



# 2013

## Aspen Highlands Mountain Master Plan Amendment



Gerdin, Victor J.

Aspen Skiing Company

8/16/2013



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

|                                                    |       |
|----------------------------------------------------|-------|
| Table of Contents .....                            | 2     |
| List of Tables .....                               | 3     |
| List of Figures .....                              | 3     |
| List of Appendices .....                           | 3     |
| <br>INTRODUCTION .....                             | <br>5 |
| Aspen Skiing Company Guiding Principles .....      | 7     |
| Goals and Objectives .....                         | 7     |
| Planned Elements .....                             | 9     |
| BACKGROUND .....                                   | 13    |
| USFS Approvals .....                               | 15    |
| County Land Use Approvals .....                    | 20    |
| EXISTING CONDITIONS .....                          | 23    |
| Lifts and Lift Capacity.....                       | 23    |
| Terrain and Terrain Capacity.....                  | 26    |
| Ski Area Capacity Analysis .....                   | 29    |
| Snowmaking Facilities .....                        | 31    |
| Restaurants and Buildings .....                    | 33    |
| On-Mountain Utilities .....                        | 35    |
| Existing Winter Program and Uses .....             | 37    |
| Existing Summertime Programs and Uses .....        | 38    |
| PROPOSED CONDITIONS .....                          | 43    |
| Lifts .....                                        | 43    |
| Trails .....                                       | 46    |
| Ski Area Capacity Analysis .....                   | 48    |
| Snowmaking .....                                   | 49    |
| Restaurants .....                                  | 50    |
| On-Mountain Support Buildings and Structures ..... | 50    |
| On-Mountain Utilities .....                        | 51    |

|                                                                     |    |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| Planned Winter Programs and Uses .....                              | 53 |
| Planned Summer Programs and Uses .....                              | 55 |
| LISTING OF PERMITTED USES .....                                     | 57 |
| Activities and Uses Allowed All Year .....                          | 57 |
| Activities and Uses Allowed by Right during the Winter Season ..... | 59 |
| Activities and Uses Allowed by Right during the Summer Season ..... | 60 |
| Activities and Uses Allowed by Special Review.....                  | 61 |

### **List of Tables**

|          |                                                         |    |
|----------|---------------------------------------------------------|----|
| Table 1  | Aspen Highlands Skier Visits.....                       | 14 |
| Table 2  | Project Approval and Implementation Status Matrix ..... | 20 |
| Table 3  | Existing Lift Specifications.....                       | 25 |
| Table 4  | Trail Inventory and Terrain Capacity .....              | 27 |
| Table 5  | Existing Delivery Capacity .....                        | 29 |
| Table 6  | Existing Initial Lift Access Capacity .....             | 30 |
| Table 7  | Existing Ski Area Capacity .....                        | 30 |
| Table 8  | Aspen Highlands Existing Building Inventory .....       | 34 |
| Table 9  | Proposed Lift Specifications .....                      | 44 |
| Table 10 | Planned Terrain Additions .....                         | 46 |

### **List of Figures**

|          |                                            |    |
|----------|--------------------------------------------|----|
| Figure 1 | Existing and Planned Conditions .....      | 40 |
| Figure 2 | Summer Trails and Mountain Utilities ..... | 41 |
| Figure 3 | Forest Health Tree Stand Analysis .....    | 42 |

### **List of Appendixes**

|            |                                                     |
|------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| Appendix 1 | Pitkin County BOCC Resolution 97-199                |
| Appendix 2 | 1997 Aspen Highlands Ski Area EIS and ROD (on disc) |
| Appendix 3 | 1999 AH Natural Resource Management Plan (on disc)  |
| Appendix 4 | 2011 ASC Forest Health EA and DN (on disc)          |

## INTRODUCTION

This 2013 Aspen Highlands Master Plan Amendment (Master Plan) formally amends the 1997 AHSA Master Plan document currently acknowledged as the primary reference document. This Mountain Master Plan Amendment incorporates planning concepts and components from previous planning documents prepared by Aspen Skiing Company (ASC), as well as previous environmental analyses conducted by the U.S. Forest Service (USFS). This Master Plan Amendment evaluates the existing mountain facilities and future upgrades to the existing resort that provide an improved balance of services to meet the needs of the guest at the resort. This Master Plan has been prepared by ASC to comply with USFS requirements.

This Master Plan document focuses on major mountain infrastructure that will allow Aspen Highlands Ski Area operate effectively and efficiently into the future. The goals and objectives of this Master Plan are intended to enhance and improve the guest experience and allow ASC to provide the best possible customer service.

The current 1997 AHSA AF-SKI Master Plan (AHMP), approved by Pitkin County, authorized a list of approved elements and established a listing of Permitted Uses as well as Uses Permitted by Further Review. ASC acknowledges that Pitkin County claims joint jurisdiction with the USFS over permitted uses on Aspen Highlands and that acceptance of this Master Plan Amendment by the USFS also DOES NOT imply Land Use Approval by Pitkin County and/or the City of Aspen. A separate Land Use Approval process will be conducted by Pitkin County following a complete Application Submission by ASC.

The 1997 AHMP, in conjunction with the 1997 Aspen Highlands Ski Area Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Record of Decision (ROD), has been effectively utilized by the USFS as the “accepted” Master Plan document to date. USFS “acceptance” of this Master Plan does not imply authorization to proceed with any of the projects in this document. All projects in this Master Plan, apart from routine operation and maintenance, may require additional USFS site-specific and/or environmental review prior to implementation. Furthermore, implementation

is dependent upon approval of plans and actions contained in the annual summer operations/construction plans.

This Master Plan Amendment continually references previous NEPA documents, especially the 1997 AHSA EIS and ROD, as well as the Pitkin County approved 1997 Aspen Highlands Master Plan. These references will particularly acknowledge previous planning and approval documents that include:

- Previously approved components that *have* been implemented,
- Previously approved components that *have not* yet been implemented,
- Newly proposed planning components that have not been reviewed



## **Aspen Skiing Company Guiding Principles**

Aspen Skiing Company considers its Guiding Principles document as a primary resource to its planning efforts. ASC's Guiding Principles embodies our core purpose, values and strategies while providing direction to the Master Plan's stated goals and objectives. The Guiding Principles also articulates ASC's direction as a company and community partner. A summary of those Guiding Principles is as follows:

*We renew the spirit by sustaining the "Aspen Idea," a complete life nurturing mind, body and spirit. We value:*

### ***Humanity***

*We treat people the way they'd like to be treated, modeling authenticity, transparency, courtesy, respect and humility.*

### ***Excellence***

*in business, quality, craftsmanship, guest service and athletic achievement.*

### ***Sustainability***

*of people, profits, the environment and the community so that we are in business forever.*

### ***Passion***

*We live our core values and embrace life-long learning and meaningful work.*

## **Goals and Objectives**

This Aspen Highlands Ski Area Master Plan Amendment outlines improvements in both facilities and programs that will improve the experience for mountain visitors. The plan provides state-of-the-art technology intended to improve the mountain experience without overcrowding terrain or compromising the unique character of the mountain.

These commitments will enhance the values of the Aspen Community, the business objectives of ASC, and the environmental recreational management policies of the White River National Forest (WRNF). This plan is based on the belief that guests are attracted to Aspen because it is a

special place which has focused on the preservation of the natural and cultural heritage of the area. Visitors and residents both benefit from a mountain experience that brings them closer to nature.

In numerical terms, this translates to maintaining trail density standards of 5 skiers per acre on expert terrain, 8 skiers per acre on intermediate slopes and no more than 12 on beginner terrain. Lift specifications will ensure that the average skier can ski more than 20,000 vertical feet per 6-hour day, even with consideration for a long lunch.

The selection of mountain improvements was guided by several goals:

- Preserve the existing character of the valley.
- Satisfy our guests' expectations.
- Provide outstanding outdoor recreational experiences.
- Offer a competitive mix of skiing/snowboarding experiences and products.
- Provide a venue for world class events and create national/international exposure for Aspen thereby sustaining its role as a premier destination ensuring Aspen's economic sustainability.
- Maintain sound environmentally sustainable policies and practices.
- Uphold the many public policy decisions, including the Entrance to Aspen FEIS, the Colorado Department of Transportation's Record of Decision, the Aspen Area Community Plan, and the White River National Forest Land & Resource Management Plan.
- Create a high-quality working environment for a staff that, in turn, will be passionate about providing consistent outstanding service.
- Ensuring employment opportunities for many permanent residents who are living and raising families here.

The objectives of these improvements are to:

- Continuously upgrade on-mountain facilities and lifts to be consistent with industry trends by offering a competitive product to guests.
- Ensure consistent early and late season snow conditions via snowmaking capabilities.
- Provide additional snowmaking efficiencies available through on-mountain water storage.

- Improve training opportunities for Aspen Valley Ski and Snowboard Club (AVSC) athletes.
- Enhance the existing experience by providing improved access to terrain currently not available by adding graded traverses and additional glading.

### **Master Plan Proposed/Planned Elements**

The following items are newly proposed as part of the 2013 AHMP, and appear in the Planned/Proposed Conditions section of this Master Plan:

- **Goldenhorn Platter Lift** – The Goldenhorn Surface Lift is proposed to be installed on the skier’s right side of Goldenhorn Trail from the top of the Five Trees Lift to the top of Goldenhorn trail. The lift will be a detachable platter lift that is 2,810 feet long with a 670 foot vertical rise. Aspen Skiing Company wishes to reinstall a longer Goldenhorn Surface Lift primarily to provide an Alpine Training Venue for the Aspen Valley Ski and Snowboard Club.
- **AVSC Jump Venue Handle Tow and Training Ramp** – A Handle-Tow Type Surface Lift is proposed for the area adjacent to the Freestyle Jump on the east side of lower Thunderbowl. The lift will be 450 feet long with a 180 foot vertical rise. A handle-tow lift does not use line towers, only small top and bottom terminals. The lift will provide repeat use of the AVSC Freestyle Jump and Airbag Training venue. This facility is on private land.
- **Snowmaking Storage Pond and Booster Station** – A small snowmaking storage pond (less than 6.5 acre-feet) is planned for the area between Nugget and Prospector Gulch trails at approximately the 9,380 elevation. The pond will provide a water source for the snowmaking booster pump station (no more than 3,000 square feet). This combination of water storage and pump station will provide snowmaking capabilities on the upper trails as necessary between this location and Mid-Way. The pond will be lined and the water supply provided by the lower mountain snowmaking system which is derived from the City of Aspen raw water supply via water rights specifically identified for snowmaking purposes.

- **Loge Peak Warming Hut** – The construction of a Loge Peak warming hut, which would also be used as a United States Forest Service interpretive center, has not yet been implemented. The existing PHQ currently functions as a warming hut and offers a public restroom. However, the PHQ public restroom availability is quite limited and does not meet the current needs for a summit public restroom. The Warming Hut facility will provide additional public restrooms and other guest service amenities.
- **Cloud 9 Remodel and/or Replacement** – Upgrades to the Cloud 9 Restaurant will include kitchen and dining room remodeling as well as exterior enhancements. If warranted, these upgrades may be accomplished more effectively with a complete building replacement.



- **Hyde Park Traverse** – This traverse will be graded to provide an 8-foot wide surface to greatly increase the access to the Hyde Park area, and trails in between, from the current Bowl Cat loading area. A ski traverse currently exists in this area but is very difficult during early season and low-snow periods.



- **Create Loge Bowl terrain options** – Loge Bowl is part of the Aspen Highlands SUP, however it is not currently part of the Operational Boundary. Loge Bowl offers yet another exciting pod of extreme terrain that will require a planned program of snow control, snow compaction, with various access points. Operational planning and testing programs may begin as soon as the 2013-14 season.
- **Miscellaneous Glading Projects** – Approximately 200 acres of additional intermediate and expert gladed terrain is planned to provide additional gladed skiing/snowboarding opportunities that are becoming more and more popular with ASC's guests. This follows a nationwide trend that has come about with the introduction of wider/rockered skis allowing users to negotiate gladed runs more easily while making the experience

enjoyable and fun. More and more guests have said they prefer gladed terrain over fully cleared runs and therefore ASC continues to search for areas to create these opportunities.

- **Communication Infrastructure Upgrades and Additions** – ASC has recently initiated a series of Information Technology (IT) infrastructure upgrades on its mountain. This has primarily been in the form of fiber optic cable installation on lift towers and underground to facilitate improved “connectivity” at various on-mountain locations. Future plans include additional cabling, various small equipment structures and antenna towers as necessary.

## BACKGROUND

Most of the AHSA is located on land in the White River National Forest. The Special Permit Boundary, amended from the original SUP by the 1997 Aspen Highlands Ski Area EIS and Decision Notice, contains approximately 1,560 of USFS land. Approximately 110 additional acres of the ski area is located on Private Lands at the base of the mountain. The entire ski area is zoned AF-SKI with the exception of several acres of land at the bottom which will be rezoned from AR-1 and AFR-10 to AF-SKI as part of this Master Plan.

The Aspen Highlands Ski Area was founded and the land developed in 1958 by Aspen legend Whip Jones. In 1993 developer Gerald Hines acquired the area who eventually partnered with ASC making Aspen Highlands Ski area part of Aspen Skiing Company. When the area opened in 1958 it had three lifts and eventually grew to over 50 trails. Table 1. provides a history of Aspen Highlands skier visits since 1985. In the past 27 years, annual skier visits have varied from a low of 106,197 in 1993-94 to a high of 211,635 in 2006-07. The 2006-07 season was the most recent occurrence of abundant snowfall for the season and likely indicates that the exceptional skier visit numbers resulted from better than average use by local season pass holders on the “local’s mountain”. Generally speaking however, the annual number of skier visits is affected by the number of days in the ski season which has varied from 105 days in 1999-00 to 142 days in 1986-87. During the past 3 seasons, Aspen Highlands has reopened for “Bonus Weekends” after the closing of Aspen Mountain and Snowmass as snow conditions allow.



**Table 1:**  
**Aspen Highland Skier Visits**

| Year    | Operating<br>Days | Skier<br>Visits |
|---------|-------------------|-----------------|
| 1985/86 | 121               | 144,016         |
| 1986/87 | 142               | 148,050         |
| 1987/88 | 127               | 132,822         |
| 1989/90 | 138               | 142,968         |
| 1990/91 | 137               | 140,128         |
| 1991/92 | 129               | 142,379         |
| 1992/93 | 130               | 145,364         |
| 1993/94 | 111               | 106,197         |
| 1994/95 | 114               | 159,288         |
| 1995/96 | 130               | 153,764         |
| 1996/97 | 125               | 157,053         |
| 1997/98 | 122               | 149,963         |
| 1998/99 | 115               | 142,090         |
| 1999/00 | 105               | 127,389         |
| 2000/01 | 107               | 140,640         |
| 2001/02 | 115               | 136,136         |
| 2002/03 | 114               | 157,318         |
| 2003/04 | 114               | 160,836         |
| 2004/05 | 114               | 167,390         |
| 2005/06 | 114               | 193,243         |
| 2006/07 | 121               | 193,496         |
| 2007/08 | 121               | 211,635         |
| 2008/09 | 114               | 199,430         |
| 2009/10 | 114               | 170,091         |
| 2010/11 | 135               | 194,763         |
| 2011/12 | 128               | 156,093         |
| 2012/13 | 132               | 181,760         |

Source: Aspen Skiing Company, August 2013

### **USFS Approvals**

Following is a chronological list of approvals and documents pertinent to Aspen Highlands Ski Area development:

**1980 Aspen Highlands Environmental Assessment** – This EA approved the 1980 Aspen Highlands Ski Corporation Master Plan and was the most comprehensive USFS review of the ski area to that date. On March 28, 1980 the USFS issued a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) and Decision Notice (DN) for the Ski Area Master Plan. The Master Plan established a daily mountain capacity of 4,500 Skiers-At-One-Time (SAOT).

**May 1994, Aspen Highlands Ski Area Improvements EA, FONSI and DN** – The USFS issued a "Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impact for Aspen Highlands Ski Area Improvements" (see Appendix 2 for a copy of this document), that approved:

1. installation of the Exhibition I and Loge Peak replacement lifts;
2. removal of existing Exhibition I, Nugget and Loge Peak lifts;
3. installation of gas, water, sewer, electric and telephone underground utility corridor to the Merry-Go-Round Restaurant;
4. installation of a water, telephone, and electric corridor to Loge Peak;
5. glading between the following ski trails: St. Moritz and Boomerang, Golden Horn and Park Avenue, Apple Strudel and Moment-of-Truth, T -Lazy-7 Catwalk and Exhibition;
6. widening the T -Lazy-7 Catwalk from Prospector Gulch to the top of the old Nugget chairlift top terminal;
7. consolidating, relocating and upgrading the maintenance facilities and fuel farm presently located at the base and Merry-Go-Round area into one facility located northeast of the Merry-Go-Round Restaurant.
8. installation of the Exhibition II and Cloud Nine Express Replacement lifts; and removal of the Cloud Nine, Olympic and Grand Prix lifts.



**April 1997, Aspen Highlands Ski Area EIS and ROD** – The USFS released the AHSA Environmental Impact Statement and Decision Notice. The EIS and DN reviewed and analyzed impacts proposed in the 1997 AHSA AF-SKI Master Plan. While the 1997 DN authorized a number of proposed improvements, it also reduced to 3,500 the SAOT (from

the previously permitted 4,500 SAOT) based on the constraints of the proposed “initial access” capacity. The 1997 EIS and DN authorized the following elements:

1. *Thunderbowl Replacement Lift* - Replacement of the existing Goldenhorn surface lift and Thunderbowl lift with a fixed grip triple chairlift.
2. *Cloud Nine Replacement Lift* - Replacement of the existing Cloud Nine and Olympic lifts with a moderate capacity detachable quad chairlift.
3. *Deep Temerity Lift* - Installation of the Deep Temerity lift, a moderate capacity fixed-grip triple chairlift that serves advanced and expert skiing in upper/lower Steeplechase terrain, Upper and Lower Temerity terrain and provides a return from Highland Bowl.
4. *Highland Bowl* - The Highland Bowl was systematically studied and evaluated in segments by The Aspen Highlands Ski Patrol Highland Bowl Study Team. The Study Team actively collected data, conducted research and performed avalanche control programs in the Bowl during the period. As of this date all major portions of the Bowl are open for skiing. Certain areas of the far reaches of Highland Bowl still remain under study and evaluation for future expansion opportunities.
5. *Grand Reverse Catwalk* - A Grand Reverse Catwalk was constructed to provide skier access from the bottom of Boomerang, Boomerang Woods, Deep Steeplechase, Lower Temerity and mid-mountain to the bottom terminal of the Deep Temerity lift.
6. *Merry-Go-Round Restaurant (MGR) Renovation* - The existing MGR restaurant was renovated to improve aesthetics, circulation and energy efficiency offering an improved menu and a variety of dining options.
7. *Loge Peak Utility Corridor* – All major mountain utilities were upgraded and installed in a common underground corridor.
8. *Patrol Headquarters* – The Patrol Headquarters (PHQ) was relocated from Cloud Nine to Loge Peak to provide improved patrol access to all parts of AH.
9. *Snowmaking Expansion* – Portions of the snowmaking system were upgraded and expanded to improve early and late season skier egress. Snowmaking to the MGR at mid-mountain is authorized but not yet implemented. Snowmaking to the top of Golden Horn was installed in 2013 and will be operational for the 2013-14 season.

10. *Base Area Redevelopment* - The Aspen Highlands Village Planned Unit Development including ticket purchase areas, ski school meeting places, shopping, restaurants, tourist accommodations, residences and mass transit stops has been completed.
11. *New Bomb Make-up Building* - A new bomb make-up building at Loge Peak was constructed to replace existing building to be removed.
12. *Removal of Old Mountain Road* – A portion of the original mountain access road (roughly between quarter-way and mid-way up Red Onion trail) has been reclaimed since the new road along Cakewalk and the T Lazy Seven Catwalk has been established as the primary mountain access.
13. *Exhibition II Lift Renovation or Replacement* – The old Exhibition II fixed-grip double chairlift was removed in 2004. A replacement lift remains possibly planned (on a similar alignment as the previously existing lift) to provide access redundancy (should the Exhibition Quad ever become inoperative) and/or to provide repeat access to the Exhibition II POD as a teaching and slow skiing area.
14. *Loge Bowl Catwalk* – This extension of the existing Olympic Bowl Catwalk will provide skier egress from Loge Bowl.
15. *Loge Peak Warming Hut* – The construction of a Loge Peak warming hut, which would also be used as a United States Forest Service interpretive center, has not yet been implemented. The existing PHQ currently functions as a warming hut, however the public restroom availability is limited and is likely to be included in the Warming Hut facility.

**1999 Natural Resource Management Plan** – Aspen Skiing Company contracted Western Bionomics, LLC to prepare a Natural Resource Management Plan. This plan was required by the USFS and provided valuable baseline data for the vegetation, soils and biology of Buttermilk. The NRMP has been a useful tool that prescribed best management practices for the mountain management personnel.

**2002 WRNF Land and Resource Management Plan Revision** – The USFS and the White River National Forest (WRNF) completed the WRNF Land and Resource Management Plan - 2002 Revision (2002 Forest Plan). Each of the above previously

approved projects may require additional Forest Service review (e.g., Forest Plan consistency analysis, Supplemental Information Report as well as new analyses and decisions) due to the approval timing of these documents preceding the current 2002 Forest Plan. The previously-approved projects are included in the “Proposed Upgrades” section to ensure that they remain consistent with any changed standards and guidelines conditions, either politically, regulatory or environmentally in nature.

**2004 Temerity Project Supplemental Information Report (SIR)** – While the basic elements of the Temerity Projects were authorized in the 1997 EIS, the 2004 SIR specifically analyzed the Grand Reverse, Highland Bowl Traverse, Temerity Lift installation and the identified Temerity Glading projects for changed condition and consistency with the newly adopted 2002 WRNF Forest Plan Revision.

**2011 ASC Forest Health Project Environmental Assessment** – The 2011 Forest Health EA authorized vegetation treatments at Aspen Highlands for the purpose of maintaining and improving forest health conditions in timber stands located on the mountain. Because forest health conditions have deteriorated due to a combination of problems such as mountain pine and spruce beetle infestations, sudden aspen decline, mistletoe, and past drought, the intervention authorized by this EA will improve stand resilience and overall forest health.

Treatment units have been identified and a menu of treatment options developed to respond to varying levels of forest health needs or insect infestation with the overall objectives to remove hazard trees, maintain a diversity of tree species and age classes, and retain forest cover sufficient to maintain a positive guest experience at the resorts. Treatments are proposed on approximately 845 acres at Aspen Highlands.

TABLE 2. is a matrix that provides easy reference to various project approval/implementation status and their associated approval documents.

**Table 2**  
**Project Approval and Implementation Status**

| Project                                        | Date Approved            | Implemented          | Approval Reference                |
|------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Exhibition and Loge Lift Installation          | May 1994                 | Yes - 1994           | 1994 EA, DN/FONSI                 |
| Utility Corridor                               | May 1994                 | Yes - 1997           | 1994 EA, DN/FONSI<br>1997 EIS/DN  |
| Various Terrain Glading                        | May 1994                 | Yes – 1995 thru 2002 | 1994 EA, DN/FONSI                 |
| T Lazy 7 Catwalk Widening                      | May 1994                 | Yes - 1995           | 1994 EA, DN/FONSI                 |
| On-Mountain Vehicle Maintenance Facility (VMF) | May 1994                 | Yes - 1995           | 1994 EA, DN/FONSI                 |
| Exhibition II Lift Replacement                 | May 1994                 | No                   | 1994 EA, DN/FONSI<br>1997 EIS/ROD |
| Cloud 9 Lift Replacement                       | May 1994                 | Yes - 1999           | 1994 EA, DN/FONSI<br>1997 EIS/ROD |
| Thunderbowl Lift Replacement                   | April 1997               | Yes - 1998           | 1997 EIS/ROD                      |
| Deep Temerity Lift Installation                | April 1997<br>March 2005 | Yes -2005            | 1997 EIS/ROD<br>2004 SIR          |
| Deep Temerity Glading                          | April 1997<br>March 2005 | Ongoing              | 1997 EIS/ROD<br>2004 SIR          |
| Merry-Go-Round Restaurant Remodel              | April 1997               | Yes – 2011           | 1997 EIS/ROD<br>2010 BEIG Review  |
| Patrol Headquarters Construction               | April 1997               | Yes – 2003           | 1997 EIS/ROD                      |
| Snowmaking Expansion                           | April 1997               | Partially            | 1997 EIS/ROD                      |
| Loge Bowl Catwalk                              | April 1997               | No                   | 1997 EIS/ROD                      |
| Loge Bowl Warming Hut                          | April 1997               | No                   | 1997 EIS/ROD                      |

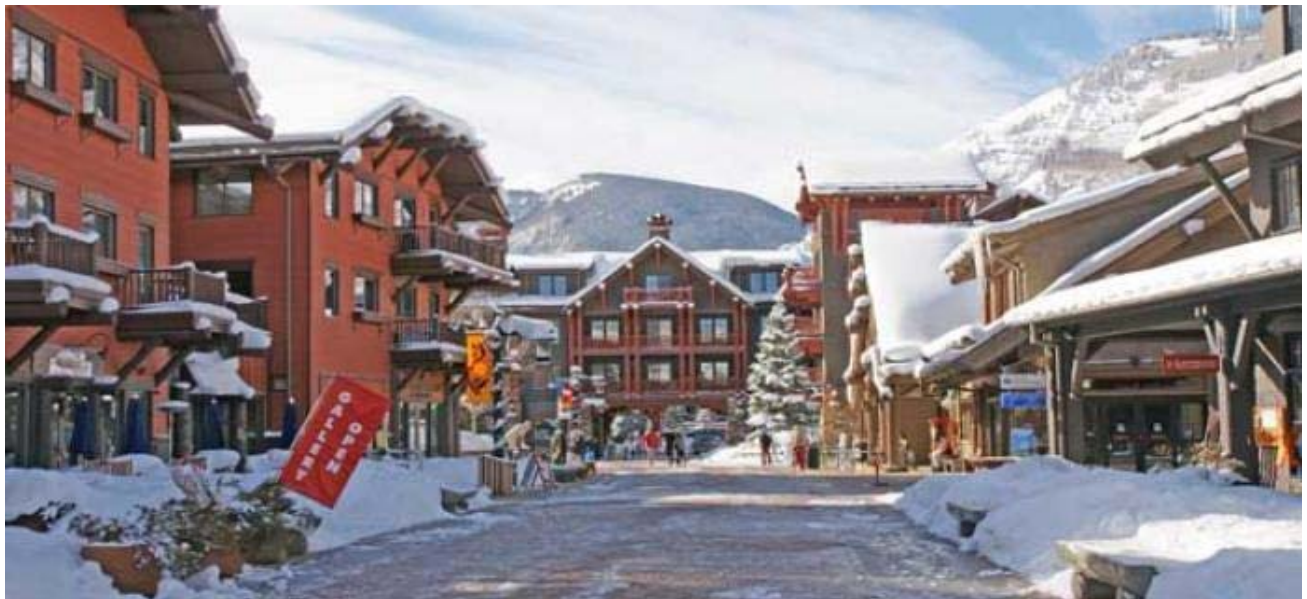
### County Land Use Approvals

On July 13, 1993 the Board of County Commissioners approved Resolution 93-115 granting special review approval for the Exhibition II and Cloud Nine Express replacement lifts.

In June of 1994, the Board of County Commissioners approved Resolution 94-87 "Granting Special Review Approval to the Aspen Skiing Company for the Replacement of the Exhibition I and Loge Peak Ski Lifts and Associated Ski Area Improvements at the Aspen Highlands Ski Area" (see Appendix 1 for a copy of Resolution No. 94-87). The activities approved in Resolution No. 94-87 were requested by Aspen Skiing Company as part of the Aspen Highlands Ski Area AF-SKI Master Plan submitted to the County in January of 1994.

In October of 1997 the Pitkin County BOCC approved the 1997 Aspen Highlands Master Plan that included the uses and activities:

1. Underground Utility Corridors to Loge Peak and Cloud Nine;
2. Replacement or renovation of the Merry-Go-Round Restaurant;
3. Expansion and relocation of Patrol Headquarters from Cloud Nine to Loge Peak;
4. Limited Expansion of snowmaking to cover an additional 138 acres (the 1997 EIS reduced this approve area to an additional 48 acres, rendering a total capacity on public and private lands to 124 acres);
5. Extension of Steeplechase terrain down the Mountain (Deep Temerity) and installation of the DT Lift;
6. Expansion of skiing into Loge Bowl;
7. Renovation or removal and replacement of the Exhibition II lift;
8. Replacement of the Cloud Nine and Olympic Lifts with one new lift system; and
9. Replacement of the Thunderbowl and Goldenhorn lifts with one new lift system.





## EXISTING CONDITIONS

This section of the Plan describes the existing conditions at Aspen Highlands in the following sections:

- Lifts and Lift Capacity
- Trails and Terrain Capacity
- Capacity Analysis (Delivery, Initial Access and SAOT)
- Snowmaking Facilities
- Restaurants and Buildings
- Mountain Utilities
- Zoning
- Transportation

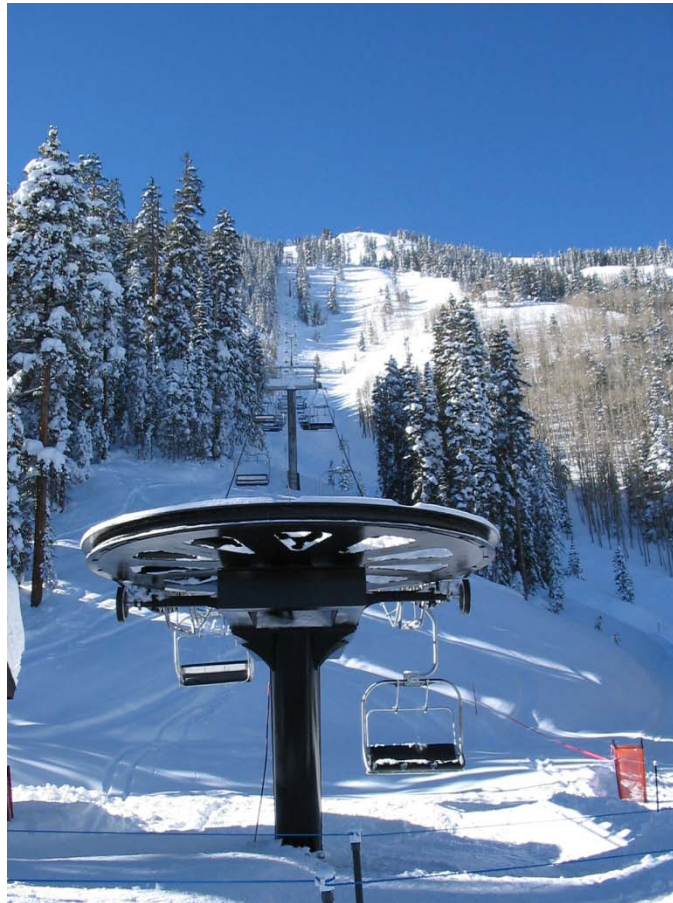
Figure 2, “*Aspen Highlands Current and Planned Conditions*” shows existing lifts, trails, existing and future (approved) snowmaking, USFS Special Use Permit (SUP) boundary, and existing “Operational” boundary.

### Lifts and Lift Capacity

The existing Aspen Highlands lift system consists of 3 detachable (high speed) quad chairlifts, 2 fixed-grip triple chairlifts and one fixed-grip double chairlift. It is interesting to note that prior to 1994, Aspen Highlands was served by as many as 12 lifts. Following extensive lift/terrain upgrades starting in 1994, lasting more than 10 years, the current 6 lift system can transport can 15% more people, more efficiently to nearly 40% more terrain, than was possible/available prior to 1994.

The capacity analysis for the Aspen ski areas has traditionally been most affected by the "out of base" capacity of the lift systems. Because skiers typically access skiing in a three-hour time period, generally from 9 until 12 a.m., it has been the practice to calculate the hourly capacity of the base area access lifts and assess the hourly capability of these lifts for the three-hour access period. In general, upper mountain lifts have not been thought to critically impact access capacity

given that a condition exists on all four mountains where the upper mountain capacity far exceeds the out-of-base access capacity. In other words, the base area lift limitations serve to establish the capacity of the mountain for planning purposes.



Individual lift capacity is also designed to appropriately service associated terrain without exceeding terrain design standards. For example, the new Loge Peak and Cloud 9 lifts are operated at 1,200 persons per hour (PPH), rather than the maximum 2,400 PPH typically available for a detachable quad, so that the trail capacity of each POD is not exceeded by lift capacity. Other determinants can drive the capacity for individual areas; either terrain or upper mountain lift limitations can serve to define an area capacity. The ski industry has long held to a trail density standard of 5 skiers per acre on advanced and expert terrain, 10 on intermediate, and 15 for beginners.

However, ASC consistently uses a lesser design capacity to ensure a more pleasurable guest experience consistent with its Goals and Objectives. Therefore, the design terrain density for Aspen Highlands is:

|                      |                |
|----------------------|----------------|
| Beginner terrain     | 12 skiers/acre |
| Intermediate terrain | 8 skiers/acre  |
| Advanced terrain     | 5 skiers/acre  |
| Off-piste terrain    | 2 skiers/acre  |

The capacity analysis for the AHSA Master Plan has looked at four independent measures of capacity for the mountain: 1) access, 2) terrain, 3) vertical transport feet of demand and 4) the repeat ski potential for the upper mountain lift systems. The ultimate purpose for this capacity determination has been to establish the appropriate program for supporting services. These include food service, water and sanitation, transport services and area staffing. The results for each of these tests are outlined in this section. As indicated above, the initial access capacity will govern the capacity of the ski area for planning purposes.

Table 3. outlines the general characteristics of the existing lift systems.

**TABLE 3.**  
**ASPEN HIGHLANDS SKI AREA: EXISTING LIFT SPECIFICATIONS**

| Name                          | Type | Installed | Length(ft) | Rise(ft) | Capacity (ppl/hr) | Ride Time(min) |
|-------------------------------|------|-----------|------------|----------|-------------------|----------------|
| <b>Exhibition</b>             | D4C  | 1994      | 8,730      | 1,925    | 1,800             | 8.8            |
| <b>Thunderbowl</b>            | F3C  | 1998      | 4,195      | 1,450    | 1,200             | 8.6            |
| <b>Loge</b>                   | D4C  | 1994      | 6,610      | 1,620    | 1,200             | 6.7            |
| <b>Cloud Nine</b>             | D4C  | 1999      | 4,743      | 1,115    | 1,200             | 4.8            |
| <b>Deep Temerity</b>          | F3C  | 2005      | 3,670      | 1,690    | 1,085             | 7.6            |
| <b>Five Trees<sup>1</sup></b> | F2C  | 2000      | 4,170      | 745      | 600               | 8.9            |

<sup>1</sup> Five Trees lift is a private lift for homeowners and AVSC athletes.

Source: Aspen Skiing Company; August 2013

## Existing Terrain and Terrain Capacity

Aspen Highlands currently provides 1,028 acres of the most unique blend of skiing/snowboarding terrain available anywhere. The mountain's slopes vary from the perfectly groomed low-intermediate terrain at mid-mountain, to the super challenging/long mogul runs of Steeplechase, to the invigorating high speed cruising slopes of Goldenhorn, and lastly the spectacular 45 degree pitches and glades of Highland Bowl. Approximately 52 percent (535 acres) of the total terrain is advanced and expert terrain and approximately 48 percent (493 acres) is beginner and intermediate terrain. Due to the unique characteristics of the skiing terrain, AHSA continues to provide unique skiing PODS designed for skiers and snowboarders with different skiing/riding abilities. Table 4, lists the current AHSA trails and trail capacity.



**Table 4.**  
**Trail Inventory and Terrain Capacity**

| Trail Name           | # of<br><u>Acres</u> | Skiers/<br>Acre | Trail<br>Capacity | Trail Name            | # of<br><u>Acres</u> | Skiers/<br>Acre | Trail<br>Capacity |
|----------------------|----------------------|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| <b>Highland Bowl</b> |                      |                 |                   | <b>Upper Mountain</b> |                      |                 |                   |
| Runout               | 62.4                 | 2               | 124.8             | Turk's Delight        | 1.0                  | 8               | 8                 |
| Northwoods           | 27.0                 | 2               | 54                | Hayden                | 2.1                  | 8               | 16.8              |
| G-0                  | 15.5                 | 2               | 31                | Meadows               | 10.6                 | 8               | 84.8              |
| G-1                  | 11.0                 | 2               | 22                | Upper Meadows         | 9.5                  | 8               | 76                |
| G-2                  | 7.5                  | 2               | 15                | Kandahar              | 10.0                 | 8               | 80                |
| G-3                  | 6.5                  | 2               | 13                | Boomerang             | 2.9                  | 5               | 14.5              |
| G-4                  | 12.5                 | 2               | 25                | Alps                  | 3.0                  | 8               | 24                |
| G-5                  | 5.0                  | 2               | 10                | I-70                  | 2.0                  | 5               | 10                |
| G-6                  | 9.0                  | 2               | 18                | Le Chamonix           | 1.0                  | 5               | 5                 |
| G-8                  | 25.0                 | 2               | 50                | The Wall              | 5.3                  | 5               | 26.5              |
| Full Curl            | 4.5                  | 2               | 9                 | Wine Ridge            | 10.4                 | 8               | 83.2              |
| Ozone                | 9.0                  | 2               | 18                | Easy Street           | 0.4                  | 8               | 3.2               |
| Be-one               | 5.0                  | 2               | 10                | Sashay                | 3.5                  | 8               | 28                |
| White Kitchen        | 5.0                  | 2               | 10                | Heatherbedlam         | 4.4                  | 8               | 35.2              |
| Steep & Deep         | 5.5                  | 2               | 11                | Scarlett's            | 22.1                 | 8               | 176.8             |
| B-fore               | 7.0                  | 2               | 14                | Gunbarrel             | 8.4                  | 8               | 67.2              |
| Grahamster's         | 5.5                  | 2               | 11                | Deane's               | 5.2                  | 5               | 26                |
| Boxcar               | 4.0                  | 2               | 8                 | Jug's Hill            | 4.8                  | 5               | 24                |
| Mosh Pit             | 2.5                  | 2               | 5                 | El's Woods            | 2.5                  | 5               | 12.5              |
| Ballroom             | 5.5                  | 2               | 11                | Grand Prix            | 15.1                 | 8               | 120.8             |
| Filip's Leap         | 5.0                  | 2               | 10                | Pyramid Park          | 8.7                  | 8               | 69.6              |
| Whip's Veneration    | 5.0                  | 2               | 10                | Upper Robinson's      | 3.3                  | 8               | 26.4              |
| Y-12                 | 12.0                 | 2               | 24                | <b>TOTAL</b>          | <b>136.2</b>         |                 | <b>1018.5</b>     |
| Hot Y's (Y-1 to Y-8) | 13.0                 | 2               | 26                |                       |                      |                 |                   |
| <b>TOTAL</b>         | <b>269.9</b>         |                 | <b>539.8</b>      | <b>Mid Mountain</b>   |                      |                 |                   |
| <b>Temerity</b>      |                      |                 |                   | Memory Lane           | 6.4                  | 8               | 51.2              |
| A+                   | 7.20                 | 2               | 14.4              | Prospector            | 9.6                  | 12              | 115.2             |
| Thermal              | 7.20                 | 2               | 14.4              | Riverside Drive       | 7.1                  | 8               | 56.8              |
| South Castle         | 12.20                | 2               | 24.4              | Exhibition            | 13.0                 | 12              | 156               |
| Lucky Find           | 15.40                | 2               | 30.8              | Red Onion             | 20.0                 | 12              | 240               |
| Mushroom             | 24.40                | 2               | 48.8              | Apple Strudel         | 11.6                 | 12              | 139.2             |
| Hyde Park            | 16.40                | 2               | 32.8              | Prospector Gulch      | 5.5                  | 8               | 44                |
| Bear Hollow Road     | 0.40                 | 5               | 2                 | Nugget                | 12.5                 | 12              | 150               |
| Canopy Cruiser       | 18.0                 | 2               | 36                | Troyer's              | 1.3                  | 8               | 10.4              |
| <b>TOTAL</b>         | <b>101.20</b>        |                 | <b>203.60</b>     | Moment of Truth       | 16.7                 | 5               | 83.5              |
|                      |                      |                 |                   | Robinson's Run        | 5.3                  | 5               | 26.5              |
|                      |                      |                 |                   | Moment Chutes         | 10.0                 | 2               | 20                |
|                      |                      |                 |                   | Moment Catwalk        | 1.9                  | 5               | 9.5               |
|                      |                      |                 |                   | <b>TOTAL</b>          | <b>120.9</b>         |                 | <b>1102.3</b>     |

| Trail Name            | # of<br><u>Acres</u> | Skiers/<br>Acre | Trail<br>Capacity | Trail Name            | # of<br><u>Acres</u> | Skiers/<br>Acre | Trail<br>Capacity |
|-----------------------|----------------------|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| <b>Steeplechase</b>   |                      |                 |                   | <b>Lower Mountain</b> |                      |                 |                   |
| Broadway              | 7.0                  | 8               | 56                | Park Avenue           | 7.8                  | 12              | 93.6              |
| Mousetrap             | 1.9                  | 5               | 9.5               | Golden Barrel         | 6.9                  | 12              | 82.8              |
| Kessler's             | 30.1                 | 5               | 150.5             | P-Chutes              | 7.0                  | 5               | 35                |
| Snyder's Ridge        | 5.8                  | 5               | 29                | Audacious             | 2.5                  | 5               | 12.5              |
| Soddbuster            | 19.0                 | 5               | 95                | Lower Stein           | 6.5                  | 5               | 32.5              |
| Garmisch              | 14.4                 | 5               | 72                | Finale                | 3.0                  | 5               | 15                |
| St. Moritz            | 24.0                 | 5               | 120               | Upper Jerome          | 5.0                  | 8               | 40                |
| Boomerang Woods       | 24.0                 | 5               | 120               | Jerome                | 8.2                  | 8               | 65.6              |
| Grand Reverse         | 1.5                  | 8               | 12                | Jerome Bowl           | 8.3                  | 8               | 66.4              |
| Greatest Line Ever    | 3.0                  | 5               | 15                | Mac 6                 | 2.5                  | 5               | 12.5              |
| Log Jam Gulley        | 12.0                 | 5               | 60                | Limelite              | 5.1                  | 5               | 25.5              |
| Fran's Love           | 4.0                  | 5               | 20                | <b>TOTAL</b>          | <b>62.8</b>          |                 | <b>481.4</b>      |
| Grand Traverse (OK T) | 2.0                  | 8               | 16                | <b>ThunderBowl</b>    |                      |                 |                   |
| Hot Ridge             | 4.0                  | 5               | 20                | T-Lazy-7              | 6.7                  | 12              | 80.4              |
| <b>TOTAL</b>          | <b>152.7</b>         |                 | <b>795.0</b>      | Sherwood Forest       | 10.0                 | 8               | 80                |
| <b>Olympic Side</b>   |                      |                 |                   | Suzie Q               | 2.6                  | 8               | 20.8              |
| No Name Bowl          | 8.8                  | 5               | 44                | Shred It              | 2.9                  | 5               | 14.5              |
| Deception             | 7.9                  | 5               | 39.5              | Cakewalk              | 2.1                  | 12              | 25.2              |
| Aces & 8's            | 3.2                  | 5               | 16                | Bob's Glades          | 8.8                  | 5               | 44                |
| Aerobie               | 3.0                  | 5               | 15                | Upper Stein           | 3.4                  | 5               | 17                |
| Why                   | 1.2                  | 5               | 6                 | Separator             | 6.0                  | 5               | 30                |
| Why Knot              | 7.8                  | 5               | 39                | Golden Horn Woods     | 3.0                  | 5               | 15                |
| Hot Spot              | 1.1                  | 5               | 5.5               | Mystic                | 8.4                  | 5               | 42                |
| Oly Bowl Catwalk      | 2.7                  | 8               | 21.6              | Golden Horn           | 21.1                 | 8               | 168.8             |
| Face of Oly           | 5.0                  | 8               | 40                | Powder Bowl           | 15.3                 | 8               | 122.4             |
| Lower Olympic         | 6.3                  | 8               | 50.4              | Thunderbowl           | 30.0                 | 8               | 240               |
| <b>TOTAL</b>          | <b>47.0</b>          |                 | <b>277.0</b>      | Lower Golden Horn     | 4.1                  | 8               | 32.8              |
|                       |                      |                 |                   | Epicure               | 2.9                  | 5               | 14.5              |
|                       |                      |                 |                   | Smuggler              | 10.0                 | 8               | 80                |
|                       |                      |                 |                   | <b>TOTAL</b>          | <b>137.3</b>         |                 | <b>1027.4</b>     |

**TOTAL ACREAGE ... 1,028 acres**  
**TOTAL TERRAIN CAPACITY .... 5,445 skiers**

## Ski Area Capacity Analysis

For planning purposes, a ski area's design capacity is analyzed and based on the following indicators:

- Delivery Capacity
- Initial Lift Access Capacity
- Terrain Capacity

Based on the values of these indicators, USFS then establishes a "Skiers-At-One Time" (SAOT capacity) to categorize the overall capacity of the ski area.

### *Existing Delivery Capacity*

Delivery capacity is the capability of the ski area portals to absorb and distribute skiers onto the mountain in a typical three-hour access period based upon the total bed base, plus parking and transit delivery capacity. Skiers and guests arrive at Aspen Highlands in one of the following ways: from lodging adjacent to the base, from the skier shuttle or RFTA commuter service, from private buses, from private automobiles, or from being dropped off by auto, limo or private van.

**Table 5.**  
**Existing Delivery Capacity**

| Access Mode                       | Description                                 | Skiers       |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|--------------|
| <b>Parking</b>                    |                                             |              |
| Parking Structure                 | – 450 spaces @ 3.5 skiers/car               | 1,575        |
| <i>Sub-Total</i>                  |                                             | <i>1,575</i> |
| <b>Transit</b>                    |                                             |              |
| RFTA Buses                        | – 6 buses/hour, 6 x 44 skiers/bus x 3 hours | 792          |
| (Skier Shuttle and Castle/Maroon) |                                             |              |
| AH/BM Shuttle                     |                                             | 276          |
| Drop-offs                         | - 4 buses/hour, 4x23/bus x 3hours           | 325          |
| <i>Sub-Total</i>                  | – private/public vans, limos, autos         | <i>1,393</i> |
| <b>Bed Base</b>                   |                                             |              |
| Aspen Highlands Village           | – 150 units x 4/unit                        | 600          |
| AH Private Residences             | – 15 x 4/residence                          | 60           |
| <i>Sub-Total</i>                  |                                             | <i>660</i>   |
| <b>Total Skiers</b>               |                                             | <b>3,628</b> |

### *Existing Initial Lift Access Capacity (ILAC)*

ILAC is a function of initial lift capacities and their ability to distribute skiers onto the mountain from each portal within a three-hour period. Some lifts are limited in delivering their full capacity due to restricted access such as that of the Five Trees lift. Another factor in initial access is that a certain percentage of users are repeat skiers, completing laps on an initial access lift. The Exhibition and Thunderbowl lifts serve as primary access lifts, and it is assumed that 95 percent of the skiers utilized the capacity of these lifts during the three-hour morning period.

**Table 6.**  
**Existing Initial Lift Access Capacity**

| <b>Lift</b>                      | <b>Access</b>                                                                 | <b>Skiers</b> |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| Exhibition                       | @1,800 skiers/hour or 5,400 skiers/3.0 hours with 60% access and 0.95 L.E.F.* | 3,078         |
| Thunderbowl                      | @1,200 skiers/hour or 3,600 skiers/3.0 hours with 40% access and 0.90 L.E.F.* | 1,368         |
| Five Trees                       | @600 skiers/hour or 1,800 skiers/3.0 hours with 10% access and 0.90 L.E.F.    | 162           |
| <b>Total Initial Lift Access</b> |                                                                               | <b>4,608</b>  |

L.E.F. (Load Efficiency Factor) – It is assumed that lifts will not operate at full capacity due to load inefficiencies (e.g., dropped equipment, skier inexperience, and off-loading).

Table 7 summarizes the above capacity indicators and shows that all capacity indicators remain well within the authorized USFS SAOT of 3,500 skiers per day established in the 1997 Aspen Highlands EIS.

**Table 7.**  
**Existing Ski Area Capacity**

| <b>Capacity Indicator</b>    | <b>Daily Capacity</b> |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Delivery Capacity            | 3,628                 |
| Initial Lift Access Capacity | 4,608                 |
| Terrain Capacity             | 5,445                 |
| SAOT Capacity                | 3,500                 |

## **Existing Snowmaking Facilities**

Snowmaking on Aspen Highlands is critical to provide consistent, high-quality conditions in the early part of the season, and to ensure that adequate snowcover remains through the end of the season, especially on the lower mountain.

Snowmaking operations normally begin in late October and end in late December, unless special needs require snowmaking in other parts of the year (i.e. Special Events, drought conditions, warm periods that reduce coverage, etc.). The existing system was installed in the 1980's and upgraded in 1998 as part the Highlands' Village construction.



## Existing Terrain Coverage

There are currently 66 acres of snowmaking located on nine trails, including Smuggler, Thunderbowl, Jerome, Upper Jerome, Park Avenue and Golden Barrel. The existing snowmaking system is designed to cover this area with an average of 18 inches of machine-made snow. At a production rate of approximately 200,000 gallons/acre-foot of snow, this equates to an average of 20 million gallons (62 acre-feet) of water per season. This number varies from season to season based on natural snow fall amounts, early season temperature and humidity ranges, and specific ski area operational needs such as AVSC Training venues.

## Existing Facilities

The system consists of water pumps, underground piping and wiring, snowmaking hydrants and electric fan (also known as airless) snow guns. Facilities include a primary pump station, located within a bridge abutment in the Five Trees Subdivision, which delivers water supply to the mountain. Water is distributed via underground welded steel pipe to 47 hydrants located on the

trails listed above. The Snowmaking Control Building (a.k.a. Fort Deermont) is approximately 650 square feet, and houses the snowmaking system controls.

#### Raw Water Supply and Water Rights

The raw water supply for snowmaking is “purchased” by ASC from the City of Aspen’s raw water collection system near the Thomas Reservoir. This raw water supply for snowmaking essentially originates from either Maroon Creek and/or Castle Creek, but is “buffered” from instantaneous drawn down by the storage in Thomas Reservoir and therefore does not directly come from either creek.

Regarding snowmaking water rights, in 1993 Hines Interest Limited Partnership and AHMLLC adjudicated a 4.5cfs water right decreed for numerous uses, including snowmaking, via consolidated Case Nos. 93CW322 and 93CW323. These water rights have a 1993 priority and are administered as part of the water rights priority system on Maroon Creek, the Roaring Fork River and the Colorado River. Shortly after acquiring these Water Rights, the rights were conveyed to the City of Aspen. Through a separate Water Delivery Agreement established in 1995 with the City of Aspen, ASC purchases the water from the city and that purchase price includes costs associated with water delivery infrastructure development, reserves and maintenance.

Further explanation verifies that an additional 1cfs water right (referenced in the 1997 EIS) was always owned by the City of Aspen. As part of a long time agreement that existed between the City and the previous owners of Highlands (Jones and then Hines), the City was required to provide, upon request, Aspen Highlands with the 1cfs uninterruptable supply for irrigation and/or snowmaking purposes. That Agreement between the City and Highlands was transferred to ASC as part of the sale of Aspen Highlands, with 0.6cfs specifically identified for snowmaking purposes. That 0.6cfs, combined with the 4.5cfs described above, totals the 5.1cfs available for snowmaking referenced on page 4-15 of the 1997 FEIS. All of the 5.1cfs Aspen Highlands snowmaking water right is owned by the City of Aspen. These water rights are more than sufficient to provide water not only for the current system, but also for the snowmaking needs at system build out – 128 acres requiring 38,000,000 gallons – as authorized and approved by the

1997 EIS. At a continuous flow of 5.1cfs, for the 2-month duration of the snowmaking season, yields more than 614 acre-feet or 200,000,000 gallons.

With regard to Stream health, the City of Aspen is fully aware of, and continuously monitors the instream flow requirements for both Maroon and Castle Creeks and is prepared to interrupt that portion of the 4.5cfs Water Right available for snowmaking, if necessary, during periods of extreme drought.

The current annual average snowmaking water requirement (66 acres @ 300,000 gallons/acre) is 62 acre-feet (20,000,000 gallons). At system build out, as authorized in the 1997 EIS, the total requirement is 117 acre-feet (38,000,000 gallons).

## **Restaurants and Buildings**

Daily operations at Aspen Highlands require a variety of support buildings. There are two main on-mountain restaurants, the Merry-Go-Round that seats 240 and Cloud Nine that seats 120.

Another significant support building is the Vehicle Maintenance Facility (VMF) at Midway that provides maintenance services for the mountain's snowcat, snowmobile and summer maintenance fleet. This facility also includes 80,000 gallons of underground diesel fuel storage and 10,000 gallons of underground gasoline storage.

Lastly, the Patrol Headquarters (PHQ) building provides staging and storage for all required patrol operations. A unique aspect of this building is the 10KW photovoltaic solar panel array that offsets the building's energy requirement. Existing restaurants and support buildings are listed in Table8.



**TABLE 8**  
**ASPEN HIGHLANDS EXISTING BUILDINGS**

| <b><u>Building</u></b>                 | <b><u>Square<br/>Feet</u></b> |
|----------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Merry-Go-Round Restaurant              | 17,623                        |
| Cloud Nine Restaurant                  | 2,468                         |
| Guest Services Center                  | 234                           |
| Patrol Headquarters                    | 1,523                         |
| Patrol storage (mid-way)               |                               |
| Bomb Make-Up Room                      | 54                            |
| Bomb Cache (Pyramid 1)                 | 77                            |
| Bomb Cache (Pyramid 2)                 | 63                            |
| Bomb Cache (Far Woods)                 | 48                            |
| Exhibition Lift:                       |                               |
| Bottom Operator Shelter                | 144                           |
| Top Operator Shelter & Storage         | 216                           |
| Loge Lift:                             |                               |
| Bottom Operator Shelter                | 144                           |
| Top Operator Shelter                   | 144                           |
| Bottom Out House                       | 36                            |
| Cloud Nine Lift:                       |                               |
| Top Operator Shelter                   | 144                           |
| Bottom Operator Shelter                | 144                           |
| Outhouse (bottom)                      | 36                            |
| Thunderbowl Lift:                      |                               |
| Bottom Operator Shelter                | 144                           |
| Top Operator Shelter                   | 144                           |
| Outhouse (top)                         | 36                            |
| Patrol Storage                         | 150                           |
| Deep Temerity Lift:                    |                               |
| Bottom Operator Shelter                | 152                           |
| Top Operator Shelter                   | 120                           |
| Outhouse                               | 42                            |
| Five Trees Lift                        |                               |
| Top Operator Shelter                   | 120                           |
| Outhouse (top)                         | 36                            |
| Snowmaking Control Building            | 620                           |
| Snowmaking Pump Station (Five Trees)   | 520                           |
| Goldenhorn Race Start Building (Tache) | 144                           |
| Mid-Mountain Lift Maintenance Shop     | 2,250                         |
| Mid-Mountain VMF                       | 12,377                        |
| NASTAR Start Shack                     | 55                            |
| NASTAR Finish Shack                    | 29                            |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                           | <b>40,037</b>                 |

## **On-Mountain Utilities**

The existing utilities on Aspen Highlands are typical of any developed area. The required utilities include electricity, telephone, water, sewer, and natural gas. In addition, ski area-specific utilities may include snowmaking lines and on-mountain snowcat fuel storage.

Some of these utility facilities are maintained solely by the respective public utilities. Others are maintained by AH Operations staff. Still others are maintained by a combination of the public utility and the AH staff. Most all of the above utilities exist in a “utility corridor” that originates at the base, originally established by and follows the existing Holy Cross transmission lines. Figure 3 provides an overview of the existing on-mountain utilities which are described below.

### *Electrical Lines*

Holy Cross Energy maintains the primary transmission lines on Aspen Highlands. Most all of these transmission lines are underground. Holy Cross continually upgrades these facilities as needed and complies with county requirements as necessary.

The primary transmission line extends from the base area, and continues up the utility corridor described above. Additional “secondary” lines that are maintained by ASC feed various ski area facilities such as lift terminals, lift shacks, snowmaking hydrants, on-mountain concierge buildings, etc.

### *Telephone Lines*

The telephone lines on Aspen Highlands are primarily owned and maintained by Aspen Skiing Company. The primary telephone trunk line up the mountain exists in the utility corridor described above. Individual telephone “drops” exist to all restaurants, on mountain patrol phones, lift operator buildings, maintenance facilities, snowmaking control building and on-mountain concierge.

### *Domestic Water*

The Merry-Go-Round and the Cloud Nine Restaurants, as well as other on mountain facilities, are provided potable water service by the City of Aspen Water Department. Water is pumped

from the water tank near the bottom of the mountain adjacent to mountain access road through a high pressure waterline within the main utility corridor.

The Patrol Headquarters on Loge Peak has a water storage tank to which potable water is delivered by truck.

#### *Sanitary Sewer*

Wastewater for the Cloud 9 and Merry-Go-Round Restaurants, as well as other on-mountain facilities is piped to the main sewer line, which exists in the corridor referenced above, and treated by the Aspen Consolidated Sanitation District.

The Patrol Headquarters on Loge Peak is served by a composting waster system.

#### *Natural Gas*

KN Energy supplies natural gas to the on-mountain restaurants. The gas line follows the utility corridor described above to the summit.

#### *Snowmaking*

All related underground snowmaking utilities are identified in the snowmaking portion of this document.

#### *Underground Fuel Storage*

Underground fuel storage tanks exist at the Midway VMF. This facility stores a 12-month supply of diesel and gasoline for snowcats, snowmobiles, various heavy equipment and maintenance vehicles. There is a maximum of 80,000 gallons of diesel fuel and 10,000 gallons of gasoline storage available.



## Existing Winter Programs and Uses

Aspen Highlands, as part of ASC's Power of Four brand, offers an extremely popular mix of terrain for alpine skiers and snowboarders. In addition to traditional wintertime activities, Aspen Highlands has also become a very popular venue for an exciting diversity of specialty activities and events that Aspen Skiing Company hopes will remain an integral part of the "locals" mountain.

### *Hiking, Skiing and Snowshoeing*

Uphill access to Aspen Highlands for hikers, cross country skiers, snowboarders and snowshoers is allowed during the winter season under certain guidelines.

### *Ski and Snowboard Competitions*

Ski and snowboard competitions, organized by either ASC or AVSC, including but not limited to:

- Traditional alpine ski and snowboard racing,
- Freestyle ski and snowboard competitions (aerial, mogul, slopestyle, etc.),
- Specialty racing (boarder/skier cross, randonee, etc.),
- Extreme skiing/snowboarding competitions
- Adaptive competitions

Events related to such competitions also include award ceremonies, on-mountain picnics, etc.

### *Ski and Snowboard School*

The Ski and Snowboard Schools of Aspen offer a full range of on-mountain instructional programs in alpine skiing, snowboarding, telemark and adaptive skiing.

### *Educational Programs*

Educational programs focused on skier safety and responsibility for local school children are held during the winter season at all four ASC-operated ski areas.

### *Snow-cat dinners to Cloud 9 Restaurant*

The Cloud 9 Restaurant currently offers public and private evening dining. Access to the restaurant is provided via snow-cat.

### *Special Events*

Other Special Events such as uphill races, snow bike races, cross-country ski races, snow sculptures contests, promotions, picnics, etc. are held periodically during the winter season.

### *Terrain Park Features*

Terrain Parks have become a major necessity for any major destination resort. Marketing surveys indicate that the quality/expanse of an area's terrain park are significant deciding factors for a guest's winter vacation decision. As a result, free riding, free-style skiing and snowboarding have become a mainstay at any mountain resort. Free Ride and Terrain Park features include: hits (jumps), table tops, rails, boxes, halfpipes, quarter pipes, wall rides, etc. Terrain Parks are currently categorized into 3 degrees of difficulty (beginner, intermediate and expert) just as the individual slopes are categorized.

Most features are constructed from snow and some have earthen forms to lesson the snow requirements. The function, shape, purpose, placement and popularity of such features continually changes as trends change.

While ASC's Terrain Park emphasis is currently focused at Buttermilk and Snowmass Mountains, a limited assortment of terrain park features will be available at Aspen Highlands.

## **Existing Summer Programs and Uses**

Although there are currently no formal Aspen Skiing Company on-mountain summer programs or uses other than maintenance and preparation activities related to the winter operation, there are a number of public and private summer activities that take place on Aspen Highlands. They include: hiking, biking, horseback riding, running and bike races, photo and film shoots, weddings concerts, movie nights, lawn games and other similar activities not specifically mentioned.

Only ASC authorized and U.S. Forest Service vehicles are allowed to access the Aspen Highlands summit.

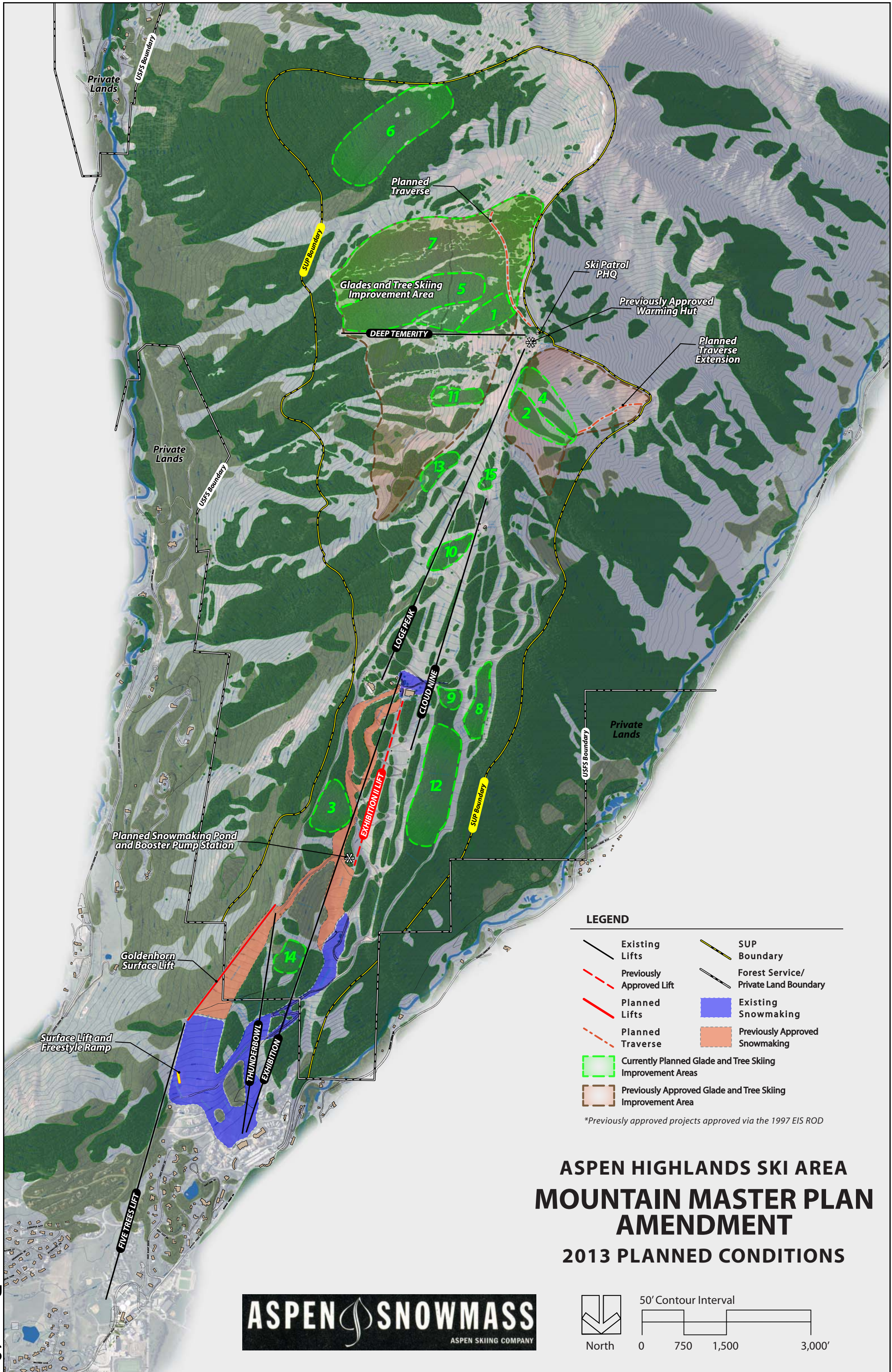
*Summer Base Area Programs and Uses*

Aspen Highlands Village currently offers a variety of summer activities and uses. One of the primary functions of Aspen Highlands Village is that of being the staging area for the Maroon Bells bus shuttle. Free parking is offered to visitors and locals using the bus shuttle to access the Maroon Bells during the daytime restricted periods.

In addition, since several shops/restaurants, as well as some ASC corporate offices, exist at the base area where the following activities take place:

- Bike rentals ,
- Various “lawn” activities,
- Special events in the Highlands Plaza,
- Small scale concerts,
- ASC meetings and corporate training events,
- Construction staging for on-mountain projects,

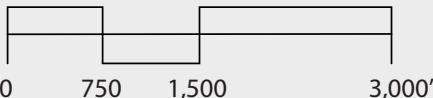
Based area activities are coordinated as necessary with the Aspen Highlands Metro District.

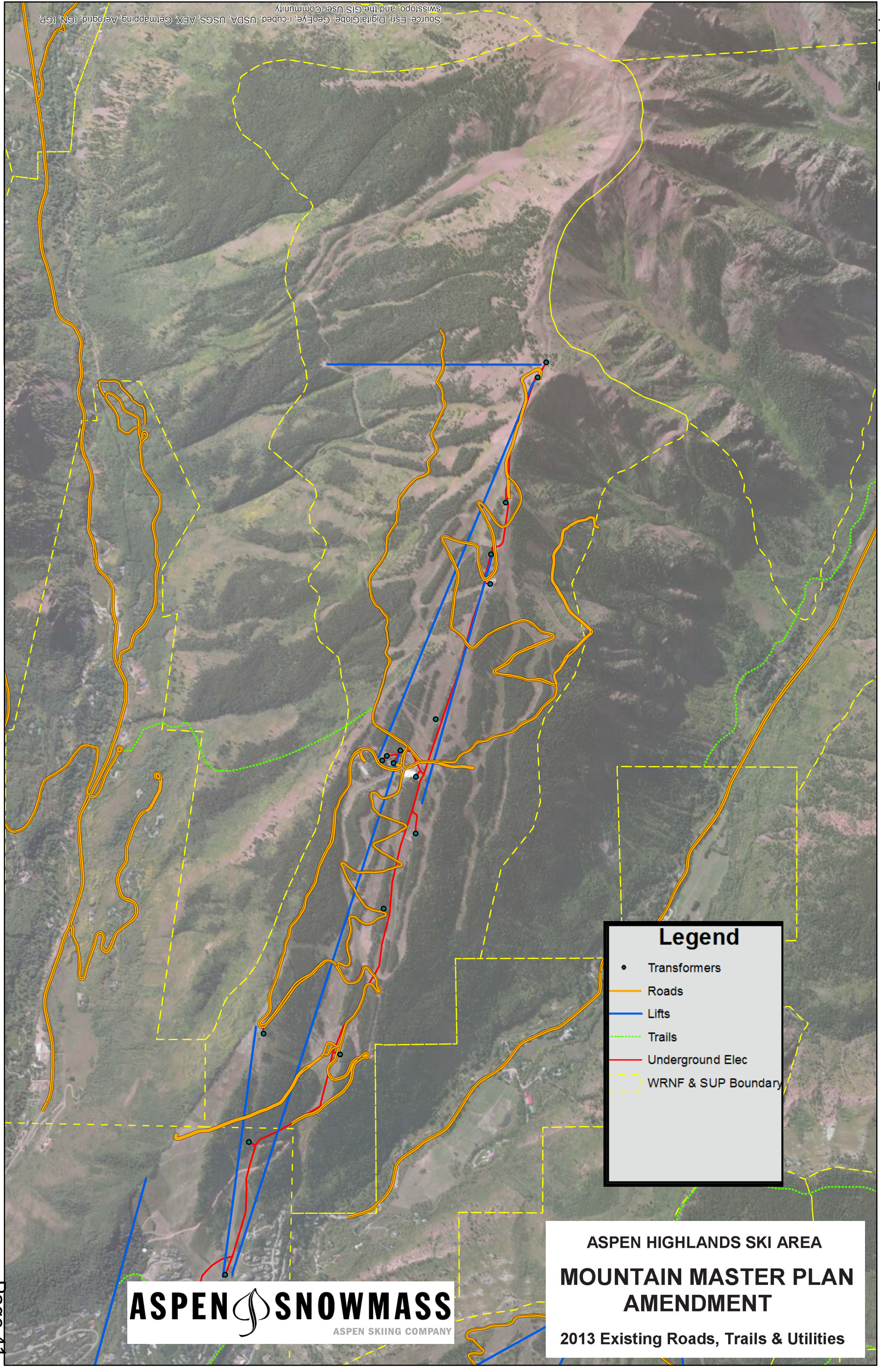


ASPEN HIGHLANDS SKI AREA  
MOUNTAIN MASTER PLAN  
AMENDMENT  
2013 PLANNED CONDITIONS



50' Contour Interval





Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, i-cubed, USDA, USGS, AEX, Getmapping, Aerogrid, IGN, IGP, swisstopo, and the GIS User Community

### Legend

- Transformers
- Roads
- Lifts
- Trails
- Underground Elec
- WRNF & SUP Boundary

**ASPEN**



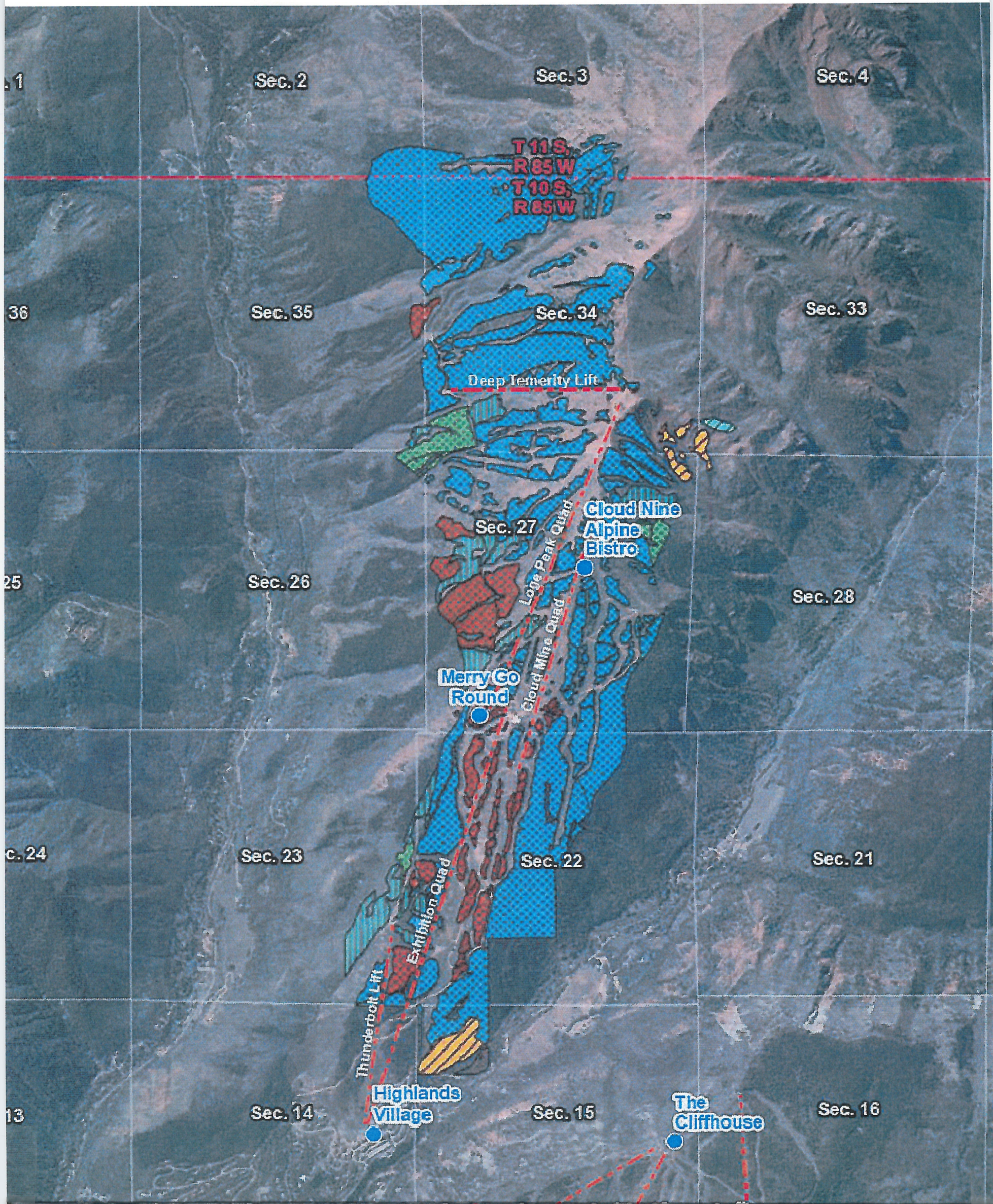
**SNOWMASS**

ASPEN SKIING COMPANY

ASPEN HIGHLANDS SKI AREA

**MOUNTAIN MASTER PLAN  
AMENDMENT**

2013 Existing Roads, Trails & Utilities



## Proposed Treatment Units - Aspen Highlands Ski Area

### Aspen Ranger District, White River National Forest

#### Stand Type 0: All Stands Where Required

Hazard Tree Removal (Partial Cut)

#### Stand Type 1: Pure Lodgepole Pine (90%+) and Light Mortality

Salvage Cut (Partial Cut)

#### Stand Type 4: Mixed Lodgepole Pine (50-70%) and Other Species

Salvage Cut (Partial Cut)

#### Stand Type 5: Mixed Lodgepole Pine (<50%) and Other Species

Salvage Cut (Partial Cut)

No Proposed Treatment at this Time

#### Stand Type 6: Pure Spruce (90%+) and Mixed Spruce

No Proposed Treatment at this Time

#### Stand Type 7: Pure Aspen (90%+) Mixed with Other Tree Species

Partial Cut (Remove all Conifer)

No Proposed Treatment at this Time

Ski Lifts

Ski Area Features

"This product is reproduced from geospatial information prepared by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, GIS data and product accuracy may vary. They may be; developed from sources of differing accuracy; accurate only at certain scales; based on modeling or interpretation; incomplete while being created or revised, etc. Using GIS products for purposes other than those for which they were created may yield inaccurate or misleading results. This information was released on 16 May 2011. The Forest Service reserves the right to correct, update, modify, or replace GIS products based on new inventories, new or revised information, and (if necessary) in conjunction with other federal, state, or local public agencies or the public in general as required by policy or regulation. Previous recipients of these products may not be notified unless required by policy or regulation."

For more information, contact the White River National Forest, Aspen Ranger District at 970-925-3445.

Produced By: JG Management Systems, Inc.  
For More Information Contact: Tim Sansom, Natural Resources Manager  
Phone #: 970.254.1354  
e-mail: timsansom@jgmsinc.com

1 Acre

1:48,000

0 0.5 1 Miles

0 500 1,000 Meters

0 1,000 2,000 Feet

1 inch = 4,000 feet

## PROPOSED CONDITIONS

This section of the Master Plan describes the proposed facilities at Aspen Highlands in the following sections:

- Lifts
- Trails
- Ski Area Capacity Analysis
- Snowmaking
- Restaurants
- On-mountain Support Facilities
- On-Mountain Utilities
- Winter On-Mountain Programs and Uses
- Summer On-Mountain Programs and Uses
- Listing of Permitted Uses

Figure 2, "Aspen Highlands Ski Area: Proposed Conditions," shows the proposed trails, lifts, facilities, the USFS permit boundary, the patrol boundary and the extent of additional snowmaking.

### Lifts

Aspen Highlands is currently served by the 6 chairlifts described in the Existing Conditions section of this Master Plan Amendment. This Amendment proposes 3 additional lifts, 1 previously approved lift and increased capacity of 2 existing lifts:

- Goldenhorn Surface lift
- AVSC Freestyle Training Handle-Tow
- Exhibition II Chairlift (previously approved but not yet installed)
- Increased capacity of the existing Exhibition and Cloud 9 chairlifts.

### GOLDENHORN SURFACE LIFT

The Goldenhorn Surface Lift is proposed to be installed on the skier's right side of Goldenhorn Trail from the top of the Five Trees Lift to the top of Goldenhorn trail. The lift will be a detachable platter lift that is 2,970 feet long with a 720 foot vertical rise.

Previous to 1998, a similar surface lift existed on Goldenhorn. The old surface lift, as well as the original Thunderbowl double chairlift, were removed and replaced with the existing Thunderbowl Triple Chairlift as approved and authorized by the 1997 Aspen Highlands Master Plan and EIS.



ASC wishes to reinstall a longer Goldenhorn Surface Lift primarily to provide an Alpine Training Venue for the Aspen Valley Ski and Snowboard Club (AVSC). The addition of this surface lift, along with the recently added snowmaking capabilities, makes the Goldenhorn slope a premier race training venue for AVSC's nearly 200 Alpine athletes and 25 Adaptive Alpine athletes. The surface lift provides a very attractive 5-minute return to the top the Goldenhorn training courses to optimize athlete training time. (The ride time on the existing Thunerbowl

Triple Chairlift is 8.5 minutes and requires athletes to also ski down Thunderbowl where training courses may not be set.) Although this lift will not run during all operating hours, it will be available for non-AVSC race training, and use by the general public when it is.

#### AVSC FREESTYLE JUMP TRAINING HANDLE-TOW AND RAMP

A Handle-Tow Type Surface Lift is proposed for the area adjacent to the Freestyle Jump on the east side of lower Thunderbowl on Private Lands. The lift will be 450 feet long with a 180 foot vertical rise. A handle-tow lift does not use line towers, only small top and bottom terminals. The lift will provide repeat use of the AVSC Freestyle Jump and Airbag Training venue.



A wooden in-run ramp is also proposed as part of the Freestyle Jump Training Venue. The 20-foot wide wooden ramp will generally follow the existing inrun slope contour, just a few feet off the ground, and extend approximately 150 feet above the jump platform and airbag. A synthetic ski surface will be installed on the ramp to facilitate summertime Freestyle Training for aerial athletes landing into the airbag. A stairway adjacent to the ramp will complete the venue providing an easy return to the top for the athletes.

#### Exhibition II Lift Replacement

The Exhibition II lift replacement, approved (but not yet implemented) as part of the 1997 Aspen Highlands EIS and DN, will facilitate repeat access for beginner/low intermediate terrain in the

mid-mountain area. This lift will also provide an secondary upper mountain access via the Thunderbowl lift and Cakewalk Traverse.

The Exhibition II lift will be a fixed-grip lift quad, have a capacity of 1,200 pph and a ride time of 8 minutes.

Table 9. outlines the general characteristics of the proposed lift systems.

**TABLE 9.**  
**ASPEN HIGHLANDS SKI AREA: PROPOSED LIFT SPECIFICATIONS**

| <b>Name</b>                   | <b>Type</b> | <b>Installed</b> | <b>Length(ft)</b> | <b>Rise(ft)</b> | <b>Capacity<br/>(ppl/hr)</b> | <b>Ride<br/>Time(min)</b> |
|-------------------------------|-------------|------------------|-------------------|-----------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>Exhibition</b>             | D4C         | 1994             | 8,730             | 1,925           | 2,200                        | 8.8                       |
| <b>Thunderbowl</b>            | F3C         | 1998             | 4,195             | 1,450           | 1,200                        | 8.6                       |
| <b>Loge</b>                   | D4C         | 1994             | 6,610             | 1,620           | 1,800                        | 6.7                       |
| <b>Cloud Nine</b>             | D4C         | 1999             | 4,743             | 1,115           | 1,800                        | 4.8                       |
| <b>Deep<br/>Temerity</b>      | F3C         | 2005             | 3,670             | 1,690           | 1,085                        | 7.6                       |
| <b>Five Trees<sup>1</sup></b> | F2C         | 2000             | 4,170             | 745             | 600                          | 8.9                       |
| <b>Goldenhorn</b>             | D1P         |                  | 2,610             | 650             | 450                          | 4.4                       |
| <b>Jump<br/>Handle Tow</b>    | Cable Tow   |                  | 450               | 185             | 120                          | 4.0                       |
| <b>Exhibition II</b>          | F4C         |                  | 3,450             | 650             | 1,200                        | 8.7                       |

<sup>1</sup> Five Trees lift is a private lift for homeowners and AVSC athletes.

Source: Aspen Skiing Company; August 2013

## Trails

Proposed trail development for Aspen Highlands are described below. As mentioned in the Master Plan Goals and Objectives section, the primary goal of the proposed additional gladed skiing/snowboarding opportunities that is becoming more and more popular with ASC's guests. This follows a nationwide trend that has come about with the introduction of wider/rockered skis allowing users to negotiate gladed runs more easily while making the experience enjoyable and

fun. More and more guests have said they prefer gladed terrain over fully cleared runs and therefore ASC continues to search for areas to create these opportunities.

#### Lucky Find Traverse

This traverse will be graded to provide an 8-foot wide surface to greatly increase the access to Mushroom trail, and trails beyond, from the current Bowl Cat loading area. A ski traverse currently exists in this area but is very difficult during early season and low-snow periods.

#### Create Loge Bowl terrain options

Loge Bowl is part of the Aspen Highlands SUP, however it is not currently part of the Operational Boundary. Loge Bowl offers yet another exciting pod of extreme terrain that will require a planned program of snow control, snow compaction, with various access points. Operational planning and testing programs may begin as soon as the 2013-14 season.

#### Miscellaneous Glading Projects

Approximately 200 acres of additional intermediate and expert gladed terrain is planned to enhance the existing 1,028 acres at Aspen Highlands.



Table 10 summarizes the additional gladed and Loge Bowl terrain.

**Table 10.**  
**Planned Terrain Additions**

|              | <b>Area</b>     | <b>Difficulty</b> | <b>Acres</b> | <b>Comments</b>                          |
|--------------|-----------------|-------------------|--------------|------------------------------------------|
| 1            | A Plus          | Expert            | 15           | New Gladed Area                          |
| 2            | Eden            | Expert            | 10           | New Gladed Area                          |
| 3            | Sherwood Forest | Adv./Int.         | 33           | Some glading previously                  |
| 4            | 3 Tower Bowl    | Expert            | 12           | New Gladed Area                          |
| 5            | Mystery Gully   | Expert            | 14           | New Gladed Area (approved via 2004 SIR)  |
| 6            | Child's Play    | Expert            | 25           | New Gladed Area                          |
| 7            | Temerity        | Expert            | 40           | New Gladed Area                          |
| 8            | Domo gully      | Expert            | 7.5          | Identified in Natural Resource Mgt. Plan |
| 9            | S.Moment Chutes | Expert            | 4.2          | Identified in Natural Resource Mgt. Plan |
| 10           | Enigma          | Expert            | 6.2          | Identified in Natural Resource Mgt. Plan |
| 11           | Glade Chute     | Expert            | 2            | Identified in Natural Resource Mgt. Plan |
| 12           | Twilight Zone   | Int.              | 4            | Some glading previously                  |
| 13           | Boomerang Gully | Expert            | 9            | Some glading previously                  |
| 14           | Mistic          | Expert            | 11           | Some glading previously                  |
| 15           | Lower Oly Face  | Int.              | 1            | Clearing to reduce congestion            |
|              | Kid's Trails    | Beg./Int.         | 13           | Various areas planned for kids trails    |
|              | Loge Bowl       | Expert            | 75           | Phased added terrain/Study Area          |
| <b>TOTAL</b> |                 |                   | <b>281.9</b> | <b>ACRES</b>                             |

## Ski Area Capacity Analysis

The proposed conditions do not change the Ski Area Capacity Analysis data significantly from what is referenced in the Existing Conditions portion of this Master Plan on page 27. Below is a summary of the minor changes.

- *Delivery Capacity* from what currently exists does not change.
- *Initial Access Capacity* increases from 4,608 to 5,292 (14.8%)
- *SAOT* from what currently exists does not change.
- *Terrain Capacity* changes by 10.3% from 5,445 skiers to 5,727 skiers based on the addition of 282 acres of gladed and Loge Bowl terrain at 2 skier/ acre.

## **Snowmaking**

Snowmaking on Aspen Highlands remains a critical element to provide consistent, high-quality conditions in the early part of the season, and to ensure that adequate snowcover remains through the end of the season, especially on the lower mountain. Snowmaking operations normally begin in late October and end in late December, unless special needs require snowmaking in other parts of the year (i.e. Special Events, drought conditions, warm periods that reduce coverage, etc.). The existing system was installed in the 1980's and upgraded in 1998 as part the Highlands' Village construction.

### Added Snowmaking Terrain Coverage

An additional 58 acres of snowmaking, combined with the existing 66 acres (located on nine trails, including Smuggler, Thunderbowl, Jerome, Upper Jerome, Park Avenue and Golden Barrel), total the 128 acres authorized by the 1997 EIS/ROD.

The additional trails are Prospector, Riverside, Nugget, Goldenhorn, and Cakewalk providing a connection from Midway, and the Merry-Go-Round restaurant, to the existing snowmaking system on the lower mountain. This connection is key to providing satisfactory early season conditions on terrain serviced by the Exhibition lift, the primary access lift, when early season natural snowfalls have not provided adequate coverage for the scheduled area opening.

The added snowmaking system is also designed to cover this area with an average of 18 inches of machine-made snow. At approximately 200,000 gallons/acre-foot of snow, this equates to an average of 17 million gallons (52 acre-feet) of water per season, for a total of 37 million gallons (114 acre-feet). This number varies from season to season based on natural snow fall amounts, early season temperature and humidity ranges, and specific ski area operational needs such as AVSC Training venues.

Sufficient water rights are in place for this added use and described in detail in the Existing Conditions sections on page 30 of this Master plan. Additionally, this planned added water use remains consistent with the authorization identified in the 1997 EIS/ROD, and based on the

completed consultation with the USFWS, for a total use of 51 acre-feet on 48 acres of USFS lands as documented on page 12 of the 1997 ROD.

#### Snowmaking Storage Pond and Booster Station

The key infrastructure element to the added snowmaking terrain is a small snowmaking storage pond and booster pump station. The storage pond (less than 6.5 acre-feet) is planned for the area between Nugget and Prospector Gulch trails at approximately the 9,380 elevation. The pond will provide a water source for the snowmaking booster pump station (no more than 2,000 square feet). This combination of water storage and pump station will provide snowmaking capabilities on the upper trails as necessary between this location and Mid-Way. The pond will be lined and the water supply will be provided by the lower mountain snowmaking system.

### **Restaurants**

The Aspen Highlands Ski Area is presently served by the Merry-Go-Round (MGR) and Cloud Nine on-mountain restaurants. The MGR was recently remodeled in 2011 and no future work is planned.

The Cloud 9 Restaurant upgrades will include kitchen and dining room remodeling as well as exterior enhancements. If warranted, these upgrades may be accomplished more effectively with a complete building replacement.

### **On-Mountain Support Buildings and Structures**

There are no major on-mountain support buildings or structures planned for the period of this Master Plan. A list of the existing structures exists in Table 8 on page 31.

However, the following building and structures are planned:

- *Loge Peak Warming Hut* – The construction of a 2,000 square foot Loge Peak Warming Hut, which would also be used as a United States Forest Service interpretive center, has not yet been implemented. The existing PHQ currently functions as a warming hut and offers a public restroom. However, the PHQ public restroom availability is quite limited and does not meet the current needs for a summit public restroom. A more accessible and

larger restroom facility will be included in the Warming Hut facility.

- *Booster Pump Station* – A 2,000 square foot Booster Pump Station is planned near Prospector trail. This pump station will provide snowmaking pumping capabilities on the upper trails as necessary between this location and Mid-Way.
- *Wooden Free-Style Jump Ramp* – A 10’ wide, by 150’ long wooden ramp is planned on the lower right side of Thunderbowl trail for summertime jump training for AVSC Freestyle athletes. The majority of the ramp in run will be less than 2 feet above grade and the actual lip of the jump will be 10 feet above grade. The wooden surface will be covered with a “plastic snow” product to facilitate summer time jump training. There will be a stairway adjacent to the ramp for athlete access to the top of the ramp, after a completed jump into the airbag.

## **On-Mountain Utilities**

There are no major upgrades planned to on-mountain utilities. There are however upgrades planned to the overall ASC communication infrastructure as dictated by evolving technology that mandates an increased use of fiber optics and wireless technologies. Utility maintenance will take place through the period of this Master Plan as required. Figure 3 provides an overview of the existing on-mountain utilities.

Some of these utility facilities are maintained solely by the respective public utilities. Others are maintained by AH Operations staff. Still others are maintained by a combination of the public utility and the AH staff. Most all of the above utilities exist in a “utility corridor” that originates at the base, originally established by and follows the existing Holy Cross transmission lines. The corridor is described below.

### *Electrical Lines*

Holy Cross Energy maintains the primary transmission lines on Aspen Highlands. Most all of these transmission lines are underground. Holy Cross continually upgrades these facilities as needed and complies with county requirements as necessary.

The primary transmission line extends from the base area, and continues up the utility corridor described above. Additional “secondary” lines that are maintained by ASC feed various ski area facilities such as lift terminals, lift shacks, snowmaking hydrants, on-mountain concierge buildings, etc.

#### *Telephone Lines*

The telephone lines on Aspen Highlands are primarily owned and maintained by Aspen Skiing Company. The primary telephone trunk line up the mountain exists in the utility corridor described above. Individual telephone “drops” exist to all restaurants, on mountain patrol phones, lift operator buildings, maintenance facilities, snowmaking control building and on-mountain concierge.

#### *Communication Infrastructure Upgrades and Additions*

ASC has recently initiated a series of Information Technology (IT) infrastructure upgrades on its mountain. This has primarily been in the form of fiber optic cable installation on lift towers and underground to facilitate improved “connectivity” at various on-mountain locations. Future plans include additional cabling, various small equipment structures and antenna towers as necessary.

#### *Domestic Water*

The Merry-Go-Round and the Cloud Nine Restaurants, as well as other on mountain facilities, are provided potable water service by the City of Aspen Water Department. Water is pumped from the water tank near the bottom of the mountain adjacent to mountain access road through a high pressure waterline within the main utility corridor.

The Patrol Headquarters on Loge Peak has a water storage tank to which potable water is delivered by truck.

#### *Sanitary Sewer*

Wastewater for the Cloud 9 and Merry-Go-Round Restaurants, as well as other on-mountain facilities is piped to the main sewer line, which exists in the corridor referenced above, and treated by the Aspen Consolidated Sanitation District.

The Patrol Headquarters on Loge Peak is served by a composting waster system.

#### *Natural Gas*

KN Energy supplies natural gas to the on-mountain restaurants. The gas line follows the utility corridor described above to the summit.

#### *Snowmaking*

All related underground snowmaking utilities are identified in the snowmaking portion of this document.

#### *Underground Fuel Storage*

Underground fuel storage tanks exist at the Midway VMF. This facility stores a 12-month supply of diesel and gasoline for snowcats, snowmobiles, and various heavy equipment and maintenance vehicles. There is a maximum of 80,000 gallons of diesel fuel and 10,000 gallons of gasoline storage available.

### **Planned Winter Programs and Uses**

Aspen Highlands, as part of ASC's Power of Four brand, offers an extremely popular mix of terrain for alpine skiers and snowboarders. In addition to traditional wintertime activities, Aspen Highlands has also become a very popular venue for an exciting diversity of specialty activities and events that Aspen Skiing Company hopes will remain an integral part of the "locals" mountain. The Planned Winter Uses are very similar to that which currently exist.

#### *Hiking, Skiing and Snowshoeing*

Uphill access to Aspen Highlands for hikers, cross country skiers and snowshoers is allowed during the winter season under certain guidelines.

#### *Ski and Snowboard Competitions*

Ski and snowboard competitions, organized by either ASC or AVSC, including but not limited to:

- Traditional alpine ski and snowboard racing,
- Freestyle ski and snowboard competitions (aerial, mogul, slopestyle, etc.),
- Specialty racing (boarder/skier cross, randonee, etc.),
- Extreme skiing/snowboarding competitions
- Adaptive competitions

Events related to such competitions also include award ceremonies, on-mountain picnics, etc.

### *Ski and Snowboard School*

The Ski and Snowboard Schools of Aspen offer a full range of on-mountain instructional programs in alpine skiing, snowboarding, telemark and adaptive skiing.

### *Educational Programs*

Educational programs focused on skier safety and responsibility for local school children are held during the winter season at all four ASC-operated ski areas.

### *Snow-cat dinners to Cloud 9 Restaurant*

The Cloud 9 Restaurant currently offers public and private evening dining. Access to the restaurant is provided via snow-cat.

### *Special Events*

Other Special Events such as uphill races, snow bike races, cross-country ski races, snow sculptures contests, promotions, picnics, etc. are held periodically during the winter season.

### *Terrain Park Features*

Terrain Parks have become a major necessity for any major destination resort. Marketing surveys indicate that the quality/expanse of an area's terrain park are significant deciding factors for a guest's winter vacation decision. As a result, free riding, free-style skiing and snowboarding have become a mainstay at any mountain resort. Free Ride and Terrain Park features include: hits (jumps), table tops, rails, boxes, halfpipes, quarter pipes, wall rides, etc. Terrain Parks are currently categorized into 3 degrees of difficulty (beginner, intermediate and expert) just as the individual slopes are categorized.

Most features are constructed from snow and some have earthen forms to lesson the snow requirements. The function, shape, purpose, placement and popularity of such features continually changes as trends change.

While ASC's Terrain Park emphasis is currently focused at Buttermilk and Snowmass Mountains, a limited assortment of terrain park features will be available at Aspen Highlands.

## **Planned Summer Programs and Uses**

There are a number of public and private summer activities that take place on Aspen Highlands, both on-mountain and in the Base Area.

### *Summer On-Mountain Programs and Uses*

While there currently are no commercial summer operations on the mountain, the general public is welcome to access the USFS Lands within the Aspen Highlands SUP for hiking, biking, horseback riding, etc, especially on the mountain roads at their own risk. However, general public vehicular access to the mountain road remains restricted and only ASC maintenance or U.S. Forest Service vehicles are allowed at this time.

In addition to the mountain road, there are various trails available to the general public for non-motorized use, some of which provide access to the Forest beyond the SUP.

The Aspen Highlands road/trail system is currently also used for occasional cross-country running/bike competitions, photo and/or film shoots, weddings, and other similar activities not specifically mentioned.

Additionally, in the future ASC may wish to operate certain lifts for sightseeing opportunities, offer "jeep tours" on mountain roads, conduct guided hike/bike tours and other activities that could include the operation of the on mountain restaurants.

### *Summer Base Area Programs and Uses*

Aspen Highlands Village currently offers a variety of summer activities and uses. One of the primary functions of Aspen Highlands Village is that of being the staging area for the Maroon Bells bus shuttle. Free parking is offered to visitors and locals using the bus shuttle to access the Maroon Bells during the daytime restricted periods.

In addition, since several shops/restaurants, as well as some ASC corporate offices, exist at the base area where the following activities take place:

- Bike rentals ,
- Various “lawn” activities,
- Special events in the Highlands Plaza,
- Small scale concerts,
- ASC meetings and corporate training events,
- Construction staging for on-mountain projects,

Base area activities are coordinated as necessary with the Aspen Highlands Metro District.

## **Listing of Permitted Uses**

The following listing of uses shall serve as a guide for the administration of County zoning processes for Lands within the Aspen Highlands “AF-SKI” Zone Boundary and/or USFS Lands as permitted by Statute/USFS Rules & Regulations. The uses are divided into the following three categories:

- Activities and Uses allowed All Year;
- Activities and Uses allowed by right during the Winter Season;
- Activities and uses allowed by right during the Summer Season;
- Activities and Uses allowed by Further Review

### ***Activities and Uses Allowed All Year***

Activities which are allowed all year are those uses which are typically associated with the year-round recreational use of the mountain and have little or no environmental and service related impacts. Refer to the Aspen Highlands Mountain Master Plan Amendment illustration (Figure 2, Proposed Conditions) which shows locations of buildings, lifts, ski terrain, catwalks and utility corridors. Permanent uses allowed by right year round include the following:

1. All existing uses and activities, expressly permitted by law, statute or ordinance; and any other uses, including temporary or special uses allowed by rule, regulation and/or special permit.
2. General maintenance activities normally associated with the operation of the recreation area including but not limited to:
  - a) Construction of new ski lift facilities as shown on the plan as well as lift renovation, relocation, upgrading and maintenance to the extent that there is no increase in ski area capacity as a result of such work beyond the ski area capacity identified in the Master Plan.
  - b) Removal of lifts.
  - c) All ski trail work including grading, clearing, glading, fine grooming, revegetation and other such activities normally associated with the construction, maintenance and improvement of trails.

- d) Construction of terrain parks, terrain features, other jump structures and ancillary snowmaking.
  - e) All hiking, biking and equestrian trail work including grading, clearing, glading, fine grooming, revegetation and other such activities normally associated with the construction, maintenance and improvement of trails.
3. General maintenance and construction and reconstruction and renovation of mountain buildings, subject to local building permit regulations.
  4. Construction of the utility trenches as needed for the repair and maintenance of all utility and snowmaking systems.
  5. Maintenance of all mountain facilities.
  6. Extension of snowmaking terrain depicted in the Plan.
  7. Grazing on Forest Service lands when allowed by Special Use Permits through the Forest Service.
  8. Hunting on Forest Service lands where and when allowed by governing state, federal and local authorities.
  9. Public sightseeing, including lift operation.
  10. Hiking, biking, horseback riding on mountain roads and trails and other recreational endeavors on federal, state and locally controlled areas, except when prohibited due to on-mountain construction.
  11. Water lines, water treatment facilities, sewer lines, compressed air lines and other such utilities required for the operation of existing snowmaking machinery, restaurants and other such facilities in the area.
  12. Existing access roads for maintenance and construction of facilities within the ski area.
  13. Fuel farms and fuel storage, both above and below ground.
  14. High explosives storage including construction of the Powder Mixing and Storage Magazine Facility.
  15. Communication transmission sites including cell towers and related equipment.
  16. Aspen Skiing Company offices.
  17. Picnics.
  18. Modifications, renovations, upgrading and/or the demolition and reconstruction of existing restaurant facilities.

19. Tube, lattice and other types of lift towers needed to achieve optimum lift operations.
20. Expansions of buildings on the mountain.
21. New or replacement top and bottom drive and return stations and lift operator cabins.
22. Annual maintenance and or replacement of lift machinery and systems as long as such work does not significantly result in change to the lift's capacity, alignment or length.
23. Snowboarding, snowshoeing and skiing, both Nordic and Alpine.
24. Storage of ski area equipment and construction staging.
25. Special events including weddings, concerts, children's activities, private parties, worship services and other group activities and social events.
26. Guided and self guided environmental tours.
27. Accessory recreational facilities and structures designed to support specific recreational endeavors.
28. Operation of the mountain restaurants.
29. Information shelters and guest service stands, tents or temporary shelters on the mountain.
30. Parking lot operation and use.
31. Rental and sales of recreational equipment and goods.
32. Night operations of the Exhibition Lift.
33. Night operations of the Merry Go Round and Cloud 9 Restaurants until 12:00 a.m.

#### ***Activities and Uses Allowed by Right during the Winter Season***

Uses and activities allowed during the traditional winter season or during the preparation for the opening of the ski area are set by the adoption of this plan. "Activities which are allowed during the traditional winter season are those uses which provide basic support services for mountain operations and have little or no environmental and service related impacts"

1. Ski/Snowboard School and toddler skiing activities including meeting areas and structures.
2. Restaurants, including indoor and outdoor eating and drinking establishments.
3. Evening snowcat tours and/or snowcat transport to/from on-mountain evening dining.
4. Other on-mountain evening activities.
5. Places for retailing of goods in support of mountain operations.

6. Personal service outlet including minor equipment repair activities in support of mountain operation.
7. Public restrooms.
8. Lift operation of all lifts shown and described in accompanying plan.
9. Trail operations on all trails shown and described in accompanying plan.
10. After hours competitive athlete training that includes lift operations.
11. Existing accessory buildings including, but not limited to patrol stations, warming huts, equipment storage buildings and lift operator huts. Replacement of such buildings.
12. Indoor recreational facilities including but not limited to video games and table games.
13. Ticket sales areas.
14. Snowboarding, skiing, and snowshoeing.
15. Snowmaking in areas depicted in the master plan.
16. Avalanche control work accomplished by the use of high explosives.
17. Snow grooming including, but not limited to, rolling, tilling, compaction, cutting, dozing and relocating.
18. Outdoor recreational uses and facilities set in a natural environment including but not limited to ski racing, free-style contests, Nordic jumping and other such organized special events utilizing amplified public address systems.
19. Establishment of lift opening times, trail closures, grooming schedules, snowmaking efforts and other on-going mountain management issues.
20. Professionally guided fee based tours.
21. Guided environmental tours.
22. Guided skiing tours within and outside the ski area permit boundary.
23. Private dining ski clubs on the private lands located on the mountain.
24. Professional and amateur alpine ski, snowboard, freeride and nordic events and/or training.

#### ***Activities and Uses Allowed by Right during the Summer Season***

Summer season activities which provide basic support services for summer mountain operations and have little or no environmental and service related impacts include:

1. Guided or unguided hiking.
2. Guided or unguided mountain biking.

3. Summer lift operations for sightseeing.
4. Jeep sightseeing tours.
5. Hang gliding, commercial or non-commercial.

Other summer season recreational activities, infrastructure and related facilities which have some level of environmental or service related impacts that would require additional review including, but not limited to:

1. Zip Lines
2. Canopy Tours
3. Ropes or Challenge Courses
4. Mountain coasters
5. Overnight camping
6. Disc Golf
7. Mountain boarding

***Activities and Uses allowed by Special Review***

1. Special on mountain events designed to host more than 500 people at one time.
2. Temporary seasonal events and/or uses.
3. Overnight accommodations which are tied to the operation of the mountain and do not involve private vehicular access.
4. New shelters, restaurant facilities or maintenance facilities not identified on the current Master Plan submission.

## Appendix 2

## Appendix 3

## Appendix 4