the Forest Service looks at direct, indirect and cumulative impacts in the NEPA process. We believe the following impacts should be addressed:

1. Traffic.

In 2007 and 2008, our town is spending almost two million dollars to facilitate movement of up to 10,000 vehicles per day through our town at the four-way stop. Most of these vehicles are going to and from Mt. Crested Butte. Today there are about 1,600 dwelling units in Mt. Crested Butte and 400,000 skier days per year. The North Village will add another 1,100 units to Mt. Crested Butte, and the expansion onto Snodgrass Mountain is targeted to expand skier days to 600,000. In 1998 the Upper Gunnison Valley Transportation Plan projected that there will be about 18,000 vehicles per day at our four-way stop in the middle of Crested Butte. This much traffic will effectively split our historic district into two parts. The increased construction and logging truck traffic are additional impacts.

2. Open Space.

Our community has spent thousands of hours and more than ten million dollars to preserve and maintain open space. This proposal will consume between 260 and 2,000 acres of pristine open space on public land. Land we can all use today. In addition, open space is not just a local resident priority. The funds used to preserve open space are not only dollars generated by residents of the UERV. The people who live in the UERV could not have paid the cost to preserve as much land as has been preserved without the help of our second home owners, visitors, and people from across the country who have contributed substantially to the preservation of open space. Great Outdoors Colorado, has contributed almost \$2,500,000. What this means is people from across the state and across the country see the preservation of open space in the UERV as very important. Loss of such a substantial amount of open space will deteriorate our quality of life, tourism and the associated economic drivers in our community.

3. Development of Snodgrass Mountain will lead to development in Washington Gulch.

Washington Gulch is currently an incredible asset to the community and should remain lift free. Currently the Forest Service's Winter Travel Plan emphasizes "non-motorized" use. A lift in this area contradicts the Winter Travel Plan.

4. Parking.

Parking in Crested Butte is becoming more and more difficult. We try to maintain our small town atmosphere by having public streets available for parking. Both residents and business patrons use our on street parking. It is the traditional town system. We have also invested in land near downtown for business parking. CBMR advertises parking in Crested Butte and ride the bus up to the ski area. We could prohibit all parking in town except for residents who have permits. We are trying desperately not to have to do that since it would impact our quality of life and economy. If Snodgrass Mountain lift served skiing does result in an additional 200,000 skiers per year, it will only make our parking situation worse.

5. Water.

a. Snodgrass Mountain does not receive as much snow as Crested Butte Mountain. It has been estimated that a 50% increase in water usage will be

needed to create snow on a much smaller area of Snodgrass Mountain, compared to the area served by snowmaking on Crested Butte. We are concerned that this additional water use will impact the East River. We believe all water users of the East River should have adequate water.

b. We understand that the reservoir necessary for snowmaking is now proposed to be on private land owned by CBMR. The reservoir site would cover a large wetland. What mitigation is planned for the loss of the wetlands?

c. We have already written to you about the precedent being set by the Mt. Crested Butte Water and Sanitation District which proposes to build a reservoir, for snowmaking, on ranch land and condemning ranch land to do so.

6. Affordable Housing.

Lift served skiing on Snodgrass Mountain would generate jobs, and those people will need housing. Our Town has a list of 30 households trying to find affordable housing and the Gunnison County Housing Authority maintains a list of nearly 200 households that need housing. Business owners have trouble filling jobs because housing is not available. Lift served skiing on Snodgrass will generate many more jobs and those people will need affordable housing. Most of them will not be able to afford the high median price for a home in Crested Butte.

7. Habitat loss and impacts to RMBL.

a. RMBL has conducted research throughout the UERV and especially around Gothic for over 75 years. Their scientists have testified before Congress regarding global warming. Some of these scientific studies have been ongoing projects for decades. Any possibility that skiing on Snodgrass may impact the quality of research by RMBL is unacceptable.

b. According to Colorado Division of Wildlife WRIS data, there is an elk migration corridor on the south and east sides of Snodgrass Mountain. These same elk summer in the Slate River Wetlands Preserve just north of Crested Butte and our residents and visitors enjoy their stay when we hear them bugling from our front porches and when we see them from the roads surrounding the wetlands. These elk are part of the hunting economy and the summer visitor economy of Crested Butte. If developing ski terrain and maintaining it over time disrupts the migration corridor, it would be a quality of life impact and an economic impact to Crested Butte.

8. Avalanche.

Art Mears did an avalanche report regarding potential impacts to RMBL and the Gothic townsite. The findings of that report should be addressed.

We thank you for considering our opinions and the opinions of the community regarding lift served skiing on Snodgrass Mountain.

We reiterate that a majority of the Town Council believes much more of the community needs to support the proposal and that there should be more community acceptance before lift served skiing is allowed on Snodgrass Mountain.

Sincerely,

By:



Leah B. Williams, Mayor Pro-Tem.

Town of Crested Butte

a Colorado home rule municipal corporation



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Grand Mesa,
Uncompahgre and
Gunnison
National Forests

2250 Highway 50
Delta, CO 81416
Voice: 970-874-6600
TDD: 970-874-6660

File Code: 1950/2720

Date: June 5, 2008

TIMOTHY MUELLER
PRESIDENT
CRESTED BUTTE LLC
77 OKEMO RIDGE ROAD
LUDLOW, VT 05149

Dear Tim:

This letter follows a meeting that was held among representatives of CBMR and the Forest Service on April 24, 2008. Discussed during the meeting were the Master Development Plan (MDP) and the Snodgrass Mountain expansion proposal. This letter will describe the process we will follow for both.

Master Development Plan & Snodgrass Proposal Review Process

Our intention has been to accept the MDP before we receive a proposal for Snodgrass expansion. During the April 24 meeting, Corey Wong discussed the option to allow you to submit to us both at the same time. This could have several advantages: 1) The level of specificity needed in the MDP will help the public understand your long-term vision for Crested Butte Mountain Resort (CBMR), both that privately-owned and that permitted on National Forest lands, and 2) Community involvement for the MDP should help CBMR address community and public concerns in your proposal for Snodgrass expansion.

Also discussed at the meeting was community involvement that we recommend occur in gaining public understanding of and feedback on the MDP. While we will not prescribe the involvement, we suggested meeting with the two town councils, the county commissioners, RMBL, HCCA, and Friends of Snodgrass Mountain.

In reviewing both the MDP and Snodgrass proposal together, we would make it clear to the public that, even though the Forest Service would be evaluating both simultaneously, we have not accepted the Snodgrass proposal as a Forest Service proposed action under NEPA.

The possible long-term outcomes of the processes we are going through range from (a) Forest Service acceptance of your MDP and approval of some level of ski area expansion at Snodgrass Mountain to (b) Forest Service denial of a proposal to expand on Snodgrass, acceptance of an MDP without Snodgrass Mountain, removal of Snodgrass from the CBMR permit boundary, and changing the allocation of Snodgrass Mountain from developed skiing to some other management prescription within the Forest Plan. There are, of course, possible outcomes between the two described. This was all explained at the April 24 meeting.



Snodgrass Mountain Expansion Proposal

I have been consistent in emphasizing that there are two major concerns with regard to the development of Snodgrass. They are 1) community support and 2) the geologic hazard/suitability for development of the mountain, particularly the front side.

As for community support, there simply is no science or process that will definitively inform me of what level of support there is. Petitions and letter-writing campaigns are indicators, representations of special interest on all sides send a message, and the expressed views of elected officials are a significant voice. The proposal and arguments by CBMR carry weight. However, there is no process or mechanism for adding these together to get an answer. Rather, it is a matter of perception on my part, listening to all sources, and the judgment which I must exercise in the broader public interest.

At this time it is my perception that the community of the Upper East River Valley, including Crested Butte, Mount Crested Butte, Gothic, and surrounding areas within Gunnison County, is divided and torn over Snodgrass. There are strong voices on all sides of the proposal. Elected representatives within and among towns are divided. There is passionate support and opposition among citizens and among business interests. While I am hearing some support for entering NEPA, that may not be the same as support for the development of Snodgrass Mountain.

As I have said before, ski area expansions in Colorado have typically set in motion the kinds of growth and development that have profound impacts on communities and their surrounding landscapes. People feel strongly that they should have a say about the future of the valley and the Forest Service agrees.

My clear message to CBMR through District Ranger Jim Dawson and Corey Wong at the April 24 meeting, and my message to you now, is that CBMR has some significant work to do to address public concerns if you want the Forest Service to accept an application and begin NEPA for this project.

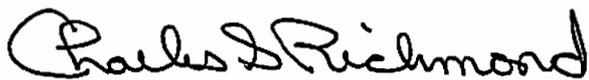
The second concern that we have worked so hard together to address is the geologic hazard. Over the years we have had at least seven studies of Snodgrass Mountain, examining geologic hazard. The most recent study was completed by your consultant, Jim McCalpin. We have asked Rex Baum, of USGS, to review the two most recent reports and to offer any observations he would regarding their technical sufficiency. We expect Rex to finish his review by August.

It will then fall to me to decide 1) whether, given the risk that has been so carefully studied, it is in the public interest to authorize ski area developments on or around potentially unstable areas, and 2) whether it is appropriate on National Forest lands to undertake the recommended mitigation measures in order to support ski development. I have not come to a clear determination in this regard, but I will at the time I decide whether to proceed into NEPA with your proposal. Obviously, I cannot come to that decision without first considering your specific and detailed proposals for Snodgrass Mountain.

In terms of timing of our review of these documents (MDP and Snodgrass expansion proposal) and the proposals they contain, we anticipate that we would take about four months to give them full consideration and to respond to you formally. During the period of our review we will consult with you to better understand the proposals.

If you have questions, or you wish to meet with me to discuss this letter, please feel free to call.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Charles S. Richmond". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

CHARLES S. RICHMOND
Forest Supervisor

cc: District Ranger, Gunnison RD



City of Gunnison

June 12, 2008

Charles Richmond
Forest Supervisor, GMUG
2250 Highway 50
Delta, CO 81416

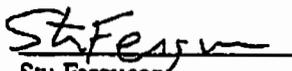
Dear Charles,

Crested Butte Mountain Resort (CBMR) representatives presented information on their Snodgrass Proposal to Gunnison City Council at our June 10th regular meeting. We have followed the progress of the review for the past few years and understand the scope of the proposal and potential importance of this project to their operations.

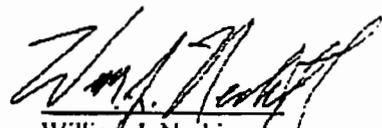
After hearing from the CBMR staff on the current status we would like to encourage the United States Forest Service to continue moving the review process forward. If, after analyzing the geological reports, it is determined that those issues are resolved, we feel it is important that the full National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review be commenced. The NEPA process requires federal agencies to integrate environmental values into their decision making processes by considering the impacts of their proposed actions and reasonable alternatives to those actions.

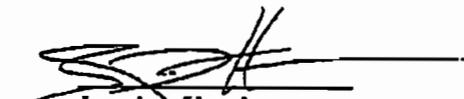
The City of Gunnison agrees that this next step is critical in understanding the merit of the proposal in relation to the requirements of the NEPA. An open and public review is appropriate and backed by the City of Gunnison. Please consider our support to initiate the steps necessary in moving to a complete review of this significant project.

Sincerely,


Stu Ferguson
Mayor


Rick Miller
Mayor Pro Tem


William J. Nesbitt
Councilor


Jonathan Houck
Councilor


Ellen Harriman
Councilor

CRESTED BUTTE SOUTH PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION

61 TEOCALLI ROAD, CRESTED BUTTE, CO 81224
PHONE (970) 349-1162, WEBSITE: www.cbsouth.net, FAX (970) 349-1163

July 1, 2008

Charles S. Richmond
USDA Forest Service
Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forest
2250 Highway 50
Delta, CO 81416

Mr. Richmond,

The Board of Directors for the Crested Butte South Property Owners Association, on June 18, 2008, met and unanimously passed a motion to encourage the Forest Service to begin the NEPA process for the ski area expansion of lift-served skiing on Snodgrass Mountain, at the request of Crested Butte Mountain Resort.

The Crested Butte South Board of Directors are the elected representatives of approximately 1,500 residents and property owners of the Crested Butte South Subdivision, located approximately 8 miles south of the Town of Crested Butte. The Board of Directors is, among its other duties, charged with doing such other things as will tend toward the welfare and benefit of Crested Butte South and the landowners therein. Given that authority, they authorized me to write this letter to the Forest Service supporting the going forward with the NEPA process to determine what are the economic, environmental and other benefits and detriments of the proposed expansion of the ski area to the welfare of the community.

Thanks you for your consideration.



Christian Behan, AICP - Association Manager
Crested Butte South Property Owners Association
61 Teocalli Road, Crested Butte, CO 81224
phone: 970.349.1162
email: chris@cbsouth.net
fax: 970.349.1163
web: www.cbsouth.net

Cc: Jim Dawson, District Ranger
Gunnison ranger District

Michael Kraatz
Crested Butte Mountain Resort

From: Curtis H Wilker [mailto:chwilker@westelk.com]
Sent: Wednesday, August 20, 2008 12:10 PM
To: Charlie Richmond; Jim Dawson
Cc: John Norton; Diane Mueller; Tim Mueller
Subject: Snodgrass

As president of the HOA, I have been asked by the residents and lot owners of Meridian Lake Meadows to write to the Forest Service with regard to lift accessed skiing on Snodgrass Mountain, Crested Butte.

The HOA circulated a questionnaire (attached) with several pertinent questions regarding the issue of permitting lift accessed winter sports on Snodgrass Mountain.

Meridian Lake Meadows (MLM) subdivision contains 56 homes/lots located on Washington Gulch Road. (CR 811). The subdivision is bounded to the north and east by National Forest and Allen Ranch property. Snodgrass is immediately to the North of MLM. With this close proximity and direct connection to the mountain, our owners are directly impacted by any development on Snodgrass. Our survey prompted 70% of the owner's to respond. Of those responding, 80% voted for the proposal to provide lift accessed skiing on Snodgrass Mountain; 15% were against; and 5% were undecided. The board members and our operating managers support the issue 100%.

The board believes that the results of the survey underscore the support for growing our winter business. Our owners believe that the increase in intermediate skiing that Snodgrass will supply will be important to growing the economic prosperity of the Gunnison Valley.

The Board and the greater majority of our owners encourage the Forest Service to begin the NEPA process on Snodgrass.

Thank you for taking care of our National Forests and know that we treasure where we live and the access we have to such natural beauty. We also treasure the opportunity to be able to make use of mechanical aids to enjoy the skiing and snowboarding provided by CBMR under a USFS permit.

Thanks

Curt Wilker

President MLM

8/20/2008

QUESTIONNAIRE

Most of you are probably aware that Crested Butte Mountain Resort ("CBMR") are once again attempting to expand their ski terrain by installing lifts on Snodgrass Mountain which is neighbor to the existing ski area and to our homes at Meridian Lake Meadows.

Over the years there have been several different plans for lift accessed skiing on Snodgrass Mountain and permits have been granted by the Forest Service in the past but the previous owners of CBMR did not proceed with installation of lifts. The current plan being considered by the Forest Service is considerably reduced compared to those previous proposals. Full details of the current proposal can be viewed at www.snodgrassfacts.com.

CBMR is a destination ski resort and they believe that it is essential to provide a quality and diverse winter sports recreational experience that will meet the demands of guests and encourage those guests to stay longer and also return for additional ski vacations. CBMR believe the additional terrain on Snodgrass will provide much needed intermediate terrain and will greatly enhance the Crested Butte ski experience.

However, CBMR cannot proceed until the Forest Service grants approval and the Forest Service will not grant approval until they have conducted a full environmental impact study as prescribed by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Before commencing the NEPA process, the Forest Service needs to feel comfortable that a majority of property owners in the immediate area support the proposal. The Board of Meridian Lake Meadows would like you to take a few moments to review the proposal on www.snodgrassfacts.com and complete the section below. Time is of the essence and therefore we urge you to complete this form and return it to us promptly. A return envelope is enclosed for your convenience. Once the responses are received, the Board will be able to decide if it is appropriate to send a letter of support to the Forest Service on behalf of Meridian Lake Meadows.

- I support the current CBMR proposal to provide lift accessed skiing on Snodgrass Mountain.
- I oppose the current CBMR proposal to provide lift accessed skiing on Snodgrass Mountain.
- I require more information and would like a board member to contact me to discuss the proposal. My contact information is:

Signature of Owner

Lot # _____

Thank you for responding promptly.
Board of Directors
Meridian Lake Meadows Association



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Grand Mesa,
Uncompahgre and
Gunnison
National Forests

2250 Highway 50
Delta, CO 81416
Voice: 970-874-6600
TDD: 970-874-6660

File Code: 2720

Date: January 29, 2009

TIMOTHY MUELLER
PRESIDENT
CRESTED BUTTE LLC
PO BOX 5700
CRESTED BUTTE, CO 81225

Dear Tim:

This letter addresses two issues we have discussed which will bear on my decision to accept, or not, your unsolicited proposal for ski area development of Snodgrass Mountain. I am providing guidance to you in this letter that may be of assistance as you develop your proposal for development of the mountain for downhill skiing.

With regard to first issue, which is public support, I am of the belief that a consensus for expansion does not exist within the communities surrounding Gunnison and in the Upper East River Valley. I have received numerous letters and cards expressing strong opinion on both sides of the issue. The Town of Mt. Crested Butte clearly supports expansion onto Snodgrass, yet the Town of Crested Butte has stated that there isn't enough community support to consider an expansion. Crested Butte South and Gunnison have expressed support for the Forest Service beginning the NEPA analysis. High Country Citizens' Alliance and Friends of Snodgrass oppose expansion.

It is not uncommon for significant decisions about the use of National Forest, such as this, to be controversial, and to provoke strong opinion on all sides. We cannot please all parties. It is our job to ascertain that such use of the National Forest System is in the public interest. While I would prefer broader support for what you have presented to the community, I do not find cause at this point to deny a proposal, presuming little changes by the time you submit it.

Please ensure the community and local municipalities, especially Gunnison County, receive ample opportunity to review your master development plan (MDP) prior to submitting it to me for my acceptance.

With regard to the second issue, which is geologic hazard, in early January I provided you with the USGS review of recent geologic studies on Snodgrass Mountain. I directed an interdisciplinary review of that report and also the Burke and McCalpin reports (all of which considered and incorporated the previous geology studies).

Based on our careful consideration of these reports and the previous studies, I have identified two areas (see enclosed maps) as not suitable for ski area development (the maps are based on Plate 1 of McCalpin's report). Ski area development is defined as including any of the following activities: clearing, grading, road construction, trenching, installation of lift terminals, and snowmaking. Lift towers would be allowed and grooming and skiing are permissible if natural snow conditions permit. Incidental tree removal could be allowed on a case-by-case basis.

The two areas have been studied to a different extent in several geologic studies dating back to 1976 and have been identified as geologically unstable. The geologic hazards in these two areas



exceed my tolerance for risk. These two areas are deemed not suitable for ski area development because of the level of risk and uncertainty of impacts to natural resources, the level of risk to property and life, the uncertainty of the success of mitigation measures, and the incongruity of the scale of the mitigation measures with the natural setting.

The rationale to allow lift towers in the above-mentioned areas is taken, in part, from the Burke report page 36:

“Generally, the construction of properly designed structures such as lifeline towers, terminals and buildings do not contribute to slope instability. However, their construction (roads to these sites, cuts, fills, foundation excavations) can. These aspects were previously discussed with other activities such as grading and slope shaping, clearing, and roads. Although slope movement can damage structures, mitigation to reduce loss of structures is an issue for the ski area, not a fundamental concern for preserving slope stability. Measures designed to protect structures should be incorporated into the overall plan for mitigating slope movement for the other ski area activities.”

While I have identified these two areas as having significant geologic concerns, it doesn't mean that the other areas have no geologic concerns. They may well be suitable for ski area development with specific mitigation measures in place, as may be derived from existing studies or future ones.

Should you wish to submit a proposal consistent with the information provided in this letter, please also ensure your MDP reflects the same. As mentioned to you previously, we are willing to consider your MDP and a Snodgrass proposal concurrently.

If your proposal is accepted as an application and we proceed into NEPA, I will have high expectations and requirements for public involvement.

Please contact District Ranger Jim Dawson or Corey Wong with any questions.

Sincerely,

/s/ Charles S. Richmond
CHARLES S. RICHMOND
Forest Supervisor

Enclosures: 2 maps

cc: Tammie Quinlan
CNL Income Crested Butte LLC
James R Dawson



Gunnison County Board of County Commissioners

Phone: (970) 641-0248 • Fax: (970) 641-3061

Email: bocc@gunnisoncounty.org • www.GunnisonCounty.org

Charles S. Richmond, Forest Supervisor
USDA, Forest Service
Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre & Gunnison National Forests
2250 Highway 50
Delta, CO 81416

October 20, 2009

RE: Snodgrass Review

Dear Charlie,

Gunnison County has worked diligently for decades to ensure that land use planning and development in our county is sound and beneficial to our citizens. All of our regulations are designed to ensure that mitigation measures are met to keep undue burdens from the community and that the positive benefits of projects are maximized as fully as possible. Unfortunately, because of our regulatory process, we are limited in our ability to comment on certain projects that are up for your review that would also come under a "quasi-judicial" proceeding in Gunnison County.

Since County Commissioners are public officials who act in both "quasi-legislative" and "quasi-judicial" proceedings, and since the members of the public may not know or appreciate the different obligations and constraints a County Commissioner has in the different types of proceedings, it is not surprising that those who lobby us for support may have discomfort recognizing the perils of such *ex parte* contacts and difficulty avoiding *ex parte* contacts when the issue at hand involves a quasi-judicial rather than quasi-legislative matter.

Nonetheless, *ex parte* contacts in quasi-judicial proceedings do have perils; they may cause damage to the applicant, to the public and to the integrity of the process. Courts give guidance to judges and to one acting as the equivalent of a judge. The United States Supreme Court has stated that "the tribunals of the country shall not only be impartial in the controversies submitted to them but shall give assurance that they are impartial . . .

.". Berger v. United States, 255 U.S. 22, 35-36 (1921). Basic to our system of justice is the precept that a judge must be free of all taint of bias and partiality. A judge ". . . must meticulously avoid any appearance of partiality, not merely to secure the confidence of the litigants immediately involved, but to retain public respect and secure willing and ready obedience to their judgments". People v. Hrapski, 718 P.2d 1050 (Colo. 1986). A trial judge must "conduct himself at all times in a manner that promotes public confidence in the integrity and impartiality of the judiciary". A.B.A. Standards, The Function of the Trial Judge 1.5. Code of Judicial Conduct, Canon 2, provides that a judge should avoid the appearance of impropriety

in all activities. Code of Judicial Conduct Canon 3(A)(4) provides in pertinent part: "A judge should accord to every person who is legally interested in a proceeding, or his lawyer, full right to be heard according to law, and, except as authorized by law, neither initiate nor consider *ex parte* or other communications concerning a pending or impending proceeding . . .".

So, any comment from Gunnison County board of County Commissioners regarding the expansion of CBMR on to Snodgrass would be considered an *ex parte* communication (outside of the county review process) and would cause damage to the applicant, the public and the integrity of our process. Therefore, Gunnison County Board of County Commissioners cannot submit a letter of support or opposition regarding this application. Nor should the US Forest Service construe the lack of such letter as lack of support and deny the application to move forward based on the County's inability to weigh in. Please do not use this inability on the County's part as a cause for any U.S. Forest Service decision that is yours to make.

Sincerely,



Paula Swenson



Hap Channel

Absent

Jim Starr

CC: Gunnison Country Times
Crested Butte News
Congressman John Salazar
Senator Mark Udall
Senator Mark Bennet

MEMORANDUM

TO: Charles Richmond
Forest Supervisor

FROM: David Baumgarten
Gunnison County Attorney

DATE: September 30, 2009

RE: Ex Parte Communications In Quasi-Judicial Proceedings

This memo will focus on issues that may arise regarding communications that individual County Commissioners may have with parties to, or members of the public interested in, quasi-judicial proceedings (as opposed to "quasi-legislative" proceedings) before Gunnison County (either Planning Commission or the Board of County Commissioners).

A "quasi-legislative" proceeding is prospective in nature, is of general application, and requires balancing of questions of judgment and discretion; generally it is policy-making. A "quasi-judicial" proceeding decides rights and liabilities based on past or present facts; a quasi-judicial proceeding is one in which the Planning Commission or Board investigates facts, weighs evidence and draws conclusions as a basis for official acts. It is the application of policy, guidelines and regulations to a fact-specific situation. E.g., a Planning Commission or Board determination on a Land Use Resolution permit applications is "quasi-judicial." It is useful to recognize that a Planning Commissioner or County Commissioner in quasi-judicial proceeding is acting as the equivalent of a judge. An *ex parte* communication is one that occurs outside of the normal hearing process; e.g., with an applicant off the record.

Since County Commissioners are public officials who act in both "quasi-legislative" and "quasi-judicial" proceedings, and may be accustomed by philosophy and choice to constant and open interaction with members of the public, and since the members of the public may not know or appreciate the different obligations and constraints a County Commissioner has in the different types of proceedings, it is not surprising that both Commissioners and those who lobby them for support may have discomfort recognizing the perils of such *ex parte* contacts and difficulty avoiding *ex parte* contacts when the issue at hand involves a quasi-judicial rather than quasi-legislative matter.

Nonetheless, *ex parte* contacts in quasi-judicial proceedings do have perils; they may cause damage to the applicant, to the public and to the integrity of the process. Courts give guidance to judges and to one acting as the equivalent of a judge. The United States Supreme Court has stated that "the tribunals of the country shall not only be impartial in the controversies submitted to them but shall give assurance that they are impartial . . .". Berger v. United States, 255 U.S. 22, 35-36 (1921). Basic to our system of justice is the precept that a judge must be free of all taint of bias and partiality. A judge ". . . must meticulously avoid any appearance of partiality, not merely to secure the confidence of the litigants immediately involved, but to retain public respect and secure willing and ready obedience to their judgments". People v. Hrapski, 718 P.2d 1050 (Colo. 1986). A trial judge must "conduct himself at all times in a manner that promotes public confidence in the integrity and impartiality of the judiciary". A.B.A. Standards, The Function of the Trial Judge 1.5. Code of Judicial Conduct, Canon 2, provides that a judge

should avoid the appearance of impropriety in all activities. Code of Judicial Conduct Canon 3(A)(4) provides in pertinent part: "A judge should accord to every person who is legally interested in a proceeding, or his lawyer, full right to be heard according to law, and, except as authorized by law, neither initiate nor consider *ex parte* or other communications concerning a pending or impending proceeding . . .".

May I suggest five rules of thumb regarding *ex parte* communications in quasi-judicial proceedings.

The first rule of thumb is to not initiate them and to avoid them when others initiate them; do this politely but firmly. Encourage participation in the normal hearing process, through an in person appearance on the record, or if an in person appearance is not convenient, by letter to the Planning Commission or Board that can be entered into the hearing record.

The second rule of thumb is to limit conversations outside of the hearing process to policy rather than facts of the particular matter before the Planning Commission or Board. A decision maker's public stance on a policy issue related to an application or the dispute normally will not disqualify the decision maker, endanger the process or deprive the applicant or the public of a fair decision. What might demonstrate bias would be to engage in an *ex parte* discussion about facts of a particular matter or to make an *ex parte* statement indicating that the decision maker has made up his mind about the facts of a particular case before the evidence has been officially presented.

The third rule of thumb is to remember and indicate in any conversation outside of the hearing process that the County is allowed discretion to regulate but not to make arbitrary decisions. It is important that all decisions and disputes must be made within the constraints of both established process and policy guidelines; e.g., "if an application fulfills County requirements, it will be granted; if it does not, it will be denied." Avoid blanket statements of "always" and "never."

The fourth rule of thumb is that if an *ex parte* communication does take place during the pendency of a quasi-judicial proceeding, the commissioner should place on the record of the proceeding the circumstances and substance of the communication. This will give notice to all participants and the public and will afford them the opportunity to respond.

The fifth rule of thumb to follow is to remember that these rules of thumb apply even before an application or dispute is officially before the Planning Commission or Board.

To: The Town of Crested Butte and U.S. Forest Service

The undersigned live, work, own property and/or own businesses in the Town of Crested Butte and believe that developing Snodgrass with proper attention to legitimate environmental issues is good for the long term future of our communities.

We urge the U.S. Forest Service and CBMR to enter into the NEPA process as soon as practically possible. We respect everyone's opinion on this important issue and want to be sure that all views are heard.

Joy Adams
Karen Allen
Bruce Alpen
Debbie Alpen
John Angier
Jeff Arnett
Michael Baim
Steven Banks
Priscilla Banks
Jim Barefield
Kimberly Barefield
Rick Barnes
Clif Barnhart
Kathy Barnhart
Jana Barrett
Thom Beardman
Richard Bond
Elizabeth Bond
Diane Brossard
Meg Brethauer
Eric Briel
Mike Brown
John Burns
Kathy Burns
Fred Buston
Nan Buston
Danny Byron
Judy Byron
Chris Cappy
Pete Carrigan
Caren Carroll
Trod Carroll
David Chenault
Bette Chenault
Ron Chilpala
Bonnie Chilpala
Greg Cielinski
Sandy Cielinski
David Clayton

Terry Clayton
Chuck Clippett
Bill Coburn
Annie Coburn
Frank Coffey
Jack Colby
Mickey Cooper
Mindy Costanzo
Sigrid Cottrell
Chris Cottrell
John Councilman
Thom Cox
Sharon Cox
Allen Cox
Rosaland Criss Dur-jardin
Trip Cunningham
Michelle Cumming-ham
Joe Currier
Liz Currier
Maudeyn Curry
Rari Dalton
Danny D'Aquila
Dusty Demetson
Maggie Dethloff
Toni Duncanova
Corey Dwan
Jesse Ebner
Steven East
Molly Eldridge
Brad English
Penny Ervin
Heather Featherman
Justin Feder
Tom Ficklizer
Cindy Fickner
Dan Fitchett
Koley Flint

Danielle Fraser
Tim Freethold
Christie Freethold
Glenn Galloway
Randy Garcia
Erin Garcia
Joe Garcia
Gary Garland
John Geist
Matt Ghossein
Deborah Ghossein
Peter Giannini
Bob Giannone
Jack Gibbons
Edie Gibson
Chris Gibson
Danci Gillespie
Andrew Gittin
Tammi Gittin
Gail Gittin
Liz Gudwin
Susan Gudwin
Carlos Gonzalez-Bruin
Dennis Gorve
Charlene Gorve
Don Greiner
Shellie Greiner
Andrew Hadley
Andy Hadley
Scott Hargrove
Kristi Hargrove
Gary Hartman
Jennifer Hartman
Don Haver
Michael Helland
Lynn Heatchy
Clire Hodges
Brad Holleran

Michele Holleran
Skye Houseman
Annaliese Houseman
Mike Howe
Dawn Howe
Diane Johnson
Craig Jones
David Jones
Martha Jones
Bill Joyce
Bob Kauffman
Mike L. Keith
Jason Kidd
Julia Kidd
Jim Kingsdale
Nina Kingsdale
Paul Kirincic
Paul Kirincic
Mary Alice Kirincic
Lisa Kirk
Wayne Konean
Collette Kraatz
Bob Kray
Jon LaDuke
Sarah Le Page
Michael Linehan
Ken Lodwien
Melanie Lodwien
Robin Layed
Rosalanne Lloyd
Jon Lund
Jerry Lund
Charlie Lutz
Lee Lynch
Steve Mabry
Sandra Mabry
Michael Marchielli
Jennifer Marchielli
Cecilia Marr
Laurel Marr

Reggie Masters
Astrid Mattson
Chris Mattson
Janice McElroy
Dan McElroy
Leticia McElroy
Judy McGill
Kelly McGuire
Dave McGuire
Mark McGuire
Kim McGuire
Wayne Meredith
Linda Mladenka
Alyce Moore
Jim Moore
Sara Murgan
George Muisenga
Kevin Muisenga
Dr. Scott Nelson
Josephine Nelson
John Nichols
Liberty Nichols
Fid O'Brien
Teri O'Rourke
Peter O'Rourke
Vic Oulasa
Todd Parker
Jacob Parr
Ron Pelinski
Chris Pogokoff
Sara Pooker
Stephanie Prater
Joe Puchek
Bryan Raines
Kim Raines
Devon Reed
Gordon Reeves
Angela Reeves
J. Royce Reintra

Nancy Riemer
Teresa Rijks
Joi Rijks
Chris Riopelle
Sarah Riopelle
Eric Roemer
Ruth Roemer
Kim Rose
Bill Roseberry
Eric Roseberry
Trent Royman
Rudy Sanderson
Alexander Scheitel
Jim Schmidt
Ross Sears, Jr.
Ross Sears, Sr.
Kathy Segar
Tom Skerritt
Clint Smith
Jill Smith
Lawry Smith
Gene Spinner
Linda Spinner
Cathy Spovich
Debbie Spovich
Bo Stanbaugh
Jamie Stanbaugh
Blayne St. James
Charlie Stellberg
Wells Stellberger
Dawson Stellberger
Tom Stillo
Jenny Stillo
John Stone
Hiet Strong
Lara Strong
V. Buck Sturm
Ben Swettzer
Trent Swettzer

Shelly Thomas
Dalynn Trujillo
Kari Trujillo
Bill Tunney
Gretchen Tunkey
Geordie VanMarter
Marian Volding
Merle Volding
Juel Vosburg
M.J. Vosburg
Tom Volich
Sally Volich
Cory Watt
Jamie Watt
Peter Weber
Bryan Westpiper
Candis Westervelt
Joe Westervelt
Elaine Weston
Bill Wheeler
Elke Wheeler
Judy Wheeler
Justin Wheeler
Peace Wheeler
Debbie Whitch
Erica White
Ben White
Wynn Williams
Julie Ann Woods
Chris Woodward
Dance Wynne
David Young
Ann Young
Charlie Zentler
Chad Zimmach

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communities. We urge the U.S. Forest Service and CBMR to enter into the NEPA process as soon as practically possible. We respect everyone's opinion on this important issue and want to be sure that all views are heard.

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Rick Barnard
Mary Barrett
Randy Barrett
Jason Battaglia
Wanda Beath
Jeff Beath
Rai Beavers
Beth Bell
David Bell
Erin Bennett
Sean Bennett
Grant Benton
Diane Bertoy
Daneek Biezkowski
Joni Bierwirth
Larry Bierwirth
Linda Biery
Tom Biery
Debi Bird
Mary Lou Blacharski
Paul Blacharski
Roy Bliss
Toni Bliss
Janet Bowman
Daniel Bregman
Robin Bregman
Dale Breckenwiler
Allen Brown
Linda Brown
Roger Brown
Elizabeth Bruns
John Bruns
Darlene Carter

Jim Cassari
Andrew Cesari
Pete Chamberland
Cindy Chamberland
Barb Christian
Clip Christian
David Clement
Anne Cole
Laurel Cole
Mary Collins
Roger Collins
Azim Condis
Grayson Cooney
Pat Connor
John Corsini
Judy Cottrell
Max Cottrell
John Councilman
John Courtney
Judy Courtney
Town Courtney
Judy Cox
Roger Cram
Dave Curry
Maret Cyrus
Michael Cyrus
Eve Damsen
Janet Damsen
Jennifer D'Agui
Jim Dean
Sue Dean
David Deans
Grant Deans
Jerrilyn Deans
Jeri DeFon
John DeFon
Kay DeLazaw
Pete DeLazaw
Karen Deneka
William Deneka
Justin Derby

John Dethloff
Bill Donahue
Michelle Donahue
Robin Dreyfus
Robert C. Dudley, Jr.
Alan Edridge
David Eleason
Nancy Eleason
Charlie Farnan
M.J. Farnan
Margery Feldberg
Diane Fisher
Harry Fisher
Ian Fisher
Beverly Ford
Rich Ford
Kevin Freeman
Graham Frey
Georgene Fries
Gregg Fries
Ken Fulton
Ruger Fulan
Steve Futrell
Rhonda Ganz
Sam Ganz
Laurie Garland
Janet Gieselman
Kurt Gieselman
Patrick Golden
Mario Gonzalez
Tara Gonzalez
Betsy Grossman
Don Guzzetta
Teresa Guzzetta
Ellen Harper
Max Harper
Justin Hastings
Tracy Hastings
Cara Henry
Reed Henry

Paul Hogan
Jim Hogue
Yvette Hogue
Bob Holmes
Debbie Holmes
Barbara Hovan
Oscar Hovan
Karin Huber
William Huber
Gary Hurety
John Jacobs
Sharon Jacobs
Gay Johnson
John Johnson
Sally Johnson
Mary Jurimovic
Peter Kennel
Margaret Kennel
Mike Kershaw
Shawn Kershaw
Bill Knowles
Jenny Knox
Scott Koehler
Fred Kramer
Linda Kramer
Jerry Krupp
Rita Krupp
Mary Kube
Mike Kube
Lorry Larson
Maryann Larson
Jack Lawrence
Lisa Lender
Brett Lesley
Jenny Lesley
Jeremy Levin
Jonathan Lierz
Jo Ann Macy
Chris Maguire
Kelli Maguire

John Marks
Petra Marks
Jerry Marynick
Kimberly Masqueler
Mike Masqueler
Allen Massey
Carter Mathies
Jodi Mathies
Robert McCann
Matt McDonald
Joe McElroy
Cathy McGinnis
Chuck McGinnis
Marlys McNamar
Patrick McNamar
Christy Miller
Jay Miller
Barbara Moffitt
Ken Moffitt
Brenda Molitor
Mike Molitor
Patrick Montgomery
Chris Morgan
Scott Moss
Jason Napoli
Priscilla Natkies
Allan Newcomb
Robert Newcomb
Don Noble
Heath Nold
Seth Novatt
Don Ochs
Jenny Ochs
Lee Oleson
Linda Oleson
Nancy Omasta
David O'Reilly
Mary O'Reilly
Ken Palmer
John L. Patton

Victoria Piontski
Kate Piontski
Mike Piontski
Jim Prentice
Joan Prentice
Cynthia Pribila
Lou Pribila
Penn V. Rabb, Jr.
Fran Rainwater
Gary Rainwater
Cooper Roberts
Lacy Roberts
Andreea Saperstein
Richard Saperstein
Laura Sartwell
Katie Scheire
Alban Schuele
Grace Schuele
Ann Schwab
John Schwab
Deirdre Seeds
Scott Shier
Daphne Shipowitz
Jay Shipowitz
Joe Shipp
Linda Shipp
Andrew Shoup
Tina Shoup
Art Singer
Dr. Royce Sistrunk
Geraldine Sistrunk
Cullen Spiau
Kathy Sprau
Scott Stagner
Paula Steuer
Tom Steuer
Ken Stockton
Derek Taca
Nancy Taca
Anne Taca
Robert Taca

Bill Terry
Donald Theron
Kathleen Theron
Jo Tubb
Tom Tubb
Dan Turk
Hal Turner
Charles Tuttle
Joan Tuttle
Hawley Vanier Puel II
Ethan VanMarter
Mary Varoglu
Salih Varoglu
Chip Von Doersten
Debbie Von Doersten
Tom Walker
Andy Watts
Courtney Watts
Marny Webster
Curt Wilker
Pam Wilker
Becky Williams
Joe Williams
Fran Wilson
Jessica Wilson
Dan Windy
Mike Wright
Sara Wynne
Bob Youker
Rony Young
Bill Young
Brenda Young
Erika Young

Gunnison Valley Businesses in Support of Lifts on Snodgrass and the Reversal of the Decision made by the U.S.F.S.

Fischer Books
Pederson & Assoc
ML Gothic-Tomes and Reliquary
Somrak Concept and Structure
Alpina Dwelling
Michael Heland
Sunlit Architecture
Mark Nesemeier
Daniel J. Murphy
Andrew Hadley
Nancy Esser
Clonet and Associates
Wynes Family Law
SkyHigh Offroad
Bank of America Home Loans
Gary Hillman
Blind Faith
Alpine Lumber
Thurston Kitchen and Bath
Rocky Mountain Chocolata Factory
Johnson & Cham-Dry
Creative Catering
Betsy Wiebe Cleaning
Crested Butte Mountain Club
Club at Crested Butte
Camp 4 Coffea
Zaaback Construction
Jim Kingsdale
Julia Ann Woods
Red Valley Rose Consulting
Huntington Interests
Pilot Consulting Corporation
Alpine Construction
Crested Butte Builders
Nolan Design Works
J. Olsen Construction
John Williams Builders
O'Rourke Construction
Clark and Murphy
Hargrove Construction
Dimon Construction
Antracite Builders
Carroll Benson Construction
East River Builders
Godwin Construction
Coburn Development
Colvin Construction
Alpenglow
Holgate Construction
Toed Construction
BlueLine Builders
Copper Creek Homes
Osmundson Construction
Mair Corp.
Guy Icon
Cement Creek Construction
Blue Heron
Pika Builders
Summit Construction
Tincup Construction
Steve Church
Ochs Development
M4 Group
Dan Fitchett
Lost Miner Industries
Max Wall Construction
Crested Butte Electrical
Red Lab Electric
Electrical Logic
Schmueser Gordon Meyer SGM
Colorado Structural

Ebner Controls
Crested Butte Events
JCI
Spallone Construction
Todd Parker Dirtworks
Mark's Backhoe
Hearne Excavating
Wildcat Dirtworks
Lacy Construction
Woody Creek Capital
RL Mechanical
Mountain Fireplace Specialists
Gunnison Fish and Raft
Three Rivers Resort and Outfitting
Crested Butte Furniture
Back at the Ranch Home Furnishings
Gas Café
Powerstop
CB True Value
At Home in CB
Casa Bella
Home of Golf Tours USA
Gas Café
Almont Resort
Dragonfly Anglers
Tucker Roberts/Neverstop
Joanne Huntington M.D.
Silver Ridge Condos HOA
Ansley Interiors
Blind Faith
kPd Studios | Kristine Pivarnik Design
Interiors West
Studio West
Richard Daerr Investment Banking
Never Summer Landscaping
The Greenhouse Landscaping
Mountain Gardens
The Wine House
Treasury Liquors/The Store & Deli
The Grand Lodge
The Elevation Hotel
The Lodge at Mountaineer Square
Nordic Inn
Forest Queen Hotel
The Last Resort B&B
Alpine Getaways
Crested Butte Lodging and Property
Management
Elevation
Old Town Inn
Crested Butte Properties LLC
PR Property Management
West Wall Lodge
Iron Horse Property Management
CBMR Properties
Menu Magazine
Chandler Masonry
Blueprint Networks
Jason Kay
The Paint Center
Lintz Painting
CB Coatings
LaDuke Painting
Fitz Young
Bluefish Productions
Crested Butte Mountain Theatre
Princess Productions
Mountain Tails
Demerson Photography
Olesen Photography
Tom Stilo Photographer

RL Mechanical
A&A Mechanical Company
RML Mechanical
Evergreen Properties
Colorado Properties
Coal Creek Properties
CBMR Properties
CB Enterprises
Crested Butte Preferred Properties
Peak Property Management
Tincup Management
Lost Miner Industries
State River Real Estate
Montgomery Associates
Red Lady Realty
Prudential Becky Hamlin Realty
Benson/Schaby's International Realty
Peak Property Management
Coldwell Banker Bighorn Realty
Rozman Realty
Flatiron Realty
Beavers Realty
Ebner Real Estate
Crested Butte Homes and Land
Eagle Resort Development
Golden Investment Realty
Crested Butte Resort Real Estate
Premier Mountain Properties
Gunnison Real Estate & Rentals
Resort Realty Group
Allen, Karen
Armour, Tarmy
Aronovic, Diane
Babbitt, William
Barnfield, James
Barnes, Richard
Barrett, Jana
Beavers, Ray
Bell, Molye
Bennett, Sean
Benson, Cathy
Brethauer, Meg
Buck, William
Bunnell, Don
Cesarfo, Christina
Clark, Megan
Cooper, Michael
Cooper, Brian
Cunningham, Eric "Trip"
Dellaporta, Erin
Ebner, Jesse
Egelhoff, Darlene
Egelhoff, Tim
Ekdrige, Molly
Farman, Charlie
Fitchner, Thomas
Flint, Kiley
Galloway, Glenna
Gerber, Michael
Giassa, Trish
Giles, Jaima
Gillespie, Darti
Golden, Patrick w
Howe, Dawn
Huresky, Gary
Kopf, Christopher
Masters, Regina
Mallock, Jill
Mattson, Katy
Matyk, Joseph
McElroy, Daniel

McElroy, Leticia
Kelly I. McKinnis
Meredith, Wayne
Muisenga, George
Myers, Barbara
Pulley, Donald
Redden, Karen
Roemer, Eric
Rozman, Rudolph
Sandusky, Fred
Schaefer, Joan
St. James, Blayne
Stagner, Scott
Stambaugh, Bo
Sturm, Mindy
Sturm, Buck
Swaine, Melanie
Tibbjas, Gary
Vosburg, Joel
Walt, James
Wiggins, Gregory
Woodward, Heather
Western Horizons
Crested Butte Rental Center
Li's Sushi Bar
Lobar
Gas Café
Timberline Restaurant
Wooden Nickel
Maxwell's
Princess Wine Bar
Avalanche
Garlic Mike's
Butte 66
9380
Woodstone Grill
Jefe's Burritos
East Side Bistro
Marchitelli's Gourmet Noodle
Secret Stash
Smokin' J's BBQ
Soupcon Bistro
Forest Queen Restaurant
Almont Resort
Crested Butte Roofing
Vosburg and Associates, Inc.
Wild West Hair
Eleve
Fishski
Freeman Enterprises
Indulge
Diamond Blue
The Air Up There
Colorado Boarder
Flatiron Sports
Colorado Freeskier
Thin Air Sports
Midnite Tile
CB Tile
Stewart Tile
Blackstar Ironworks
ACD Welding
High Country Window Cleaning
Williams Window and Door
Eagle Sales
Renick Wood Floors
Shades of Crested Butte
Mountain Tops

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If you want to be included please call 970-596-4958, 275-4414 or 349-0124.

>
To

08/14/2008 08:33
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Subject

RE: USGS Review of Snodgrass

Geology Report

Corey:

Thanks for the update on the review of the geology report. Given our past experience with the Michael Burke report I find it curious that the FS would not want to have McCalpin receive and comment on the USGS report prior to it being released as a public document. This would give Jim the opportunity to answer any questions and clarify any points. In my experience this dialogue is normal and to the extent that it influences the report by making sure that things are understood and accurate there is absolutely nothing wrong with that. Furthermore, it could avoid any potential embarrassment and a long drawn out

CBMR 2nd draft MDP review notes
Kai Allen USFS Snow Ranger, Gunnison Ranger District
3-19-2009

Dear Roark/SE Group,

First, thanks for all your hard work on the development of this MDP. I cannot tell you what a "sea change" it is to have a comprehensive plan to consider, ponder, and understand. It has been a long time since CBMR has had a current, accurate MDP, and since I have been the Snow Ranger here (2002), the absence of "the big picture" view has been a considerable frustration. It's so important to have the context within which the myriad of projects and proposals can be weighed and understood. So, again, thank you.

Secondly, my apologies as needed for the time it has taken to complete my review. I went through the document with a high level of detail. Twice. I hope that you will pick up constructive comments that are worth the time I put into it.

I'd like to share a few thoughts about my sense of these comments. They are submitted respectfully and constructively. I strongly believe in the collaborative effort and partnership that we have to make this the best resort possible. Additionally, some of these comments should be thought of more as questions than required changes. I reviewed the document as a knowledgeable outsider; that is, I looked for gaps in concepts which led me to a particular question or concern. Nothing in here is meant to "zing" anyone, or to belittle or demean the hard work that has obviously gone into it.

Reviewing this 2nd draft in combination of attending the public meetings has been beneficial for my understanding. While marketing strategies are certain to change over the life of this MDP and should not be included in this document, there are a number of fundamental, key concepts that will not. The key, longer term planning concepts that you are presenting in the public forums should be highlighted and integrated to the greatest degree possible. . .it really helps to round out the "big picture".

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions on the submitted comments below.

- M 1. MDP should include a Site Development Schedule as an appendix. SDS should include private development projects applicable to skier services and the use of public lands for the purposes of the permit (bathrooms, rental shops, parking lots, public transportation, etc.)
- M 2. Private land development associated with USFS lands under permit should be included within the body of the document, and not as an appendix.
- M 3. Proposed Crescent Lake Reservoir should be included on maps/document, as well as the water pumping infrastructure at East River pump house.

- M 4. The MDP probably has a life span of longer than 5-7 years as noted on page 1 paragraph 2. Should probably be like 10 years+, with periodic revisions and additions to keep it current as modifications occur.
- M 5. The four main functions of the MDP on page 1 do not discuss the USFS, and the fact that an MDP/SDS is a requirement of the ski area term permit. This would be a good place to discuss this critical main function.
- M 6. It would be nice to briefly summarize the dates and landmarks of the MDP's that Crested Butte has operated under, including some highlights of the visions in those historic MDP's. Kind of a 'where we have been' placeholder from the MDP specific perspective.
- M 7. Page 3. Paragraph 4. These numbers paint something of an inaccurate story. Any discussion of the skier visit decline should include the facts surrounding free skiing. Free skiing added 100,000 + skier days in 1997-1998. As such, the free ski program skews the number difference between the high and low, and the percent drop in skier visits actually experienced by CBMR. If free skiing program was still in place, CBMR's skier days would not show such a steep % drop that is represented.
- M 8. Page 4 section 4. To portray the facts accurately, this section needs to include that terrain WAS added into the permit boundary (expansion of permitted terrain) when the permit was re-issued to the new owners. This terrain included Teocalli Bowl, Teo2 Bowl, and Fourth Bowl. Thus, more than 35 acres of terrain has been added, though only Teocalli Bowl has come on line. In addition, there are numerous projects available on the main mtn to improve existing conditions and intermediate skiing which have not been implemented by CBMR. In addition, the Teocalli egress lift could open up additional terrain not currently utilized (SW side of Teocalli Bowl; not previously considered or analyzed)
- M 9. Page 9 top "The overwhelming majority of those projects have been constructed to date" Suggest revisit this statement for accuracy. There is a high number of unimplemented projects on the books from 2008 and 1998.
- M 10. Page 10 bottom. "There is a growing demand . . . to provide activities outside snow sports . . . trend toward non-skiing accounting for a substantial percentage of guest population. . ." If this is accurate for the times, this is a significant concept that should be elaborated throughout the MDP and in CBMR's future plans. How does this MDP address this market shift? What recommendations does the plan make?
- M 11. The chart for slope gradients on Page 12 is helpful. Numerous trail classifications on pages 73-75 don't match the slope gradients chart on 12. For example, trails T-6 and T-7 in the upgrade plan don't come close to rating out as Intermediate by the standards listed in the table. Why?
- M 12. Page 13 Paragraph 3 "Recent. . . This MDP seems to focus almost exclusively on trails. Yet this paragraph describes the ski industry trend of increasing demand for open bowls, glade skiing. . ." If this demand is increasing, why does the MDP underemphasize this terrain, and over-emphasize trails throughout the document? The point is that CBMR is much more than being about trail skiing, and there are many approved improvements which would improve this kind of skiing (for which demand is growing) but have not yet been implemented. That's not to say

that trails are not important . . . obviously they are, but the MDP almost exclusively focuses trail development as the critical ski experience at CBMR. This is a significant increasing trend in the ski industry, CBMR has lots of it, though the MDP clearly de-emphasizes, or hardly speaks to these virtues. It's kind of like saying that Alta, UT needs more groomers.

- M 13. Page 15. Snodgrass is currently in a Rare 2 Roadless area. Might want to briefly recognize? While it may not make you happy, it is an important planning overlay as it relates to Snodgrass.
- M 14. Page 15. Some of this USFS stuff should also be included in the Introduction. For example, the 4 main functions on page 1 do not mention the Term permit, the requirement for and MDP, etc.
- M 15. p. 19 A1a. "additional 296 feet" should be acres.
- M 16. p. 19 b describes Snodgrass mtn on an East-West orientation. SE-NW direction would be more accurate?
- M 17. p. 20. b. include a brief description of the consolidation of permits in 2004 to include the snowmaking operation, which was previously a separate permit. Also the slight permit boundary modifications.
- M/S 18. p. 21 "Environmental Recon of Snodgrass Mtn." 1. Geology. This section fails to even mention the conclusions and findings of the final 2008 Baum USGS report..and the design criteria required by the USFS as a result of that analysis. Use the letter as a reference. While I understand the perspective, this section seems to say that the reports concluded that there were no problems with geology. This is a biased description of the geology studies, and seems to emphasize "conclusions of stability" rather than the facts on this critical resource/safety issue.
- M/S 19. p. 21 1st Paragraph . . . characterizing the geology as "the most studied and best understood" is perhaps inaccurate. The statement contradicts the 2008 Baum report which indicates that a great deal more monitoring would be necessary both before and subsequent to any proposed development. There is a great deal which is neither understood or known regarding the impacts of the proposed ski development on existing geology and hydrogeological features at this time, as expressed in the 2008 report. Also, consider the potential impacts of Crescent Lake on landslide geology, which I don't think has been studied, and could be significant. While the new redesign of the mountain aims at avoidance, there are still activities proposed within areas of geologic hazard, which will likely require considerable mitigation and engineering.
- M/S 20. P. 21 Figure 3.2 inadequately portrays the avalanche hazard on Snodgrass Mtn/along Gothic Road.
- M 21. P. 25 Additionally, according to the table on page 33, CB has an excess of Low intermediate terrain, and a deficiency of Expert terrain.
- M 22. p 27 c. The discussion excludes a discussion of the kid's carpet and kids programs. While the lift may be private, a description and analysis of facilities for kids is an important part of the comprehensive MDP. A discussion should be included.
- M/S 23. Page 28 section 2. This discussion somewhat contradicts earlier statements regarding industry wide demand for different types of skiing experiences (page

13). The analysis/emphasis of trail networks in ski area MDP's significantly biases how the ski area is actually used. It a very different thing to say this vs. stating "the market which CBMR is trying to attract/increase visits requires a highly developed trail network to satisfy their destination skiing experience" The analysis which fails to significantly analyze terrain outside the developed trail network significantly skews the recreation experience on Crested Butte mountain. I'm NOT saying that the trail system is unimportant . . . it's just that it seems like there is a lot more experiences occurring on that mountain than the trail network. The next section (a) is a great start to that discussion, but should be elaborated. For example, I can't tell you how many times people have commented to me on the lack of gladed skiing at CBMR (there is 1 managed gladed tree ski area on the mtn). There are tremendous opportunities for this kind of skiing at CBMR, including low angled tree skiing that right now is just too tight (or unnamed) for many skiers. Why is CBMR deficient on true glade skiing, and is it described? Additionally, glading opportunities on Snodgrass should be identified in the MDP.

- ^ 24. P. 28 describes Gold link as remote. If Gold Link is remote, Snodgrass will be an expedition. Consider a different term?, especially as planned development proceeds.
- ^ 25. P. 30 Charts. . .some of the chart angles don't correspond to the trail guidelines on page 12. For example "Peanut" is described as low Intermediate, but its described angles don't even make the Low Intermediate threshold on page 12. A couple lines above "Kubler" are described as Novice, with the same avg. percent and a steeper max grade than Peanut. Ruby Road is Expert?? I don't know if I'm "right or wrong" here, but if I can't understand it, then that to me says something.
- ^ 26. Page 34, table 4-4. The numbers shown in acres terrain distribution here are completely different than in the column "existing terrain distribution in table 6.4 (page 77).
- M^S 27. Page 35. Crested Butte's inability to attract and retain visitors is in part due to a deficit of advanced terrain (and intermediate)? Terrain diversity is only one factor in choosing a ski area. Important, but certainly not the only. Might there be other reasons (besides terrain) why CBMR cannot attract and retain visitors? Perhaps remoteness, cost of travel, quality of airports, historical marketing strategies, not user friendly base area, quality of guest services (recently vastly improved) might be factors to consider as well, and taken comprehensively are part of the problem? Perhaps CBMR's many years of unfortunate deficits in these areas have contributed to the decline in market share as well? For example, the mountain was pretty deficient on some basic amenities prior to 2004. The financial inability to "keep up" by refreshing lifts, lodges, etc. contributed in a spiral fashion on the declines in skier visits. . ."circling the drain" . . .until the 2004 sale.
- M^S 28. Page 34. Include a chart version of terrain distribution by acres, like what was done for terrain distribution by capacity.
- M^S 29. Table 4.5 Name the lifts. . .Lift A, b, c etc. on this table make the table impossible to use.
- ^ 30. Page 38 b. I completely disagree with the statement in 3a (CBMR provides a good quantity of glade skiing. . .). . .true, managed glade skiing (named glades

identified for guests) is significantly deficit on CBMR. There are many areas where the skiing is just too tight and selective timber removal and identification as such, could greatly increase the accessibility of these areas. Most trail sides do not provide gladed skiing on CBMR. The glading previously approved is ready for implementation.

- M 31. p 39 b Open Bowls. Are the Headwall and Rachel's the only open bowls in this category?
- M 32. p. 39 c Paragraph 2 Teocalli Bowl is underutilized? Really? Does this suggest that 3rd Bowl and Phoenix/Spellbound are also underutilized? The same section then goes on to describe how these areas receive heavy use.
- M 33. Page 40 para 3. "In addition . . . whole mountain terrain park." This statement is incorrect, CBMR's managed features are not scattered around the mountain, but rather are concentrated in the parks.
- M 34. Page 45. Bar/lounge seats offset the deficit of restaurant seats? With the demolition of the Gothic building, CBMR has a significant deficit of brown bag/warming/French fry and goggle defrost space in the base which is NOT offset by bar/lounge seats. This is a major deficit at the current resort, and I have received several complaints and comments about this from the public skiers. The MDP needs to honestly discuss the current deficits at the base area.
- M 35. Page 45. Why are retail space so high, and what is the plan to adjust this if any? There is also exists a significant deficit of public bathroom space in the base area (explicitly stated on page 96, but does not show in table on p. 49?), The closest public restroom in the base area (from the lifts) can be very difficult to access. .down a flight of stairs in ski boots.
- M 36. Page 49. .deficit in restaurant space on-mountain sends people to the base area where there is a deficit of "non-formal" restaurant space, i.e. brown bag/French fry/nose blowing warm up space already. This is a significant deficit for CBMR, hopefully will be alleviated soon with Red Lady Lodge and the Cimarron building. The type of restaurant seating is very important. High end or formal sit-down places offer a very different kind of experience for guests than brown bag/hang out/cafeteria style seating which many guests need/desire. Every ski area I know has a base area cafeteria/brown bag/ casual food space, except CBMR.
- M/S 37. Page 49. The lack of operational on-mountain storage should be discussed and addressed/considered here. CBMR needs a centralized, consolidated place to store signs, posts, tower pads, etc. Since this is absent, administrative stuff gets stuffed into every possible empty space, and can make the mountain look junky in the summer. Snodgrass mtn. plans should discuss and identify the general needs of mtn administrative infrastructure (roads, storage, fuel tanks, etc.)
- M 38. Page 50. 2. Main Base Area "Pizza"? Is that the name?
- M 39. Page 50. Table 4-12 and discussion. Kinds of seats as well as proximity to the lifts are critical to this discussion. Trackers not included because of distance but Firehouse is? See #35 above. Red Lady Lodge seats should not be included in Table 4-12 as it is not constructed, thus exacerbating the current on mountain and comprehensive seating problem.

40. This section should also include an analysis of on mountain and base area bathroom facilities, another critical planning function necessary for the guest experience. Include outhouses and compost toilets. Square footage is meaningless. . . describe as # of fixtures and number of fixtures needed per guest. IAD plans did some of this and it was meaningful.
41. Include a discussion of out-of portal lift capacity at the main base, and how it will work with Snodgrass Expansion, the addition of gondola cars on Red Lady, and the transit over to Snodgrass. Addition of Gondola cars, and night ops at Red Lady isn't discussed in MDP. There could be a serious bottleneck in the plan to move the majority of skiers heading to Snodgrass and returning through the main base area. Out of portal capacity is a critical design criterion for ski areas as well.
42. P 51 D 1 Access. Note the description in air services for 2009 is specific to 2009, and will likely change over the lifetime of this MDP. Avoid specifics on cities, etc and describe program in general. It seems like the air service frequently changes from year to year.
43. P. 52 Parking. How many parking spaces in the free lot in town (Chamber lot)CB? How much parking (free) occurs on the streets in CB? This is important to the discussion of parking, it is an important resort parking lot that is part of the big picture.
44. p. 52. The capacity of the 2 free lots in Mount CB seems too high. I'd guess 180 total, both lots. Readjust.
45. The discussion on existing parking should thread through to expected conditions. Everyone wants to not pay to park. Free parking in Mount CB will be virtually eliminated at build-out. This will likely force parking down to CB, and probably force CB to charge for on-street parking at some point. Just a comment, and not necessarily a bad thing. Paying for parking gets people out of their cars and onto the bus. Despite best intentions, the driving market isn't going away anytime soon. There are lots and lots and lots of big SUV's from Texas coming into this town. Design # of parking spaces for large rigs. . .(though let's hope that trend is ending. Nothing worse than getting stuck in a parking garage because the Denali doesn't fit.
46. Are snowmaking acres consistent with the numbers used in the 1998 and 2008 EA's? If no, then they should be as much as possible.
47. Describe and date briefly the agreements on water (minimum flows) in the East River. Also, add a short discussion on the USFS requirement for a reservoir/storage prior to additional snowmaking.
48. P 55. isn't total skiable terrain greater than 585 acres. Trail terrain maybe?
49. P. 56. Add a map showing existing mountain roads to the MDP.
50. P 57. Include all on-mountain fuel storage (Snowflake).
51. p 57. F balance of facilities. Not all seats are created equal, and substituting private rest. Seats for the deficit of seats doesn't really make up the deficit.
52. 57 F. Bathrooms/fixtures are a critical addition to this chart/discussion. Include outhouses and compost toilets too.
53. 56 Aren't there solids tanks still in place at Ice Bar and Paradise?

54. p. 57 Discusses an additional 500 private rest. Seats as an addition here under balance of facilities, but back in the tables, the analysis INCLUDES those seats in the charts.
55. 58 g. para 1. Is CBMR still offering sleigh rides? There's one torchlight parade per year. . . Good place to discuss outfitters/guides activities on the mountain, including the adventure guide program.
56. p 58 H bottom change "primitive" parking area to "undeveloped" (2 places)
57. P 58 H remove word "limited to" when describing activities on Snodgrass.
58. p 58 bottom include running/trail running and viewing wildflowers as activities on Snodgrass. Also include the O/G horse riding operation, which is a major, significant summer operation on Snodgrass.
59. p. 59. the Glory Hole is not the only place where people BC ski on Snodgrass. A lesser use is simply back down the road or in the numerous lower angle glades during avalanche/good snow cycles. Note here that CBMR periodically grooms the main road to facilitate access for recreation.
60. Describe somewhere under existing conditions section, CBMR's uphill access policy/boundary policy, and mention that there are no backcountry access points on the main mountain at present
61. page 60. Summary. Prior to discussing the 2008 MIP, a brief history should be included of the 1998 EA and uncompleted MDP that was submitted to the USFS thereafter. .
62. p. 60 bottom first para. " To date. . .no projects have been implemented" This contradicts the statement on page 9 top " The overwhelming majority of these projects have been implemented" Unfortunately, 2 EA's worth of important improvements are largely unimplemented on CBMR. This is in no way meant to criticize the significant improvements that have been made since 2004.
63. 60. Numerous important projects approved in the 1998 EA are not summarized here. Why? Which of the 1998 improvements were constructed?
64. p 60. When describing the shortened High Lift, it should be noted that this will happen only when other sequenced construction happens first. The Upper Silver queen skyway is part of a phased package of improvements as later referenced in p. 61 f. This will be a big, impactful project.
65. Some of this stuff is approved, but will it ever happen? Upgrading Twister to a high speed quad?? Include the addition of Gondola cars and night operations on Red Lady. This is an important upgrade that has implications for out-of-portal capacity.
66. 61 f change "skyway" to ski-way (2 places).
67. p 64. Describe the interest to rebuild the Ice Bar from scratch (already a changed condition from this MDP and previous approvals.
68. p. 65 # 6 Does not adequately describe what an MDP does as it relates to the USFS.
69. P 3. There are many more factors than terrain that drive CBMR visitation. It is earlier stated that 50% of visitors to CBMR (p 52) are destination visitors. Does 50% represent the "core" of CBMR's clientele as stated here? What about locals, and second home owners and others who assumably make up the other 50 %? Are they unimportant in CBMR's business model? It just seems hard to believe that

50% of visitors represent a "core". An increase of 160,000 destination skier days (as stated by CBMR) means almost a doubling of destination skier visits from existing levels? That would be a remarkable achievement, increasing CBMR's total visitation by destination skiers to 75-80% of the total visits. Sorry, I am a skeptic at heart, that's my job in addition to supporting CBMR.

70. p 65 P 3. "Therefore a detailed analysis of the entire SUP area was initiated". . . I've never heard of this before (not to infer that it doesn't exist). Please reference this statement to the comprehensive study which led to the inclusion of Snodgrass into the SUP. Was this the Forest Plan? If it does have a reference, include the reference.
71. p 67. para 3. The elimination of the Glory Hole from the permit boundary does not solve the avalanche problem; rather the resort's approach simply shifts the issues, consequences, and liabilities of the backcountry access/avalanche problem onto the public as a result of the private/partnership development onto Snodgrass Mountain. This is further highlighted by CBMR's proposed location for an access point, which, given the history of backcountry skiing on Snodgrass Mtn. will not succeed as designed. Simply removing the terrain, and suggesting that access points are the property/at the request of the USFS does little to really solve or manage the risks of the issue (though clearly it does for CBMR).
72. p. 67. B This section should briefly discuss/reference the design considerations raised by the Gunnison County Master Plan, as it relates to Snodgrass Mtn. Why were geological/hydrogeological issues not included as part of "three resource issues?" The MDP really needs to spend more time on the 2008 USGS report, and how the resort mitigated the findings based on the subsequent direction from the USFS. Section B is one place to do it.
73. Developed trail network leaving USFS Snodgrass and into North village needs to be shown and designed. One ski trail into NV will be a bottleneck. I'm somewhat skeptical of the gondola download concept.
74. p. 69. Red Lady lift. MDP needs to show that gondola cars are planned to be added. Will this affect the capacity of the lift? CBMR has indicated that gondola cars will be added/removed daily. Is this still the plan? Is this operationally realistic? This issue is intimately tied to out-of-portal capacity, especially when thinking about Snodgrass skiers entering the ski area through the existing base area. MDP should also show somewhere the impacts of the proposed Cimarron building on skier open space at the base area in the context of the base milling area and out-of-portal capacity.
75. The MDP should briefly discuss the changes in thinking in this MDP from the 1998 and 2008 previous approvals (CCC, TeoBowl surface lift, etc.).
76. The Snodgrass plan needs to discuss how the geohaz exclusion area will be managed for skiing. Backcountry access? Hard boundary? How will skiers return to lifts/public transportation if this area will be skied?
77. Snodgrass plan should show where gladed terrain will be established.
78. The USFS travel plan shows a looped mtn biking trail from the summit of Snodgrass connecting to the existing Snodgrass trail. Include?? Should the road be a bike trail post-development?

79. Snodgrass plan should show new roads needed/ and administrative roads that will endure. Add a map that shows transportation, including main mtn.
80. The Snodgrass plan shows the existing Mtn road becoming a significant skiway for about 2/3 of it's length. This seems require extensive dozing and modification to turn into a run. Is this the best idea? I cannot locate the specs. of that run (not named, widths, etc. in the plan)
81. The Snodgrass plan shows a proposed skin track going up through the starting zone of a large avalanche path (vicinity of U20). This area will continue to receive extensive skiing outside of the identified run prism. Uphill traffic will mix with downhill skiers in an avalanche start zone. Is this the best option?
82. Maps should show USFS boundaries. Include a boundary management discussion.
83. p. 70. "Beginner/Teaching lifts" Identify the location (s) of "the new carpets to be installed".
84. p. 71. What is the ride time of the proposed gondola, from the Gold link base, midway, and Snodgrass terminal?
85. The vicinity of the Snodgrass teaching carpet lift V shows a carpet (presumably travels uphill, from the top of the gondola, but shows as well a downhill trail immediately adjacent. Do the grades work here? Is it a good idea to mix beginners area, on the main trail that other skiers will access to reach the bottom of Lift S? Is it a good idea to require beginners to ride Red Lady and Painter boy to load the Gondola? How will beginners get there? Will the beginner's area/ski school shift over to Prospect/North Village entirely?
86. Trail S9 does not show on table 6-2. What is the width and grade analysis?
87. How about combine U6 and U5 at the top off the summit? The existing road will get skied off the summit anyway. Suggest showing it as a trail. Actually, all segments of the road, top to bottom should probably show as a trail. I'm going on the assumption that it will be groomed as a trail. Will it?
88. It would be helpful to show a lift ride/loading and unloading times from the base area to the top of Snodgrass. Break out the ride times for each leg of the journey.
89. p. 71 Just a comment and opinion. #2. The assumptions related to trail skiing and it's use. SE group should really look at their planning assumptions of how skiers use ski terrain, and putting such a strong emphasis on trail skiing, and some of the trends in the skier market. I'm not understating the great importance of groomed, pruned, dozed ski runs; I just think they are over-emphasizing this kind of development. I can't help but wonder if the traditional historical designs of ski areas are actually driving the desire for more off-trail type adventure skiing that every resort is trying to provide. I could be totally wrong here. It's just a sense. Is that why this plan only shows trail skiing? What about ski opportunities outside the trail system? Why are they not represented/described in more detail? For example, the areas skiers left of T-11 has some wonderful, advanced tree skiing opportunities. Why wouldn't an MDP talk about and highlight ski opportunities and potential in this area? The emphasis on groomed, pruned, dozed ski trails in the MDP is very traditional. Snodgrass will not be a traditional mountain. . .and it seems like this kind of mtn development does not fit with

CBMR's existing marketing strategy you are so well establishing and presenting to the public.

90. Tangent Main Mtn. Can Columbine hill provide additional ski terrain on main mtn? What is the history of its existing use which appears to be underutilized?
91. Why is T7 with grades of 8 and 9% showing as Intermediate? Why does S-7 with grades of 15-25 show as Novice? S-4 with grades of 17-25 % is Novice?
92. The proposed Mtn View facility won't have a view as located without extensive timber removal. It's too low down in the Chicken Bone meadow to get views.
93. Trails are described with 7 classifications. Beg, Novice, Low Int., Int. Adv. Int. Advanced, Expert. T-8 and T-9 are shown on maps as black diamond, but described as Advanced Intermediate in table 6-2. Has the industry accepted/implemented this 7-level description of trails? \
94. Trail U-20 doesn't show up in table 6-2.
95. The colors, trail descriptions on the map should match their classification in the table 6-2.
96. Trail U-16 15-30% is Intermediate, but Trail I-6 at 18-35% is low intermediate? J-3 is 15-35 but Low intermediate? By the descriptions on page 12, average grades to 25 % are novice trails.
97. Thought: The application/EIS for Snodgrass needs to show terrain breakouts and classification with dozing/without dozing. This issue of terrain balance is critical. If I am finding lots of questions related to Table 6-2, you can be certain that the public (and detractors) will as well. The comprehensive terrain classifications are critical for the stated Purpose and Need of a formal application for expansion.
98. p. 75 Dozing T-1 and T-3 to make them Intermediate. How much, where?
99. Table 6-3 on page 76 shows that after build out/upgrades, CBMR will still have a 5% deficiency by capacity in Intermediate terrain?
100. If the trails are described/classified on a 7 level system why do tables 6-3 and 6-4 and Chart 6-1 only show 6? What happened to Advanced? By leaving out Advanced, the percentages of all terrain become inaccurate.
101. Table 6-4 Intermediate terrain as a percent of acres compared to market breakdown actually decreases 4% after full build out of Upgrading plan?
102. Table 4-4 shows existing conditions at CBMR having a 7% deficit compared to market conditions of Intermediate Terrain. The upgrading plan table indicates at build out, a 5% deficit will still exist. The tables would indicate that the upgrading plan only improves on market conditions by 2%?? Table 6-4 indicates that CBMR would still have a deficit of 4% beginner (current CBMR is -4% no change, despite an identified shortage of beginner in the existing conditions section), 2% deficit of Novice, 5% deficit of Low intermediate, a 4% shortage of Intermediate, a 7% surplus in Advanced intermediate, and a 10% surplus in Expert? Existing conditions in table 4-4 show a surplus of 5% of Expert Terrain. After the upgrading Plan, CBMR will have a 10% surplus?
103. Table 6-4 Existing terrain distribution and Table 4-4 Existing Terrain distributions do not match. Table 4-4 shows CBMR having 10% Expert, Table 6-4 shows 17% expert. Why the differences?
104. The comparison discrepancies in these tables as highlighted above (98-102) don't support the general assumption of the MDP/expansion proposal, that

is, that CBMR is out of balance with market conditions and thus driving the purpose and need for expansion. The upgrading plan only slightly improves on existing deficits. More diversity, sure, but still deficit.

105. p. 79 3a talks about glade skiing opportunities and their importance, off of Lifts T and S. I've skied through the trees in both areas, and without timber removal, this terrain is marginally skiable as glade skiing. Skiers left of trail T-11 does have some good tree skiing/open areas/avalanche starting zones, but most of this will need to be thinned to really be skiable. If these areas are going to really be glade skiing, they need to be identified as such. They are marginal without selective tree removal . . . just more Billy goat tree skiing like CBMR already has. In addition, CBMR should plan to do this glading work concurrently with the timber work to clear trails in the upgrading plan, or else the work will likely never get done (main mountain). Most of the off trail skiing on lift T is just too dense.
106. A vegetation management plan will need to be developed for Snodgrass, as timber removal and management is such a significant component of this part of the upgrade plan.
107. p 79 3b. No terrain park features be located on Snodgrass? I don't understand this statement. This would make Snodgrass seriously deficit for an important component of the skier/rider visitors, especially in light of the long travel times to Snodgrass, and in light of the key MDP concept of terrain/experience diversity/family skiing. These should be planned and identified. Essentially, Snodgrass will resemble a whole new ski area.
108. page 80 Reference an earlier comment. A brief description of the historic CCC's/change in CCC over time at CBMR, including what was analyzed and authorized in the 1998 and 2008 planning documents. This is important, as the permit outlines the need for analysis/ NEPA when the SAOT CCC is proposed to change.
109. page 82 E1. Skier facilities at Prospect Junction should be described.
110. page 82 E1. North Village as main portal. There should be a lot more detail of the plans as it relates to rest. seats, parking, ticket sales, rentals, etc. etc. at North Village, as well as the trail connections from NV to Snodgrass.
111. A summer trail system for Snodgrass will probably need to be more extensive than proposed. Consider dedicated mechanized and non-mechanized trails. At buildout, USFS Snodgrass will receive tons of recreation use. . . it will be the backyard hiking/biking/dog walking area for North Village. This non-skiing recreation infrastructure needs to be thoroughly planned and considered. Keep in mind that the road will be somewhat undesirable, just like the road system on the main mountain because of the volume of administrative traffic.
112. Are there any additional groomed Nordic potential or connections? Wouldn't it be great if you could Nordic ski around NV, and get up through Prospect to the top of 10 Peaks? Just a thought. Up Washington Gulch and around the lift terminal?
113. p 82 There should be significantly more detail on the private lands development at North Village and Prospect junction on the skier services, parking, public transportation, etc. etc. that will be provided.

114. p. 85. The concept of the deficit of rest. space being made up by bar seats. is again referenced. Rest. seats and bar seats are not interchangeable, especially for families. Will North Village have a brown bag, French fry, goggle defrosting casual area for skiers?
115. If a full service portal exists at North Village, I would suggest that a much high number of visitors will actually enter through the North Village. Also, if Snodgrass is represented as it is (it's relationship to the current skier market, and the main mtn is so deficit), why would the majority visitors endure the long transit times to and from the main mountain? 80% of skiers will be serviced at the existing main base area? I'm unconvinced this will really work well (could score high on the skier frustration chart) if Snodgrass develops out to be what it is being proposed.
116. p 86 Ski school still remains at main base area? Getting beginners from the main ski school to the proposed lift V-1 might be beyond the ability level of beginners.
117. p 86 Cimarron spelt incorrectly.
118. Table 6-8 include bathrooms analysis
119. Nordic trails system at top of Prospect. How will skiers get there? Ride and download the lifts? Parking? Any Nordo services available (rentals, tickets, etc.)
120. p 88. 1998 EA approved some skier services at Prospect Junction including a day lodge, etc. Is this all still planned? What are the deviations? As a launch point for gondola, there will need to be public bathrooms, etc. here in gondola building. Is Adaptive Sports and Ski School still being considered to move here? Where will Fantasy Ranch go? Will this operation remain an important guest service (short horseback rides for guests)
121. Where will the snowmaking plant (pumps, control system, etc) for Snodgrass be located.
122. Describe the infrastructure connections for snowmaking from East River to Crescent Lake and onto the mountain. Will a large pumphouse be required to get water into Crescent Lake and main mtn?
123. Table 6-9 restrooms in square feet doesn't say a lot. Define as fixtures and provide a discussion on the method to determine how many fixtures are needed
124. Describe the sewer-septic infrastructure that will be necessary on Snodgrass.
125. What kind of food service, retail, bathrooms at 10 peaks Lodge? What is the balance of services planned for 10 peaks and Prospect Junction?
126. Skiers will download the gondola to return to the main base area? Would it be a good idea to allow for direct skier egress off Snodgrass to public transportation in the North village? What would this look like? The plan shows 1 trail off Snodgrass and into North Village. This seems inadequate.
127. The description of the purpose and need, need for Snodgrass doesn't seem to match the concept of 15% of all skiers entering through North Village Portal. If indeed, "the big belly" of the skier market that CBMR hopes to attract requires Snodgrass, then it seems that the expectation of 15 % of all skiers entering Snodgrass from North Village seems too low. This is highlighted by the long

travel times it will actually require to get to Snodgrass from the main base area. The travel time (including ski time and corral time during a big cold snowstorm) will encourage folks for whom Snodgrass provides the needed terrain diversity will send people through a North Village portal.

128. Will the gondola run at night on Snodgrass to Mountain View? Will the lifts/gondola run in summer time on Snodgrass?
129. Table 6-11. Why is restroom space at Red Lady Lodge $\frac{1}{2}$ of what is identified as the low recommended range? This implies that a new building that provides a vital on-mountain service is being too small on this critical planning aspect. Same concept for restaurant seating. Why is this and can it be addressed? While I agree that RLL will significantly make up an on-mtn. deficit, it appears to already be deficit before it even gets started.
130. p. 91 Early season ski patrol area at Red lady Lodge might be a good idea. As it is now, patrol has to hang out on benches at the top of Red Lady lift, which is not an ideal situation for your key staff. Upper mtn. snowmaking would improve this situation.
131. Table 6-13. The restroom space at Ice Bar at build out appears to be $\frac{2}{3}$ too small. How many fixtures for how many people? This facility needs to have a reasonably large/accessible restroom facility, given the amount of outdoor/indoor seats provided. Especially in light of Paradise showing a deficit in bathroom space.
132. New plans for Paradise (getting rid of Rustica and opening the space back up) should be reflected in the #'s in 6-14.
133. page 94. Patrol considerations. How will patrol get people off Snodgrass? Will there be a clinic/medial holding facility in North Village? Where does the ambulance pick up at Snodgrass? Wrecks off the Washington Gulch side of the mountain will have to travel a long way to definitive care. . .
134. p. 94 Explosives caches/makeup located where on Snodgrass? Consider access, grades and tables of distances to facilities.
135. Where is the admin storage facility on Snodgrass? Ropes, signs, bamboo, pads, etc. Appears not to be provided for or discussed.
136. Consider patrol staffing numbers as a critical planning function? How much patrol staff will be needed on Snodgrass? How is that number determined? Thinking about this will help ensure that a Snodgrass PHQ is large enough. . . 180-220 square feet of patrol space on Snodgrass seems too small.
137. Table 6-15 the narrative on page 94 talks about bar space at both facilities on Snodgrass, but no square footage is identified in table 6-15.
138. Include square footage/# of outdoor seats planned for on-mtn. facilities on Snodgrass in tables, narrative.
139. p. 96. #2 Paragraph begins by stating the on current mtn. deficit of restaurant seats and restrooms. Under the existing conditions section, it is clearly stated that these deficits are made up by private vendors and bar/lounge space and that a deficit doesn't really exist. Which is it? Track the concept consistently through the whole document.
140. Consider an "Executive summary" of the MDP that clearly states the highlights of this plan, the deficits, the things that work, the constraints, etc.

Something for the Decision maker to get a quick summary of what this MDP has identified.

141. p 96 #2 describes a deficit of both rest. space and bathroom space. Earlier under existing conditions, it talks about no deficits in rest. seats, and there is no discussion of a deficit of bathroom space. Table 4-9 actually describes a surplus of bathroom space. Be consistent with the concept through the document. It's very clear (anecdotally as a visitor) that CBMR faces a serious shortage of convenient, easy to find bathroom space at the base area, and to a lesser degree on the mtn (Ice Bar).
142. p 96. Suggest restraint in identifying private bathrooms as making up the deficit. I'm not sure that bathroom space in private restaurants/bars is the same as public, easily identified bathroom facilities. The bathrooms in private establishments are generally for paying guests, and not for the public at large.
143. p 96. the projects identified as meeting deficits are a long way out from development. .. this ties to a site development schedule and how all these pieces fit together. Some of these projects are 10+ years out before completion. For how long will the public have to continue to experience these deficits? Might these significant deficits have an effect on skier return visits to CBMR?
144. Table 6-17 Red Lady Lodge seats show as existing outdoor seats. They don't exist, and need to be shown as upgrading plan seats.
145. Overall deficit of seats which show up after the upgrade plan aren't really offset by outside seats. . . only on certain days. If at completion of the upgrade plan, there is still an identified deficit of indoor seats, this should be addressed up-front in planning. For the majority of the ski season (November-March), indoor and outdoor seats can't be considered interchangeable.
146. I wonder that not providing some general skier parking at Snodgrass/North Village will cause parking problems elsewhere, as well as out-of portal capacity problems (Cimarron, gondola cars, etc.) at the main base area. Given the long transit/ski/wait corral times to get to Snodgrass with, I can't help but wonder whether the "big belly of the intermediate ski market is going to want to spend 40 minutes getting to and from Snodgrass. While I understand the sensitivity of not increasing traffic on Gothic road through Mount CB, I just don't understand how this will work. Getting people out of their cars is exceedingly difficult.
147. Where will the Snodgrass winter/summer trailhead be located? Might a new Snodgrass TH become a free defacto ski area parking lot? How many spaces will this lot provide?
148. How will the expansion plan affect parking in the Town of CB? At least some discussion should mention the transfer lot at the CB 4-way, which is often full now. Are there utilization rates for this lot from the town of CB? How many spaces are available at this lot? This is an important lot.
149. The plan still includes several areas described as geohazard areas, according to figure 3.2, including snowmaking (right on top of a young and intermediate young landslide), restaurants, and possibly lift towers) Just an observation you might want to consider in your design. Expect mitigation requirements.

150. 102 Describe the relationship between Crescent Lake, snowmaking, water rights, and in stream flows. How will Crescent Lake be used to augment snowmaking when the river is low? When will it be filled? Detail some thoughts about the snowmaking facilities needed with Snodgrass.
151. p 102 How do ski school beginners get to the Snodgrass beginner area, if the ski school base area facility does not move or change? You can't gather and move ski school beginners from the current location up to the Snodgrass carpet very easily, unless you bus/shuttle them to Prospect Junction. So, will there be a new ski school at Prospect Jct. or North Village?
152. 102 #5 Will all administrative/power plant operations for Snodgrass be based out of the exiting maint. Bldg? No need for additional infrastructure/storage, etc. on Snodgrass?
153. 6. Mtn Roads. Show/narrative all new roads on Snodgrass. Looks like there will need to be roads built to Lift W/Mtn view; Lift S (top and bottom) and bottom Lift T. Top of Lift W will need a spur, contrary to the narrative. Snodgrass Road doesn't currently service top or bottom Lift S as described and will require new construction.
154. 102 #7 Show some basic planning considerations for infrastructure locations on Snodgrass.
155. p. 98 I'm a little unclear on how Mountaineer square North will provide 767 parking spaces. That's a ton of parking spaces in a very dense development. All 767 underground?
156. 104 I Elaborate on Recreational Opportunities. Fantasy Ranch/Horseback/stables, Adaptive Sports, Crested Butte mtn guides etc. What happens to these kinds of other related public services at build out of the MDP elements? Fantasy Ranch especially, they provide a lot of public use, and a unique service. Will Fantasy be accommodated on Snodgrass at build out?
157. Same section, note in the document that the Gothic road is the only winter non-motorized recreation corridor around CB, and receives substantial cross country skiing as well as backcountry skiing, and access to Gothic Cabin. In addition this corridor is closed to all motorized use per Gunnison County and USFS per the 1995 Winter travel plan. Note also the winter travel designations in Washington Gulch. Briefly discuss how the development might affect or enhance the current winter travel designations in Gothic and Wash Gulch.
158. Does the resort have a resort wide architectural plan? There's something of an architectural hodgepodge up there (gotten way much better in recent years . . .thank you!)
159. Talk about public access (ROW/Easements) on both main mtn and Snodgrass. Will Snodgrass continue to have uphill access? How and where?
160. Forest Access from Promontory and Garland annexation. . .will there be a convenient neighborhood trail from those subdivisions onto the mtn. Ski trails into Garland parcel. . .I understand this is all drawing board. At least, It would be good to show the Garland parcel on maps.

**Snodgrass Draft MDP
Comments
3/3/2009**

Page 1, Second to last paragraph, last sentence change NEPA to “environmental”, change “performed” “completed”.

Page 3, What is the market or niche that CBMR wants to focus on?

Page 11, B1, Base area design is vague. Be more specific. Show plan view.

Page 12-14, SE boilerplate.

Page 12, Show percent grade of low-intermediate and intermediate. This distinction is referenced later.

Page 15, Integrate FS objectives into CBMR objectives. Tie to community objectives. Resort missing an opportunity to make their case.

Page 19, This plan address exposure constraints and how they are going to be addressed.

Page22, Wetlands and vegetation should be mapped and included in MDP and used as a basis for trail design.

Page 33, Interesting that low-intermediate is above average.

Page 38, Don't understand the second paragraph.

Page 40, 4th paragraph, It may be good to commit to park locations to dovetail with capacity analysis.

Page 42/43, How many toilets and lockers, restaurant seats? Give ranges or how numbers correlate with sq. footage.

Page 45, lockers, restrooms, restaurants seating low.

Page 49, Recommended range based on what?

Page 50, No adjustment in outdoor seating in calculation for bad weather days. Deficit worse that indicated.

Page 105, Edit BMP' offer others.

Page 65, Purpose and need, diversity of terrain last paragraph.

Page 66, Link/add, base area improvements and village to list.

Page 66, P+ N paragraph after A also second paragraph.

Page 66, paragraph 5, under A no mention of village.

Page 67, a good place to discuss trail design and vegetation considerations.

Page 70, Lift S very short.

Page 70, Lift U, ski way (road) widening necessary?

Page 71, 2, egress to village through crux.

Page 75, 1st paragraph, how can grade be reduced by grading? Show location of spot grading for whole project.

Page 78-79, Trail capacities will have to be adjusted lower because of catwalk and other bottlenecks. I.D. bottlenecks and design mitigation.

Page 78, Consider bottlenecks.

Page 78, a. , Use the veg mapping to define type of glading to develop. See above comment on veg mapping.

Page 84, Split Snodgrass out in chart.

Page 87, Add range of numbers of toilets, lockers not just sq foot.

Page 96, How will the rest room deficit be met?

Page 99, What basis for the decline of day skiers? State a shift to destination resort as P+N.

Page 102, Snowmaking water storage. More detail. Map system.

Page 102, Map water and sewer. Power, all utilities.

Page 105, Edit BMP's.

Page 102, On mountain maintenance, fuel storage?

Page 103, Destination resort P+N.

Page 104, BEIG, develop architectural plan for resort.

Constant Contact Survey Results

Survey Name: Snodgrass Survey
Response Status: Completed
Filter: None
Nov 23, 2009 7:02:40 PM

1. The Chamber would like to know if you want the Forest Service to reverse its decision and allow the proposed Snodgrass project into the NEPA process? (We are not asking if you support CBMR's Snodgrass proposal or not. We are only asking if you believe it should be given an open public hearing.)

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Yes	945	83.1%
No	191	16.7%
No Responses	1	<1%
Total	1137	100%
319 Comment(s)		

2. If Yes, are you willing to add your name to a letter encouraging the Forest Service and our elected representatives to do so accept the project into the NEPA process?

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Yes	902	79.3%
No	139	12.2%
No Responses	96	8.4%
Total	1137	100%
189 Comment(s)		

3. Are you a Chamber member?

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Yes	309	27.1%
No	827	72.7%
No Responses	1	<1%
Total	1137	100%

4. Where is your permanent residence?

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Crested Butte	335	29.4%
Mt. Crested Butte	169	14.8%
Crested Butte South	150	13.1%
Gunnison	101	8.8%
I am a second homeowner in the Crested Butte area	218	19.1%
Other	192	16.8%
Total	1137	100%

Constant Contact Survey Results

Survey Name: Snodgrass Survey

Filter 1: Mt. Crested Butte to: *Where is your permanent residence?*
Nov 23, 2009 7:21:09 PM

1. The Chamber would like to know if you want the Forest Service to reverse its decision and allow the proposed Snodgrass project into the NEPA process? (We are not asking if you support CBMR's Snodgrass proposal or not. We are only asking if you believe it should be given an open public hearing.)

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Yes	145	85.7%
No	24	14.2%
No Responses	0	0.0%
Total	169	100%
52 Comment(s)		

2. If Yes, are you willing to add your name to a letter encouraging the Forest Service and our elected representatives to do so accept the project into the NEPA process?

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Yes	141	83.4%
No	15	8.8%
No Responses	13	7.6%
Total	169	100%
26 Comment(s)		

3. Are you a Chamber member?

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Yes	61	36.0%
No	108	63.9%
No Responses	0	0.0%
Total	169	100%

4. Where is your permanent residence?

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Crested Butte	0	0.0%
Mt. Crested Butte	169	100.0%
Crested Butte South	0	0.0%
Gunnison	0	0.0%
I am a second homeowner in the Crested Butte area	0	0%
Other	0	0%
Total	169	100%

Constant Contact Survey Results

Survey Name: Snodgrass Survey

Filter 1: Crested Butte to: *Where is your permanent residence?*
Nov 23, 2009 7:15:01 PM

1. The Chamber would like to know if you want the Forest Service to reverse its decision and allow the proposed Snodgrass project into the NEPA process? (We are not asking if you support CBMR's Snodgrass proposal or not. We are only asking if you believe it should be given an open public hearing.)

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Yes	241	71.9%
No	94	28.0%
No Responses	0	0.0%
Total	335	100%
99 Comment(s)		

2. If Yes, are you willing to add your name to a letter encouraging the Forest Service and our elected representatives to do so accept the project into the NEPA process?

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Yes	223	66.5%
No	65	19.4%
No Responses	47	14.0%
Total	335	100%
56 Comment(s)		

3. Are you a Chamber member?

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Yes	119	35.5%
No	216	64.4%
No Responses	0	0.0%
Total	335	100%

4. Where is your permanent residence?

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Crested Butte	335	100.0%
Mt. Crested Butte	0	0.0%
Crested Butte South	0	0.0%
Gunnison	0	0.0%
I am a second homeowner in the Crested Butte area	0	0.0%
Other	0	0%
Total	335	100%

Constant Contact Survey Results

Survey Name: Snodgrass Survey

Filter 1: Crested Butte South to: *Where is your permanent residence?*
Nov 23, 2009 7:23:03 PM

1. The Chamber would like to know if you want the Forest Service to reverse its decision and allow the proposed Snodgrass project into the NEPA process? (We are not asking if you support CBMR's Snodgrass proposal or not. We are only asking if you believe it should be given an open public hearing.)

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Yes	134	88.7%
No	17	11.2%
No Responses	0	0.0%
Total	151	100%
45 Comment(s)		

2. If Yes, are you willing to add your name to a letter encouraging the Forest Service and our elected representatives to do so accept the project into the NEPA process?

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Yes	127	84.1%
No	13	8.6%
No Responses	11	7.2%
Total	151	100%
23 Comment(s)		

3. Are you a Chamber member?

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Yes	57	37.7%
No	94	62.2%
No Responses	0	0.0%
Total	151	100%

4. Where is your permanent residence?

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Crested Butte	0	0.0%
Mt. Crested Butte	0	0.0%
Crested Butte South	151	100.0%
Gunnison	0	0.0%
I am a second homeowner in the Crested Butte area	0	0.0%
Other	0	0%
Total	151	100%

Forest Service's Charlie Richmond well aware of Snodgrass outcry

Philosophy of the decision; death by a thousand cuts. "No backroom deals"

[BY MARK REAMAN]

Forest Supervisor Charlie Richmond admits that his Delta office of the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forest (GMUC) has been inundated with letters, emails and phone calls from people expressing their opinion on his recent Snodgrass decision.

And while his letter rejecting the expansion of Crested Butte Mountain Resort (CBMR) ski lifts to Snodgrass doesn't allow an administrative appeal, he doesn't anticipate the issue will just fade away. "I don't expect it will be over any time soon," he said Tuesday morning.

"We have gotten, I would guess, several hundred letters and emails, along with dozens of phone calls from people commenting on the decision," Richmond said. "A lot of people have written thoughtful letters on both sides of the issue. I would say we have received many more letters from people who are against my decision, but both sides have reached out. As difficult as it is, I try to read them all or as many as I can."

Local and state politicians have also been inundated with letters. Colorado State Representative Kathleen Curry of Gunnison replied to one pro-lift letter writer. "The elected officials have received about 100+ emails on this issue. My computer completely froze up with the incoming mail..." United States Senator Michael Bennett's office has received so many e-mails, his office is asking that a formal electronic comment document be filled out.

Richmond said that from his perspective, the decision has been made. "It is what it is," he reasoned. "It will have to play out and the ski area will do what they need to do, but I haven't changed my mind. I haven't discounted those that want to develop ski lifts on Snodgrass, but I have made my decision."

The amount of reaction from the decision has been a bit of a surprise to the agency. Forest Service External Affairs Officer Lee Ann Loupe said she has spent a lot of her time reading the letters that have come in over the last two weeks. "It's not like a vote but we try to read and respect the varying views," she said.

While the Forest Service makes hundreds of decisions on projects proposed for forest land every year, the tsunami of reaction generated by the Snodgrass decision is somewhat rare.

"We occasionally get this amount of reaction over something like the Travel Management Plan decisions," said Richmond, "but not very often." Richmond pointed out the travel management decision would be coming soon as well. That plan determines trails within the forest and is almost always con-

troversial among different user groups.

For its part, the ski area has filed a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request with the Forest Service to obtain all documentation of anything Snodgrass-related, including correspondence between Richmond and his immediate boss, Regional Forester Rick Cables. CBMR wants all Snodgrass documents from 2000 through October.

CBMR Vice President of Planning and Development Michael Kraatz said the resort wants to understand what they see as a sudden shift in Forest Service attitude over the Snodgrass project. "We were heading down the road together and the discussions we had this summer were to the point they were advertising for a project coordinator to take the plan through the NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act) process," he explained. "Obviously they were ready to move ahead. We talked with them every month. Then all of a sudden we got the rejection letter. Something had changed dramatically within a couple of weeks and we still don't know what it is."

"Something doesn't add up," Kraatz continued. "Every meeting we had was geared to head to the NEPA process. We had set up an account to fund that process. We were extending our collection agreement that outlined how to pay for the NEPA and pre-NEPA process and Charlie had signed it October 15. The Forest Service was helping to mold the plan. They helped create it. The sudden about-face is strange."

"There are no secrets here," responded Richmond. "I've been upfront about the process. I certainly talk to my boss about where I am heading with a decision but there are no secrets. We'll get the ski area all the things they are asking for but there aren't any surprises."

"I talk to everyone I can when coming to a decision," Richmond continued. "My staff is divided on the Snodgrass issue as well. They reflect the public opinion over this proposal. It wasn't an easy decision but I wanted to hear all sides. There weren't any backroom deals over this."

Richmond said the philosophy of the pre-NEPA process has evolved over the years and had an impact on his decision. "The proponents have to do the legwork up front and bring us a proposal we can live with," he emphasized. "If something is controversial, we want it pretty much solved before bringing it to us. We don't want the Forest Service to be the punching bag."

He admitted the level of intensity over Snodgrass proposal has been above average. Richmond said any philosophical change toward the national forests with the Obama Administration had "little to nothing" to do with his decision.

Richmond admits there

wasn't one showstopper that resulted in his rejection of lifts on Snodgrass. It was more like a death from a thousand cuts. "My letter lays out my rationale for the decision," Richmond reiterated. "It's what it is. I understand there are a lot of supporters for lifts on Snodgrass and people have reacted strongly the last two weeks. But it just wasn't one thing or two things or seven things. You put all the concerns together and it wasn't something I wanted to spend the next five to seven years doing."

As for the charge that the Forest Service led along the ski area for five years, Richmond rejected that. "We have spent a lot of time on this," he said. "Geology was a major concern all along and that is what took up a lot of the last five years. We did a geology report that indicated some major problems. The ski area didn't agree so we allowed them a chance to do their own analysis. That took a year. It came to a different conclusion so we felt a third geology report was appropriate and that took another year."

"Community support was similar," Richmond continued. "I made it clear all along that it was their job to go out and talk to people and get the community on board. It wasn't our job. We knew it wouldn't be unanimous and there would be opposition. That's expected. After I wrote a letter in January saying I felt the community support had reached an acceptable threshold, I got blasted from people opposed to the plan. So the community support issue has gone back and forth several times. It was their job to reach out to the community. In the end, I think the community is more polarized now than the day we started. All these things were laid out with the ski area and we made it clear it was never a done deal."

Richmond said there is no philosophy to keep Crested Butte a small ski area. He said it just came down to his not being willing to take on the project and defend it in the NEPA process.

"My decision is made," he said. "But that doesn't mean I think the discussion is over. I expect CBMR will do what they can to get a different result. I don't expect it will be over any time soon."

CBMR's Kraatz agreed with that assessment.

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Snodgrass: Reactions in the Valley...

Written by Mark Reaman, Seth Mensing and Mike Horn

Wednesday, 11 November 2009

Shock and awe

Shock was admittedly the first reaction of just about everyone as they heard the news that the Forest Service rejected Crested Butte Mountain Resort's plan to expand lifts onto Snodgrass Mountain. Reaction in Crested Butte, Mt. Crested Butte and the County was one of universal surprise.



Mt. Crested Butte officials and business owners were caught off guard by the Forest Service decision not to pursue the NEPA process. Reactions ranged from "Wow" to "Whoa." Several business owners were hesitant to comment, because of the perceived potential negative impacts on their businesses. Mt. Crested Butte officials were surprised to say the least.

"I am shocked by this decision and feel blindsided," said Mt. Crested Butte Mayor William Buck. "Part of the shock is due to the unprecedented nature of this. There were clear indications the process was moving forward. In my opinion, the process should take place." Several others who have a stake in Mt. Crested Butte's future echoed Buck's opinion.

"It's a setback for the town, business owners, and people who want to raise families and thrive here," said Dan Fitchett of Eagle Resort Development. ERD developed both WestWall Lodge and Wildhorse at Prospect in Mt. Crested Butte. "It seems like the Forest Service's evaluation process hasn't been fair to Crested Butte; the standard doesn't seem to be the same as applied to other ski areas in Colorado."

Representatives of the Friends of Snodgrass Mountain (FOSM), the organization that opposed the expansion onto Snodgrass, said they were as stunned as anyone by the Forest Service announcement. "We were absolutely surprised," admitted Chuck Shaw of FOSM. "We think he made the right decision, and the decision helps to protect the recreational and environmental benefits that Snodgrass provides to the community."

Current Crested Butte Mayor Alan Bernholtz said he was surprised when he heard the news that the proposal had been turned down. "The issue had gotten too personal between members of the

community," he observed. "I'm just glad a decision has been made. Hopefully the community can move on together and we can work together on other issues like the mine."

The incoming mayor was less sanguine. "I was shocked. I really was," commented Leah Williams, who will be sworn in as the Crested Butte mayor on November 16. "Charlie Richmond called when I wasn't here, which was very nice, but I have a lot of questions for him. I just figured it would go into NEPA and I wanted the town to be part of the negotiating process. We sent a letter to that effect to the Forest Service.

"I don't want the county or town set up to be used by either CBMR or the Forest Service," Williams continued. "I want it to be a clean process. The town shouldn't be the scapegoat on this. I understand why CBMR is upset and to not even get to NEPA is strange."

Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory director Ian Billick expressed his support for the ski area, and said that RMBL has not taken and will not be taking an official position for or against lifts on Snodgrass. Billick did note that the Forest Service's decision would ease some of the divisiveness Snodgrass has caused in the community, and, he said, "It certainly makes things simpler, because the NEPA process is a multi-year process."

Chris Ladoulis, owner of Mt. Crested Butte's Django's Restaurant, provided a local business owner's perspective. "Everyone assumed it would enter the NEPA process, and we'd have a few years to figure it out," Ladoulis said. "In the near term, it does take a puff of air out of our hopes for weathering this recession."

Ladoulis says a community vote should have been held. "It's been a process driven by letters to the editor," Ladoulis added. "No one wants to write a letter to the editor and get snubbed by Friends of Snodgrass at the post office. We just had an election—there should have been a referendum on Snodgrass, and people could have voted anonymously."

The news came as quite a shock to County Commission Chairperson Paula Swenson.

Even more surprising to Swenson was the fact that Gunnison County's inability to make a comment on the proposal was one of the factors in the decision issued by GMUG Superintendent Charlie Richmond.

In his rationale for the decision, Richmond said, "Gunnison County also recently adopted Special Development Project Regulations [sic] that limit the County's ability to be involved in and comment on the conceptual ideas presented in the [master development plan]."

He went on to say that such a refusal to participate in the comment period "or in NEPA scoping is unprecedented on the GMUG National Forest and will not contribute toward joint resolution of complex and controversial off-site impacts."

Richmond also said that the county's development of the SDPR, "asserting procedural and substantive authorities," is "at odds with cooperative planning of large projects on National Forest lands."

Those comments did not sit well with Swenson, who has spoken with Richmond about the reasons the county cannot comment, and never saw the superintendent meet with the county planners to discuss ways the two processes could work together.

"I told him that making a comment on Snodgrass would be throwing our process out the window," Swenson said. "Any entity that has any kind of decision to make cannot make a comment on it ahead of time. Just because Charlie tried to back us into a corner to make a decision doesn't mean he would get his way."

Looking at the Forest Service response as a whole, Swenson said, "I'm not seeing a concrete

rationale as to why he denied it. I always thought the reason we have public processes like NEPA is to flesh out the public perspective on things, so I'm disappointed that we've stopped the process before it ever started."

Gunnison City Manager Ken Coleman wasn't nearly as upset about the decision, although the proposed Snodgrass expansion was something he looked at when considering the projects that might affect his community.

"The decision has relatively little impact on the city of Gunnison," Coleman said. "So right now we're seeing this as a 'no action type scenario,' not pro or con. We understand the value of CBMR to the local economy and had provided input based on that request."

Although the city of Gunnison had provided a letter in support of the Snodgrass expansion moving to NEPA, Coleman didn't feel that it would have any impact on the city until the proposal turned into a project.

He also didn't think the proposal's rejection would lead to any great exodus of people or businesses from the Gunnison Valley, unless CBMR feels that not having Snodgrass to look forward to will change their business plan greatly.

"I don't know if there would have been an immediate change in their business operations if Snodgrass had been approved," he said.

The Crested Butte/Mt. Crested Butte Chamber of Commerce expressed general displeasure about the decision. "The Forest Service has done an injustice to the chamber members who support CBMR's Snodgrass proposal, by not allowing them to participate in the NEPA process," Chamber Executive Director Richard Bond said. "When we polled our members, 60 percent indicated they were in favor of Snodgrass. And a good many also said they were afraid to voice their opinion, because of the potential impacts on their businesses."

Over at the High Country Citizens' Alliance, Executive Director Dan Morse said the organization had some environmental issues with the Snodgrass proposal, but the group definitely wants to see a ski area succeed at the north end of the valley. "We appreciate the efforts of the local Forest Service staff to be thorough and work to understand all aspects of this issue, and we agree that there would have been significant geological and environmental risks from a Snodgrass proposal," he said. "We are willing to work with CBMR and the Forest Service to support the ski area's success."

"And we have the perfect combination for that success," Morse continued. "The incredible environment of the Upper Gunnison Valley and exceptional ski terrain paired with the planned improvements on Crested Butte Mountain will make a ski destination that will be hard to beat." CBMR executives have stated that the ski company will be looking at all of its options as a result of the decision.

Close Window

Forest Service rejects Snodgrass

Written by Mark Reaman

Wednesday, 11 November 2009

Both sides stunned at the announcement

Saying that ski lifts on Snodgrass Mountain "would not be in the public interest," the U.S. Forest Service has decided to end the debate.



The ski area proposal will not go into the NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act) review process, and that decision by supervisor of the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forests Charlie Richmond effectively ends any possibility of lift-served skiing expanding onto Snodgrass any time soon... if ever.

Crested Butte Mountain Resort officials are disappointed and baffled by the decision. People from the Friends of Snodgrass group also expressed shock at the announcement.

A letter dated November 5 rejecting CBMR's proposal to expand skiing to Snodgrass was posted on the Forest Service website Monday. According to Richmond, the decision is "not subject to administrative appeal." The official letter can be seen at www.crestedbuttenews.com. The letter to CBMR president Tim Mueller states that Richmond "is not accepting your Master Development Plan which includes a proposal to develop Snodgrass Mountain for lift-served skiing. A revised MDP, excluding the proposed lift-served skiing on Snodgrass Mountain will need to be submitted..."

Richmond said that means the Snodgrass discussion is over. "As far as lift-served skiing on Snodgrass, we have made a decision, and that decision is no," Richmond said Monday afternoon from his office in Delta.

"It was not an easy decision. It was a tough one and one that we have been debating for a long time. Basically it came down to the fact I wasn't willing to take this on as a Forest Service project and defend it in the NEPA process," Richmond said.

The expansion would have added 276 acres of skiable terrain to the CBMR permit area. CBMR's Mueller was shocked by the decision. "It is difficult to express the depth of our disappointment regarding this decision," he said. "We have worked methodically with the U.S. Forest Service over the past five years to address concerns and meet and exceed requirements with the

goal of entering into the NEPA process, as so many of our competitors have done.

"The feedback we have received from the Forest Service up to this point has been both positive and encouraging," Mueller continued. "We never received any indication that an objective, fair and public process would be denied after so much time and money had been invested."

Richmond said "public interest" was the determining factor in his decision. Several factors supported Richmond's public-interest-based rationale for rejection. The amount of public support or lack of it from the town of Crested Butte and the Gunnison County Commissioners; geology concerns; socio-economic impacts; potential lynx habitat; the limitations of the area as a ski mountain; and deepening division within the community over the issue all played a part in Richmond's decision foundation, according to the Forest Service announcement letter.

Richmond admitted that the Forest Service hadn't held an official comment period but said the agency had "received 500 or more comments in the last several years. I couldn't tell you a breakdown in those that supported the project and those that opposed it. It's not a vote process. But I try to read all that I can. We didn't get any form letters. Most of these were heartfelt letters that people spent a lot of time writing."

Richmond said that while some municipalities and government entities within the county wrote letters in support of getting the proposal into NEPA, "We were looking for support of the concept of the CBMR plan to put lifts on Snodgrass. The letters that supported a move to the NEPA process were difficult to us. We were looking for support for downhill skiing on Snodgrass," he said.

He said that while the Gunnison County Commissioners made it clear that they weren't commenting on the project, given the fact they might have to make a quasi-judicial decision on Snodgrass through the new Special Development Resolution that govern large projects in the county, their silence had an impact. "We don't know how the county feels about the proposal, and that is a factor for us," Richmond said.

Richmond indicated he thought going through NEPA and the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process would have taken another three-to-five years, and to add an additional year with a county review process would take too much time.

Representatives of the Friends of Snodgrass, the organization that opposed the expansion onto Snodgrass, said they were as shocked as anyone by the Forest Service announcement. "We were absolutely surprised," admitted Chuck Shaw of FOSM. "We think he made the right decision, and the decision helps to protect the recreational and environmental benefits that Snodgrass provides to the community."

A CBMR press release cites several other ski areas including Telluride, Breckenridge, Vail, Copper, Steamboat and Snowmass, which have proposed ski expansions with support and opposition from the public. "But the Forest Service made the decision whether to approve the expansion after conducting a public NEPA process and asking the public comment on objective studies on a draft and final EIS," the press release states. "The decision follows an earlier decision from the Forest Service in which they said an expansion is necessary to allow CBMR to successfully compete as a destination resort. The decision to reject the Snodgrass proposal comes after five years and before public vetting of the project."

Despite the fact that the Forest Service has "allocated" Snodgrass as an appropriate place for downhill skiing, and it is part of the CBMR Special Use Permit boundary, "There was never any guarantee to approve a project on that mountain," Richmond emphasized. He said the agency is more and more using the type of "pre-NEPA" process CBMR has gone through. "With these big

projects in particular, we are saying it is up to the proponent to get the public support and work through the list of potential problems before going into NEPA," he explained. "Once it's in NEPA, it becomes a Forest Service project that we have to defend. This was a project I wasn't willing to take on and defend."

He said typically once a project is in NEPA, the issues compound and the public support becomes more divisive.

Steve Rice, managing director of CNL Lifestyle Company, which represents the ownership group of the resort, feels otherwise. He said the project would have gained support as it became more clear in the public review process.

"We believe the NEPA process is designed to fully examine proposals like this," he said. "This move seemed premature and contrary to the way the Forest Service has treated other ski resorts in other Colorado settings. I've spent a career in the ski industry and to me, this Snodgrass proposal was very well documented and a lot of the issues were addressed early. We are still trying to figure out the reason for the rejection."

Rice said approval of Snodgrass was not a condition of the ski area sale last year. "We were aware of where it stood in the process when we bought the area," he explained. "We were comfortable in our purchase and felt this plan was moving along in a cooperative way with the Forest Service."

Shaw said it was the desire of FOSM to now look ahead as a community. "We are hopeful that the community will move forward to address some of the other socio-economic and environmental issues that we're facing, like the proposed mine."

Shaw too wants to be clear that the protection of Snodgrass was never a campaign against CBMR.

"We all moved here to ski and we want the ski area to succeed," he said. "We are not anti-CBMR in any sense. We hope we can all work together to support CBMR's efforts to create a polished, thriving ski area on Crested Butte Mountain."

CBMR is looking at its options to appeal Richmond's decision.

For more community reaction to the decision, see story on the front page of the site.

To view a copy of the letter from the USFS please [click here](#) .

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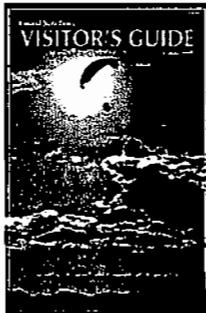
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Home Editorial

Wow

Written by Mark Reaman
Wednesday, 11 November 2009

"If you're hunting ducks, you have to go where the ducks are."
-Texas proverb

The first reaction after hearing about Snodgrass being rejected, no matter what side was favored, is... "Wow."

Then the questions: "You're kidding? What does it mean now? Is the mine more likely? Will they downsize and not open Third Bowl? What is Chuck Shaw going to do with all his free time?"

The Forest Service and Charlie Richmond have put a stake through lift-served skiing on Snodgrass. Wow. Has it put to rest one of the most controversial issues in our community? Doubt it, at least for the short term.

The second reaction is usually a comment on what is suddenly perceived as a shrunken ski area... and all that goes with it. There has never been a Snodgrass, and we've always made due with the current mountain, but the minds-eye view of CBMR suddenly seems smaller. More Monarch than Telluride. All day Monday and Tuesday, a lot of people voiced concern over future ramifications such as fewer jobs, lower property values, less opportunity to work as a builder, or that there will be fewer places to eat because the winter tourist numbers will continue to decline, and this decision doesn't help shore up what the company says is critical -intermediate ski terrain.

Will less be more?

Less Aspen and more Eldora? Less Steamboat and more Ski Sunlight?

That's where the Texas proverb comes in. If you can't find a duck here, you have to eventually go someplace else to hunt ducks.

Many people are certainly pleased with the decision. They feel a "wild" mountain has been saved from the rapaciousness of man. They may celebrate with a hike up the road to the top of the mountain while the weather is still nice. Those who fought against the proposed expansion are rejoicing. There was a sincere, emotional attachment to their cause and I respect that. They outsmarted, outworked and outflanked CBMR. They were relentless and they accomplished their goal. They ran a sophisticated campaign and treated it as such. Even though they don't want it viewed this way... they kicked ass.

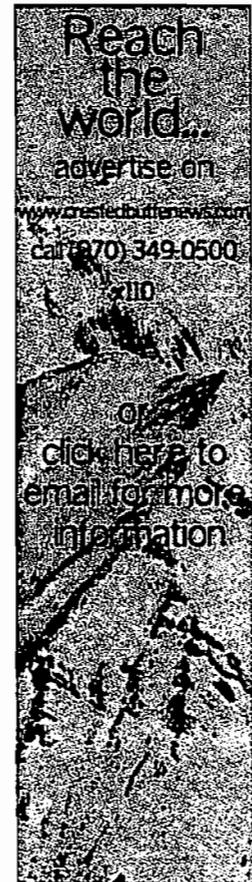
CBMR did not engage in the public aspect of the expansion. As the Friends of Snodgrass molded the public comment rules of the pre-NEPA game, CBMR ignored the campaign. They gave up on the town. They did not lobby the public, and in turn the public did not strongly lobby the Forest Service for approval. Even though they don't want it viewed this way... they got their ass kicked.

CBMR executives feel they did everything that was asked of them, and should have at least gotten into the public review process. CBMR feels hosed. They expressed shock at the turn of events.

I spoke with Forest Service Supervisor Charlie Richmond Monday. Pleasant fellow who indicated he was sort of tired about talking about Snodgrass... like a lot of us. But reading his rejection letter a couple of times made me question some of the logic in his "rationale." He said he was feeling increasing "polarization" within the community over the issue. His letter says such polarization has been on the rise since the beginning of the year. Really? Heck, the most vocal anti-Snodgrass candidates in the Crested Butte election didn't get elected, while those who expressed support or ambivalence will soon sit on the board. The topic was discussed thoroughly and civilly throughout the election.

Charlie admitted CBMR made major changes to their plan to alleviate geology concerns brought up in the pre-NEPA process, but he still used geology as a major point of rejection. "As far as I know, no one has ever seen a lynx up there," he said—but lynx habitat is one of the points supporting his rationale.

THE PEAK



There was no mention of the local government letters of support for the Forest Service to move the process into NEPA. "We were looking for support for the concept of lifts on Snodgrass. Not support to move to NEPA," Charlie said. Support for moving to NEPA sort of implies no major objection for the concept, while reasonably asking to deal with details in the concept.

And while Charlie didn't point the entire finger of blame at the town of Crested Butte or Gunnison County, his decision letter sure put those government entities on the line. While the town has certainly voiced concerns and the county has been pretty mute, neither has written anything that calls for shutting down Snodgrass forever. The incoming Crested Butte Mayor Leah Williams and the current County Commissioner Chair Paula Swenson didn't like the corner Charlie appeared to paint them in. Both women cried foul on Monday.

But Richmond made a bold decision that surprised everyone, and he made it clear he won't be changing his mind.

So what's next? No matter what decision was ultimately made, most people felt an appeal or a lawsuit was possible. Look for a truck to perhaps be rolling down that highway.

Beyond that, whenever I've asked people at the resort if there was a Plan B if Snodgrass didn't move forward, they expressed confidence that Snodgrass would be a part of their long-term future given their collaboration with the Forest Service. It looks like it might be time to start working on a solid Plan B (and maybe C, D, E and F).

Can the private and/or part of the public land on Snodgrass be used for something like a park and pipe complex to rival Buttermilk, Breckenridge or Keystone? Can CBMR set up a backcountry snowcat operation like Monarch and Irwin? Cross country trails? Does anything make sense over there now?

Are there enough "extreme" skiers to feed our economy? Can more intermediate terrain be developed near the East River, Teocalli or WestWall lifts to gratify the largest demographic of unsatisfied ski visitors? Can the current gem of a mountain be polished enough to get sufficient people here in the winter to sustain a viable economy? I think so and sure as hell hope so. But the size of that economy suddenly seems smaller. It is time to think out of the box. Trust the Universe to work.

Look, this is a great community anchored by a pretty well known ski mountain. Crested Butte is a ski town. Monarch doesn't have a town. And that, if anything, is what baffles me about this Forest Service decision to not even let it get reviewed in NEPA. CBMR is a resort dependent on the influx of national and international ski traffic. The Forest Service has always allocated Snodgrass as a place for downhill skiing. Being denied even a chance for a NEPA review appears a little weird.

Let's hope the people who need to hunt ducks... our neighbors and friends; the people who own and work the restaurants and shops; the kids who are supposed to fill the expanding school; the enviros and the builders; you and me... don't have to leave town to look for ducks elsewhere.

After the shock wears off, it is time to seriously think Plan B.

I will always argue for honest opportunities for the public to participate in government. It seems less than fair for the people to never have a chance to argue for or against Charlie's reasoning...reasoning that to me (see above) seems to have a foundation based in sand.

Wow.

[Back]

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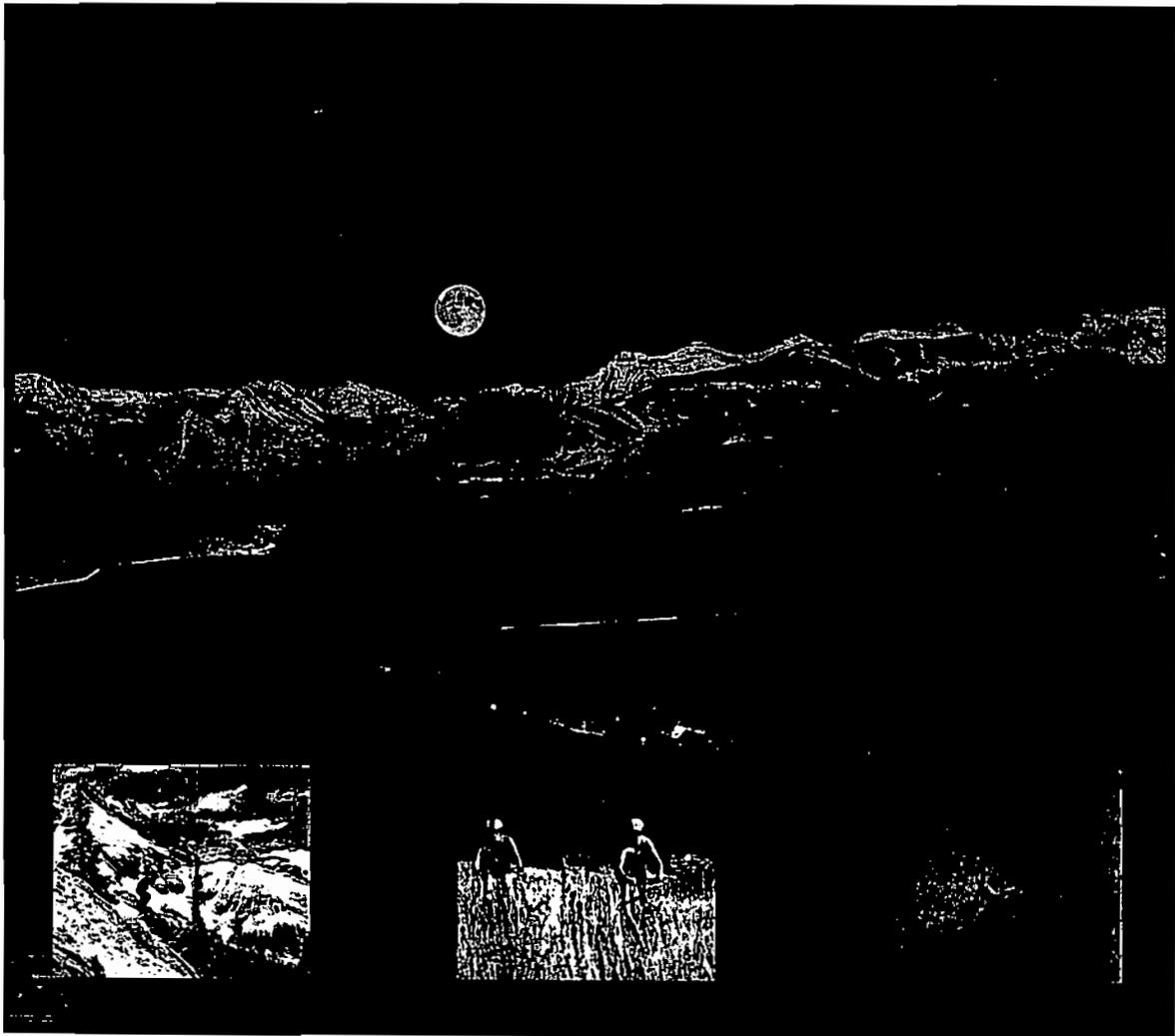
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CHAPTER II

**THE PROPOSED ACTION AND
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CHAPTER III

AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

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CHAPTER III AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

Introduction

This chapter describes the biological, physical, social, and economic aspects of the existing environment potentially impacted by implementation of the Proposed Action or its alternatives. The data and level of detail presented in this chapter are based on the information necessary for the reader to compare the existing situation with the potential effects of the alternatives. Therefore, only that portion of the existing environment that pertains to the potential impacts (i.e., within the special use permit boundary and south of the existing lifts and trails) has been included in this chapter. The portions of the existing ski area that have been recently approved but not yet built (Figure 1.2) are not part of this analysis. In order to fully understand the impacts of the alternatives to a specific resource or issue, it would be helpful to the reader to first read the applicable section in Chapter III and then read the corresponding sections in Chapter IV.

Vegetation

GENERAL VEGETATION

Telluride Ski Area contains a number of distinct habitat types within the altitudinal variation of the town of Telluride (8,745 feet) and Palmyra Peak (13,319 feet). These habitat types perform a variety of functions including habitat for wildlife, watershed, biodiversity, recreation opportunities, and aesthetic viewsheds. There are eight major habitat types within the permit area including alpine tundra, subalpine tundra/krummholz transition zone, spruce-fir, aspen, meadow/grassland, wet meadow/riparian, scree/talus slopes, and disturbed areas.

Vegetation cover types (Figure 3.1) were delineated for the Telluride Ski Area based on site visits and aerial photographs. The total approximate area of each habitat type within the ski area is shown in Table 3.1. The dominant habitat type within the ski area is spruce-fir.

The alpine habitat type is found on sites above approximately 11,000 feet. The vegetation in this type is characterized by very low-growing cushion and mat plants. There may be scattered low shrubs, but trees are absent. Species commonly found in this type include: alpine avens (*Acomostylis rossii*), fescue grass (*Festuca brachyphylla*), tufted hairgrass (*Deschampsia cespitosa*), curly sedge (*Carex rupestris*), other sedges (*Carex* spp.), lichen, woodrush (*Luzula spicata*), alpine sandwort (*Minuartia obtusiloba*), alpine nailwort (*Paronychia pulvinata*), cushion phlox (*Phlox condensata*), alpine bluegrass (*Poa alpina*) arctic bluegrass (*Poa arctica*), kobresia (*Kobresia myosuroides*), pussy toes (*Antennaria* spp.), snow willow (*Salix reticulata* ssp. *nivalis*), and arctic willow (*Salix arctica*). Due to the extreme environmental conditions associated with alpine tundra (extremely low temperatures, high winds, and resulting low moisture availability due to desiccation and freezing temperatures), plant communities found there are extremely vulnerable to disturbance. The growing season is often less than 75 days, with the potential for freezing conditions likely anytime within that time period. Winter conditions can be especially severe, as protective snow cover is often scoured away by high winds, leaving vegetation exposed to low temperature extremes. These conditions result in plants with very low stature and extremely slow growth and reproductive rates. The majority of alpine-adapted plant species sexually reproduce infrequently (sometimes only once in decades) or not at all; most reproduction is asexual and consists of fragmentation or rhizomatous root growth. Alpine tundra vegetation that is disturbed can take

The remainder of the analysis area, seldom seen from a variety of sensitive viewpoints, would appear as a landscape managed for a variety of recreational uses associated with ski area development. Roads and forest clearings will be apparent; however, these openings should be small to moderate in size and their shapes should blend with the line and form of the natural landscape. Forested areas would appear textured with linear openings, with some openings dominated by skiing facilities. Structures associated with ski lifts, lodges, and restaurants would dominate the ski area foreground in most areas. All existing areas that do not meet the adopted VQO of Modification would be brought up to standard to the extent it is cost effective to do so.

VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPABILITY

Visual Absorption Capability (VAC) is an index of the land's capacity to incur alteration without substantially affecting the visual quality of the characteristic landscape. Factors considered in determining VAC include slope angle and aspect, vegetative pattern complexity, vegetation screening characteristics, and vegetative regeneration potential. Most of the approximately 4,000 acres within the permit area, 2,960 acres, is considered to have high VAC. Exceptions include lower north-facing slopes visible from Telluride, as well as several high peaks that are seldom seen from critical viewpoints due to distance or intervening terrain. Table 3.26 provides a breakdown of the acreages in the high, medium, and low VAC categories within the permit area boundary.

While alpine skiers have high standards of quality for the visual setting and related development, they are generally less sensitive to the presence of skiing-related facilities due to their expectations of seeing ski lifts, lodges, and vegetational clearing for ski runs. Nearly 50 percent of the special use permit area for Telluride Ski Area cannot be seen from outside the viewshed encompassing the ski area. Therefore, most skiing-related facilities within the ski area permit boundaries are seldom viewed from outside the ski area itself.

VAC Category	Acres
High	2,960
Medium	620
Low	420

Current disturbances include views of portions of lift runs on lifts #7, #8, #9, and the Coonskin Gondola run. This area is characterized by uniform steep slopes covered with forest vegetation providing a fine-textured backdrop. These runs were pre-approved and pre-existing, and are compartmented by terrain such that only individual portions of each lift run can be seen from the three sensitive viewpoints. This area is highly sensitive to disturbances due to the uniform texture of the vegetation and the foreground views from Telluride. However, because of existing disturbances this area has a medium capability of absorbing future modifications. Portions of the analysis area with a low VAC include those areas with a uniform texture and steep angle of pitch, and those viewed from critical viewpoints such as the areas surrounding Needle Rock and Bald Mountain.

Avalanche Control / Skier Safety

THE SNOW CLIMATE IN THE SAN JUANS

Telluride is in the San Juan Mountains. The continental snow climate of the San Juan Mountains is characterized by cold temperatures, low density snow, and shallow snowcover. The snowpack is generally

weak and unstable, and avalanche activity frequently involves the entire snowpack. Timing of avalanche activity is much more difficult to predict because of persistent deep slab instability. As a result, the San Juan snow climate is known to present management difficulties beyond those associated with similar proposals in other regions (PIONEER 1993).

METHODOLOGY OF THE STUDY

A site-specific avalanche study was conducted for this project using maps, photographs, and direct observations of the ski area (PIONEER 1993). The observations were made between 22 February and 30 March, 1993. Additional field work was conducted in mid-May and late September, 1993. The physical data included size, shape, aspect, and inclination, as well as historical data on frequency and magnitude of activity. This study consisted of three components: 1) development of maps and an avalanche directory; 2) hazard recognition; and 3) mitigation and control options.

Avalanche Directory

The first phase of the site-specific avalanche study involved identification and quantification of individual avalanche paths within the study area through the development of an avalanche directory. The avalanche directory includes maps and an atlas of photographs and relevant information about the individual avalanche paths (i.e., physical data such as size, shape, aspect, and inclination as well as historical data on frequency and magnitude of activity). The avalanche directory will serve as a working document and must be upgraded as new paths are identified and new activity becomes part of the path histories. The avalanche directory will serve as the basis for long-term hazard evaluation for planning purposes. It will also provide information necessary to make daily evaluations of snow stability and formulate appropriate control procedures through the creation of an operational avalanche control plan. In addition, the directory will serve as a training aid for new avalanche control team members.

Hazard Recognition

The second phase of the avalanche study utilized the information logged in the avalanche directory to identify hazards to proposed facilities. Facilities such as lifts, buildings, and trails (including fences and bridges) would be among the most costly and most easily damaged. Other facilities that could incur damage from avalanche activity include utilities such as electric supply lines and transformers, water supply reservoirs and pipelines for domestic or snowmaking use, or even propane tanks and lines near buildings. Cultural and natural resources could also be subject to periodic hazard and damage from avalanche. The study also identified areas that could show an increased hazard resulting from changes produced by the development.

Mitigation and Control Options

The third and final portion of the avalanche analysis included development of various options for mitigation or control of the recognized potential hazards to proposed facilities. Traditional methods of mitigation or control have focused both on passive and active techniques. Passive techniques include the construction of barriers to slow, deflect or otherwise reduce the magnitude of the moving snow. Berms, mounds, splitters, and snow sheds are examples of such defenses. Snow bridges and rakes are placed in the starting zones to support the snow and try to prevent slides altogether. Wind fences are constructed to redistribute wind-transported snow and retard cornice and slab formation. Active measures of control and mitigation are more practical and generally less expensive for use in ski areas. Active control measures include control skiing and the use of explosives. Control skiing utilizes experienced avalanche workers to conduct test skiing, ski cutting, and ski compaction of suspect slopes prior to public opening. Explosives are delivered by means of hand charging, helicopter bombing, aerial trams, projectile launchers, cannon, and cornice control. These measures are designed to increase the frequency of activity while decreasing the magnitude of the slides. Other measures which can be used to control hazard are temporary or permanent closures or relocation of impacted facilities. Facilities that are likely to be exposed to frequent hazard from slides of large magnitude

should be reevaluated by more site-specific surveys and analysis by a competent physical engineer. These site-specific studies must utilize an active control program that includes explosives and ski control in order to obtain accurate historical records on frequency and magnitude of activity. Three to five years of continual observation are desirable before the area is opened to the public (Perla and Martinelli 1976). Proposed passive control measures such as wind fences should be constructed as soon as feasible in order to help ascertain their degree of effectiveness in reducing the adverse effects of wind redistribution of snow. Significant skier compaction of avalanche starting zones during periods of low hazard or following explosive control will be a major factor in strengthening snowpack layers and reducing size and frequency of avalanches.

DESCRIPTION OF CONTROL ZONES

Control zones are areas requiring avalanche control by ski areas. The control zones in the proposed expansion area are delineated on Figure 3.14. Paths included in the avalanche directory (PIONEER 1993) have been outlined and numbered on the map. Letter codes indicate the control zone. Number codes indicate avalanche paths. Where paths are well known, the numbers tend to be consecutive. Where the zones and paths are less well known the numbers utilize decimals, and are not consecutive in order, to allow for the inclusion of additional paths as more information becomes available. Arrows have been used to help define the major paths and general direction of snowflow. Several sites were tested as possible locations for avalauncher (projectile launcher) placements. Some of these possible sites appear to provide an acceptable degree of safety and range and are marked on the map as "AL".

Apex Zone

The Apex zone begins at the Killer (A02) and extends southward to include the Little Rose (A25). Most of the paths are west facing, and at or below timberline. Prevailing southwest winds tend to scour and side load the series of paths along the ridge, especially the ones at timberline. A prominent rock band traverses the entire zone at about mid-slope. This cliff band is a potential terrain trap and contains numerous release zones. Currently, most control work in the zone can be done by hand charge routes or the avalauncher. The Apex zone is currently undeveloped but open to limited-access public skiing and varying degrees of compaction.

San Joaquin Zone

The San Joaquin zone encompasses a large, enclosed bowl above timberline on the northeast aspect of upper Gold Hill. The upper portions of the bowl drop about 800 vertical feet from a rock prominence at 12,500 feet to a bench at 11,700 feet. Below the bench are shear cliffs that drop 1,000 vertical feet and form a definite terrain trap. The entire bowl is subject to strong winds and a large cornice forms along the southwest boundary of the bowl. Upper release zones along the cornice can be reached by control routes, but lower release zones lack safe routes.

Gold Hill Zone

The Gold Hill zone lies on the western side of Gold Hill (12,735 ft.). It encompasses a variety of major avalanche paths between the Little Rose (A26) and the rock massif of Palmyra Peak. All of the paths are above timberline and subject to persistently strong southwest winds that scour the exposed ridges and vertically load the lee sides of the ridges. A rocky cliff band traverses the paths and forms a terrain trap from G1.0 to G6.7 (Figure 3.14). G6.7 through G10.0 are narrow, confined couloirs that pass through the cliff band. Control routes are possible but hazardous in G1.0 through G6.7 and would most likely be combined with other methods of explosives control, such as avalauncher, artillery, or bomb trams. Control routes are more feasible in G6.7 through G10.0.

Palmyra Basin Zone

The northwest-northeast aspects of Palmyra Peak drop up to 1,000 vertical feet into upper Palmyra Basin. All of the paths on the peak are subject to heavy snowfalls and persistent winds. The paths on the peak ring the

basin and are generally inaccessible to control routes. Effective all-weather control of these starting zones would require alternative methods of control. Systems being considered at this time would include "Gaz-ex" or a "Catex" type bomb tram.

Prospect Ridge Zone

Prospect Ridge is generally north facing and extends eastward from a low saddle below timberline to high exposed rock faces and couloirs on the northwest shoulder of Palmyra Peak. The proposed Prospect Lift would terminate on the ridge at timberline at 11,790 feet. Prevailing southwest winds tend to heavily load the north facing paths and form a cornice along the ridge above timberline. Paths on the lower portions of the ridge line are easily accessible and safely controllable by hand charge routes and control skiing. They offer quality skiing that can be stabilized by skier compaction. Accessibility and safety decline as the ridgeline climbs to the east. These paths lend themselves to control by helicopter, avalauncher, or artillery.

Bald Mountain Zone

Bald Mountain is a solitary peak to the west end of the Prospect Ridge. At 11,868 feet, the summit is just above timberline. The mountain is nearly a perfect cone and slide paths are distributed around it much like a windrose or the points of a compass. Paths to the south and southwest cliff out and leave the permit area. They would most likely be permanently closed. Paths to the west and northwest are some of the longest sustained skiable paths in the expansion area (approximately 1,000 vertical feet). Paths to the north and northeast are not as long, but offer good potential for high quality ski terrain. Because of the varying aspects, control requirements will vary also. Control routes can work for most of the paths as long as access to the top can be maintained. The access route ascends through an occasional slide path (B1.0) on the southeast shoulder of the mountain.

Skunk Creek Zone

The Skunk Creek control zone encompasses all paths that are adjacent to the proposed lift and trails, originating at the top of Jebe's Knob, and extending northwestward to the base of the proposed lift. Jebe's Knob is the 11,240 foot, small, tree-covered peak between Bald Mountain and the top of Lift #10. There are only a few paths in the Skunk Creek zone, and they can all be controlled through hand charge routes and control skiing.

Prospect Creek Zone

Paths in the Prospect Creek control zone are quite varied. The entire zone is below timberline and consists primarily of isolated or smaller paths and pockets of hazard. Some of the paths are short, steep creek banks that form terrain traps, and as such are potentially hazardous for skiers. Other larger paths come off the Lift #5 and Lift #10 runs and drop into Prospect Creek below the proposed lift base terminals. Some of these paths are infrequent and can be recognized only by a difference in timber species composition. These paths can be controlled by closure and avoidance of potential runouts, or by explosive control and control skiing. The more open and frequent paths that drop from the Lift #10 side can be controlled by hand-charge routes and control skiing.

Land Use

FOREST PLAN

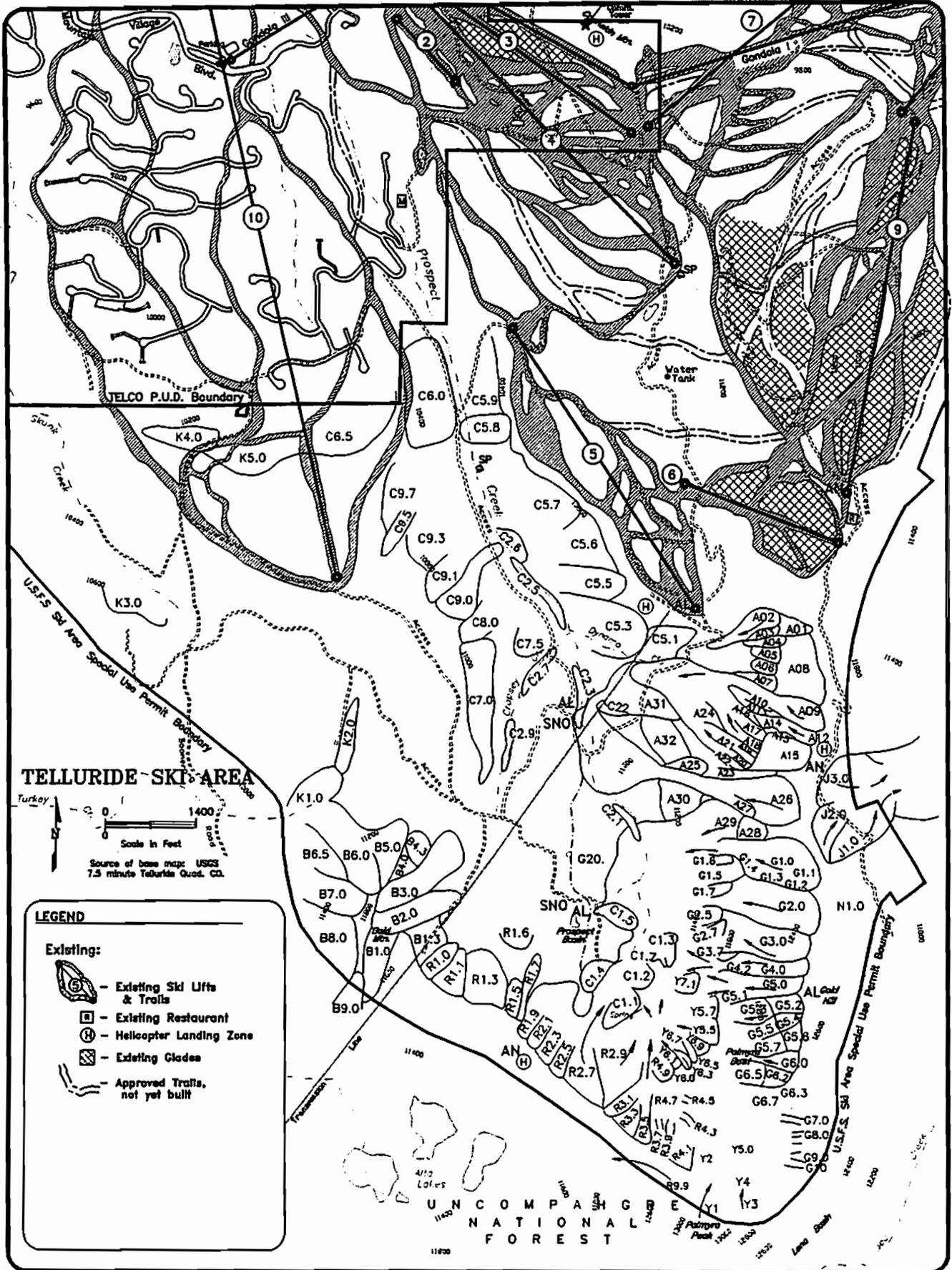
The Amended Land and Resource Management Plan for the GMUG NFs (Forest Plan) was completed in 1991 (USFS 1991a). The Forest Plan serves as a stand-alone update to the 1983 plan, and it is anticipated that it will provide management direction for the forests through 1998. Goals, objectives, land use determinations,

Figure 3.14.
Avalanche Paths

CONTROL ZONE KEY:

Apex Zone = A or AX
 San Joaquin Zone = J or SJ
 Gold Hill Zone = G or GH
 Palmyra Basin Zone = Y or PY
 Prospect Ridge Zone = R or PR
 Bald Min. Zone = B or BM

Skunk Creek Zone = K or SK
 Prospect Creek Zone = C or PC
 Anemometer Location = AN
 Avalauncher Placements = AL
 Snowfall & Temperature Monitoring Area = SNO
 - Major path & general direction of snowfall



prescriptions, and standards and guidelines are statements of the Forest Plan's management direction. The Telluride Ski Area is designated as a 1B Management Area. The primary directive of this designation is to provide for ski area integrity, safety, and attractiveness. Management integrates ski area development and use with other resource management objectives to provide healthy tree stands, vegetative diversity, forage production for wildlife and livestock, and opportunities for non-motorized recreation.

One objective of the Forest Plan is to meet the demand for downhill skiing. The demand for downhill skiing has increased, with a projected annual growth rate of 8.4 percent. It is anticipated that downhill skiing will account for 50 percent of the GMUG NFs developed recreation use by the year 2010. The Telluride Ski Area has an approved USFS Master Plan, and has been identified, along with three other ski areas in the GMUG NF, as having the potential capacity to supply downhill skiing opportunities to meet the projected increase in demand. The GMUG NF plans to meet 50 percent of the increased demand above existing capacity after 1990, and the remaining 50 percent over the 50-year planning horizon on National Forest System land.

STATE PLANS

The Telluride area is currently under the jurisdiction of several Colorado state plans. The Colorado State Department of Health expects state water quality standards to be attained throughout the state; the Department of Health typically coordinates enforcement of and compliance with these standards with the lead agency of proposed projects, which would be the USFS in this case (Scherschligt 1994). In addition, the Colorado State Department of Health, Air Pollution Control Division, has prepared a revised Colorado State Implementation Plan for PM₁₀ for the Telluride area (CDH 1993b). Standards identified in the State Implementation Plan are expected to be attained.

The CDOW is currently preparing Data Analysis Units (DAUs) for Game Management Units (GMUs) 70 and 71 in the Telluride area. The DAU is a management statement that sets goals for the desired population size of each big game species (i.e., elk, mule deer, bighorn sheep, mountain goat) within a GMU. The DAUs for GMUs 70 and 71 will probably be completed sometime in 1995 (Clark 1994).

Management of highway traffic in the Telluride area has come under the jurisdiction of a state plan, namely the SH 145/SH 145 Spur Traffic Analysis. This plan was published as a draft in February 1990 by the Colorado Department of Highways, and includes preliminary information only. However, the SH 145 Spur was recently acquired by the town of Telluride. The state was planning construction of a combination bicycle/pedestrian path to parallel SH 145B (Spur) (Watson 1994), which is being pursued also by the town of Telluride.

The Soil Conservation Service, Norwood office, is currently developing a Coordinated Resource Management Plan for 140,000 acres of land in Dry Creek Basin to attempt to reduce the amount of sedimentation and salinity entering the San Miguel River (Stint 1994). The boundaries of this plan would encompass an entire watershed located to the south and west of the Telluride area, and would terminate at the confluence of Dry Creek and the San Miguel River. Although the Telluride expansion project is located outside the watershed boundaries of the proposed Management Plan, any significant increase in sedimentation or salinity of the San Miguel River caused by the Telluride project could influence the development or implementation of the Management Plan (Stint 1994).

No Colorado State Department of Natural Resources Land Board Area Plan exists for the Telluride area (Brejcha 1994); appropriate San Miguel County land use plans would apply to the Telluride area.

MUNICIPAL AND COUNTY PLANS

The San Miguel County Comprehensive Development Plan, as amended through June 12, 1991, has the ultimate objective of creating a general guideline to be used in making decisions about the physical development of the community, and is the official statement of the County Planning Commission (Commission) setting forth its major policies concerning desirable future development. The conceptual land use maps provided in the plan show in a general manner where, physically, the community would like to see development occur based on the goals and growth policies and the physical background studies which were completed for the county.

Based on the land use maps, the Commission divided the county into planning areas where common values and problems based on economy, topography, and community identity could be handled in greater detail. The Commission identified the Telluride regional area as one which would be affected most by direct impact of growth and physical development. As a result, the Commission addressed this area in greater depth than the rest of the county in the Telluride Regional Area Master Plan, as amended through April 10, 1991. The plan presents a policy statement about community goals, values, and desires over the next 25 to 50 years. The planning area includes the area defined as the Telluride region, county lands east of State Highway 145 south of Society Turn, and those contiguously owned parcels that abut the west side of the state highway right-of-way south of Society Turn.

The overriding concept of the plan is to preserve and enhance the distinctive characteristics of the ski resort which make it a desirable place to live and enable it to successfully compete in the highly competitive ski industry. The beauty and character of the area make it economically viable as a vacation resort, and the plan seeks to preserve and enhance those factors. The plan anticipates that developments will occur primarily in the Telluride region, and that these developments will occur slowly and over a long period of time. It is also anticipated that a number of small, high density nodes or villages (existing P.U.D. Reserves) will be developed within the area, with the town of Telluride remaining the commercial, cultural, governmental, and historic hub of the region. It is expected that, within practical limits, each sub-community will be balanced, providing neighborhood commercial services, recreational and employment opportunities, and a mix of housing types and sizes to meet the needs of both the tourists and permanent residents of the area. The balance of the private land in the area is designated for low density residential uses.

The objectives of the plan with regard to future land use patterns which are relevant to the Proposed Action and its alternatives include the following:

- ◆ Discourage land uses which would cause inadequately mitigated adverse impacts upon the movement of traffic along State Highway 145.
- ◆ Encourage land uses which minimize automobile dependence.
- ◆ Avoid development in environmentally sensitive areas, such as wetlands, wildlife habitats, floodplains, steep slopes, and geologic hazard areas.
- ◆ Ensure compatible land use relationships and the efficient use of land, utilities, public facilities, and services by requiring that future development plans in the regional area be processed according to PUD procedures.
- ◆ Require that development plans for individual parcels reflect plans for the entire parcel or contiguous ownership.

- ◆ Avoid strip commercial development along State Highway 145 and the creation of commercial centers which would compete with the town of Telluride.
- ◆ Protect the integrity of the town of Telluride's National Historic District by minimizing future development along the developed edges of the town. Instead, encourage growth in more appropriate areas of the Regional Area consistent with these goals and objectives. Ensure that future development along the edge of town further defines and enhances the edges of the town.
- ◆ Allow only minimum development outside of the area defined as the Telluride region in the study area for this plan, one residential unit per 35 acres, except in cases where all increases in residential density are deed restricted by the R-1 Housing Deed Restriction.
- ◆ Ensure that the town of Telluride remains the commercial, cultural, governmental, and historic hub of the Telluride region. Avoid zoning of development approvals that would diminish the town's role as the region's shopping hub.

The current ski area and adjacent areas are mapped for open space/recreation/park land use. This designation is applied to key parcels of land in the area which are suitable for active recreational uses and are not environmentally sensitive but are either located within the visually sensitive scenic foreground, located within a view plane, or currently being used for downhill skiing. In addition to skiing, principal uses could include the following and similar uses: parks, pools, golf courses, equestrian centers, grazing, ball fields, and other active open space uses.

Land uses most adjacent to the ski area, as designated by the map, include medium-density residential cluster (MDRC) and low-density residential cluster (LDRC). These residential clusters would allow one dwelling per three to four acres, and one dwelling per six to eight acres, respectively. The MDRC area includes the Telluride Mountain Village and Ski Ranches. The LDRC areas should be managed to preserve the rural characteristics of these areas to the greatest extent possible. The ski area also borders the San Miguel River and its floodplain, which is designated for a wetland/river/open space land use suitable for passive recreational use, but should be preserved free of development and restored, if previously disturbed, to a more natural condition in conjunction with other development on a subject tract to enhance and promote the concept of Telluride being a showplace of natural history.

OTHER PLANS

Other plans and agreements concerning the ski area exist which do not include government agencies and/or municipalities. One such agreement exists between Telluride Ski Ranches Association and Telski on land north and west of and adjacent to the USFS special use permit area. This agreement is referred to as the Protection Agreement and involves a 50-acre parcel to be preserved as an area for hiking, nordic skiing, pedestrian, and equestrian uses. Portions of the agreement affect the ski area expansion. The Protection Agreement states that Telski "shall not construct any downhill ski trails or runs, ski lifts or appurtenances on, under or over the Property without the expressed written consent of the Association." The agreement also states that Telski agrees to maintain the 50-acre property "in its natural forested condition," and that the "property shall not be logged, clearcut or deforested in any manner." The agreement also provides that no further diversion of water shall be permitted on the property. Other specific terms and conditions of the agreement exist which identify the management and use of the parcel of land. These terms and conditions are explained in the agreement.

CHAPTER IV

**ENVIRONMENTAL
CONSEQUENCES OF THE
ALTERNATIVES**

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CHAPTER IV

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES OF THE ALTERNATIVES

Introduction

(Important Readers Guide; Please Read)

This chapter discusses the environmental consequences of elements of alternatives ('menu items' from Table 2.1), and then full scale alternatives considered in detail. As shown in Chapter II, this FEIS presents two levels of analysis. The first level is the analysis of effects of each element, or menu choice, individually. The second level is an analysis of five reasonable combinations of elements representing a range of possible alternatives, plus the No Action Alternative. This approach is designed to allow the decision-maker and the public to consider the effects of each individual element, and then to consider the overall effects of implementing the entire project. **YOU NEED TO KEEP THIS TWO-LEVELS-OF-ANALYSIS PROCESS IN MIND AS YOU READ THIS CHAPTER.** This chapter begins with a discussion of the elements of alternatives and associated options and ends with a discussion of the alternatives considered in detail. For each element grouping of this chapter, the general effects of each group of elements (i.e., general effects of lift pods) are disclosed followed by the disclosure of effects specific to each element (i.e., specific effects of the Prospect Basin Lift pod). Cross-references throughout the elements section are inserted (by page number) to assist the reader. Cumulative effects are discussed following the discussion of direct and indirect impacts to each discipline in the Alternatives Considered in Detail section. Potential mitigation measures and discussion of effectiveness were combined for each discipline and are located at the end of each discipline discussion in the Alternatives Considered in Detail section. Potential mitigation measures for each impact are referenced to the respective mitigation table.

Effects of Elements of Alternatives and Associated Options

LIFT PODS

General Effects of Lift Pods

Vegetation

The vegetation sections below discuss impacts to the vegetation types presented in Chapter III. All impacts to wetland, wetland complex, and riparian vegetation are addressed in the Wetlands sections below (under elements of alternatives where wetlands occur).

General Vegetation

Construction of lift pods can involve establishing lift towers, terminals, ski runs, glades, and other types of ground disturbance such as access roads and utility lines. Direct impacts to vegetation from the development of lift pods include the removal of vegetation, blading, slope recontouring, glading (thinning of up to one-third of the trees), and revegetating specific areas to accommodate building the proposed lifts and trails. In some