

# Beaver Creek Resort 2010 Master Development Plan Update

## 2015 Addendum

*Prepared For:*



*Prepared By:*



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**BEAVER CREEK**  
**2010 MASTER DEVELOPMENT PLAN**  
**UPDATE**  
**2015 ADDENDUM**

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PREPARED FOR:

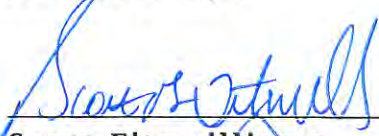


PREPARED BY:



This signature page represents the Forest Supervisor's acceptance of the Beaver Creek Master Development Plan, as originally developed or amended. Ski Area Master Development Plans (MDPs) generally are conceptual in nature, and contain desired conditions, objectives, and rationale for the comprehensive development of federal and private lands within the ski area boundary. MDPs do not grant, withhold, or modify any contract, permit or other legal instrument, subject anyone to civil or criminal liability, or create any legal rights. MDPs do not approve or execute projects and activities. Decisions with effects that can be meaningfully evaluated are made when projects and activities are analyzed and approved in site-specific National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analyses on projects conceptually disclosed in ski area MDPs. In short, this MDP is a framework for identifying and prioritizing potential projects to carry forward into a formal decision-making process, and constitutes a guide for determining the forthcoming scope of environmental analysis.

**Accepted By:**



**Scott Fitzwilliams**  
**Forest Supervisor**  
**White River National Forest**

6/23/15  
**Date**

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# **1. INTRODUCTION**

This Master Development Plan (MDP) Addendum has been prepared to supplement the existing Beaver Creek Resort 2010 MDP Update with respect to seasonal and year-round activities. The format and document headings/sub-headings of this Addendum match those of the 2010 MDP. This MDP Addendum summarizes the existing seasonal and year-round (non-skiing) operations and facilities at Beaver Creek Four Season Resort (Beaver Creek) and establishes a comprehensive plan for future seasonal and year-round (non-skiing) improvements to the resort. The MDP Addendum is consistent with the Ski Area Recreational Opportunity Enhancement Act of 2011 (SAROE) and Forest Service directive (refer to Chapter 2 of the MDP Addendum for a more detailed discussion), which strives to encourage outdoor recreation and enjoyment of nature while maintaining snow sports as the primary purpose for recreation at Beaver Creek.

Forest Service acceptance is consistent with the requirements of the 2002 White River National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan) and Beaver Creek's Special Use Permit (SUP). This MDP Addendum is a planning document and Forest Service acceptance of this MDP Addendum does not imply authorization to proceed with any of the projects identified in this MDP Addendum. None of the projects identified in this MDP Addendum have been proposed, reviewed or approved under the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and all will require site-specific analyses before a decision can be made or any projects are approved. Site-specific environmental analysis may result in a modification to planned projects.

## **C. BACKGROUND**

Beaver Creek has offered summer recreation on National Forest Service (NFS) lands since the 1980s with the development of hiking, mountain biking and horseback riding trails. Over the decades, recreational opportunities have evolved across the SUP area, but on NFS lands summer activities are focused primarily in the Spruce Saddle area. Summer activities currently offered on NFS lands at Beaver Creek include a hiking, mountain biking, and horseback riding trails (additional information is provided in Chapter 3).

Interest in summer recreation activities continue to grow in the Eagle Valley and at Beaver Creek. Approximately 1.9 million people visit Eagle Valley throughout the summer. Many summer recreational opportunities are available throughout the Valley, including hundreds of miles of hiking and biking trail on NFS and County lands (including hiking trails in Eagles Nest and Holy Cross Wilderness Areas). In addition, the region hosts numerous festival and events throughout the summer attracting people to Colorado from around the world. Throughout the summer season, Beaver Creek host seven signature events and numerous other smaller or season-long events attracting people to the Beaver Creek Village.

The majority of guests access Beaver Creek during the summer months via Centennial Express to access Spruce Saddle and hiking and biking trails. Ridership of this lift is approximately 32,000 guests during the summer months. Up to 300,000 guests stay in Beaver Creek and in Bachelor Gulch during the summer season.

## E. STATEMENT OF GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Beaver Creek has developed into world-renowned winter recreation resort; however, interest in summer recreation has been growing. Beaver Creek's goals and objectives for summer recreation are the same as winter recreation (refer to Chapter 1, Section E of the 2010 MDP). Beaver Creek's summer recreation and guest service goal is to provide a variety of family-friendly activities for all ages and ability levels, to maintain and improve its position as one of the top family destinations in the world, and to protect the environment in which Beaver Creek operates.

The overarching goal of the summer program at Beaver Creek is to introduce guests to the National Forest and encourage outdoor recreation and enjoyment of nature. An improved appreciation of the natural environment and natural resource-based recreation in forest users—particularly users who are new to these activities—is an integral component Beaver Creek's mission. Furthermore, Beaver Creek's mission is based on the premise that the National Forests are, and have always been, the greatest opportunity for Americans to use and enjoy their public lands. Over the past several decades, recreational opportunities on public lands have evolved beyond the old staples of hunting, fishing and camping to include a significant variety of forms of recreation. In order to continue to engage the American public, opportunities provided on public land but must continue to evolve to include more active and *interactive* forms of recreation. Beaver Creek's approach is to provide a sense of adventure and interaction with the setting while eliminating the “anxiety” that can frequently accompany the need for experience, gear and skill to enjoy more traditional forms of winter and summer recreation in the Alpine environment (e.g., skiing, cycling, rock climbing and kayaking). The need for specialized knowledge, equipment and familiarity with the mountain environment can be a significant barrier for visitors (particularly families, the elderly/aging or those with disabilities) to engage in outdoor activities. Beaver Creek currently has limited activities to offer guests looking to explore the National Forest. The planned projects rely on the existing setting within the SUP area as a way to expose guests to the National Forest in a managed setting. Beaver Creek is in a unique position to utilize the extensive array of existing infrastructure on both private and NFS lands (e.g., parking, guest services, lifts, staff and restaurants). All planned projects and activities have been designed to harmonize with the natural environment to heighten the user's experience with his/her natural surroundings on the White River National Forest (WRNF).

Consistent with SAROE, Beaver Creek wishes to implement activities that engage visitors to the WRNF with natural resource-based recreation and education in a gateway to the Forest. In short, the SAROE provides the legislative foundation for Beaver Creek's vision of offering an expanded range of outdoor recreation activities and other year-round opportunities on NFS lands within the Beaver Creek SUP boundary, primarily within the developed ski area boundary. Each of the planned activities will complement the setting and attract families and visitors to the National Forest.

Hundreds of thousands of people—guests and residents of Beaver Creek and Avon—spend time during the summer months in the area. This population is a subset of the approximately 1.9 million people visiting the Eagle Valley, which supports the plan for additional summer, recreational activities on NFS lands. Many of these families do not explore the National Forest in an engaging manner. Providing activities for these people in a managed setting would afford these user groups opportunities that they would not otherwise participate in.

## 2. DESIGN CRITERIA

Beaver Creek's summer program strives to provide a quality guest experience through a range of activities a whole family might be able to enjoy. Even though snow sports are the main attraction at the resort, non-skiing activities are important to Beaver Creek and its guests. NFS lands are an important asset to Beaver Creek, offering relatively easy access to a natural, Alpine environment. The resort is uniquely situated to introduce their guests from urban or suburban settings to the mountain environment in a fun and managed setting. The National Forest has recognized the growing summer recreation trend in and around ski areas and the need to encourage the public to explore the outdoors. Due to existing infrastructure from winter recreation and surrounding communities, ski areas are an ideal place to offer summer and year-round recreational opportunities to the public.

By design, the activities in this MDP Addendum will utilize existing ski area infrastructure (e.g., chairlifts and guest services facilities) to the greatest extent possible and augment the snow sports activities with summer activities. In doing so, the projects included in this MDP Addendum will improve the year-round utilization of existing ski area infrastructure and the long-term economic viability of Beaver Creek and the local economy during the summer months. Furthermore, the design criteria for summer activities explicitly excludes changing the primary purpose of the ski area to other than snow sports. The winter ski season is and always will be the driver of overall annual visitation at Beaver Creek and a primary economic driver for the Eagle Valley.

As stated in the 2002 Forest Plan Final Environmental Impact Statement:

*"Recreational benefits from ski areas include managed, convenient access to National Forest System lands for visitors participating in such activities as hiking, mountain biking, viewing scenery, skiing, and snowboarding. Ski areas provide year-round natural resource-based recreation. The number of recreation opportunities enhanced by lift served access generally is proportional to the number of acres allocated to the 8.25 management area."*

The summer activities zones identified in the Upgrading Plan of this MDP Addendum are based on the existing setting of the SUP area and the existing level of development within the area to support snow sports. Through the planning process, Beaver Creek has created five distinct zones within Beaver Creek's SUP area. These zones consider several characteristics, including *access*, *remoteness*, *naturalness*, and *infrastructure*. For *access*, the amount of roads present within the area was considered. Regarding *remoteness*, a rating of how far removed an individual is from the sounds and sights of human activity was applied. For *naturalness*, the amount of ski area development and disturbance was considered. Related to *infrastructure*, the proximity of infrastructure and the built environment was considered. All of these characteristics must be considered within the context that Beaver Creek is a developed ski area with existing summer recreation and maintenance occurring throughout the existing developed ski area. Therefore, no area within the developed ski area is off limits to administrative access and maintenance activity.

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<sup>1</sup> USDA Forest Service, 2002a p. 3-430

The SUP area includes a variety of characteristics that are defined by the natural and developed environment. Different areas within the SUP area are representative of what a guest could see and experience in different locations across the WRNF, ranging from alpine environments, to riparian and wetland ecosystems, to forested settings in remote locations. While the Scenic Integrity Objective (SIO) of the SUP area is officially designated as *Low* and *Very Low*, to harmonize with SUP area's characteristics, planned activities within this MDP Addendum, with the exception of activities located in Zone 1, have been designed to correspond with the characteristics of a SIO of *Moderate*, which is defined as:<sup>2</sup>

*The valued landscape character "appears slightly altered." Noticeable deviations must remain visually subordinate to the landscape character being viewed.*

Applying the criteria for planned activities to be subordinate to the vegetation and landscape into context with the Scenery Management System (SMS) helps to better understand which activities are appropriate in different landscape settings.

## **E. APPLICABLE FOREST SERVICE POLICY DIRECTION**

### **1. Management Policies and Direction**

The enabling authorities for the Forest Service are contained in many laws enacted by Congress and in the regulations and administrative directives that implement these laws.<sup>3</sup> These authorities allow the Forest Service to provide recreation opportunities to facilitate the use, enjoyment, and appreciation of National Forests.

#### **Forest Service Framework for Sustainable Recreation**

In *Connecting People with America's Great Outdoors: A Framework for Sustainable Recreation* (The Framework) the Forest Service acknowledges that:<sup>4</sup>

*The National Forests and Grasslands provide the greatest diversity of outdoor recreation opportunities in the world, connecting people with nature in an unmatched variety of settings, activities and traditional beliefs. People hike, bike, ride horses, and drive off-highway vehicles. They picnic, camp, hunt, fish, enjoy recreational shooting and navigate waterways. They view wildlife and scenery, and explore historic places. They glide through powder at world-class alpine resorts and challenge themselves on primitive cross-country ski or snowmobile routes.*

The Framework presented is intended to help the Forest Service fulfill a number of different objectives, including:

- unite diverse interests,
- create and strengthen partnerships,

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<sup>2</sup> USDA Forest Service, 1995

<sup>3</sup> These laws include: the Organic Administrative Act (1897), the Weeks Act (1911), the Multiple-Use Sustained Yield Act (1960), the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act (1974), the National Forest Management Act (1976), the National Forest Ski Area Permit Act (1986), and the 2011 Ski Area Recreational Opportunity Enhancement Act.

<sup>4</sup> USDA Forest Service, 2010



- focus scarce resources on mission-driven priorities,
- connect recreation benefits to communities,
- provide for changing urban populations, and most importantly, and
- sustain and expand the benefits to America that quality recreation opportunities provide.

By focusing on the three spheres that frame sustainability—environmental, social, and economic—the recreation program can significantly contribute to the agency’s overall mission. In the most profound sense, the Forest Service will not achieve the agency’s mission without sustainable recreation and tourism.

## **2. Ski Area Recreation Opportunity Enhancement Act of 2011**

The 2011 SAROE Act amended the National Forest Ski Area Permit Act of 1986.<sup>5</sup> The 2011 SAROE Act enables snow sports (other than nordic and Alpine skiing) to be permitted on National Forest System land subject to ski area permits issued by the Secretary of Agriculture. In addition, it clarifies the authority of the Secretary of Agriculture to permit appropriate additional seasonal or year-round recreational activities and facilities on National Forest System land subject to ski area permits issued by the Secretary of Agriculture. Activities and facilities that may, in appropriate circumstances, be authorized under the Act include, but are not limited to, both zip lines and ropes courses, mountain bike trails and Frisbee golf.<sup>6</sup>

In April 2014 the Forest Service provided a Final Directive for Additional Seasonal or Year-Round recreation Activities at Ski Areas that includes guidance for implementing the 2011 SAROE Act.<sup>7</sup> FSM 2343.14 states that the Forest Service should apply the following screening criteria during review of site specific proposals prior to the initiation of a NEPA review process. During this master planning stage, projects are conceptual and do not, nor should they, include the level of design to complete all of the screening criteria. This site-specific detail would be provided during the project proposal stage to initiate the NEPA process. With that being said, Beaver Creek has considered the screening criteria and understands that all can be met with the types of projects being planned. The screening criteria included in FSM 2343.14 guide the development of projects on NFS lands and the activities and associated facilities must:

- a. Not change the primary purpose of the ski area to other than snow sports;
- b. Encourage outdoor recreation and enjoyment of nature and provide natural resource-based recreation opportunities;
- c. To the extent practicable, be located within the portions of the ski area that are developed or that will be developed pursuant to the master development plan;
- d. Not exceed the level of development for snow sports and be consistent with the zoning established in the applicable master development plan;
- e. To the extent practicable, harmonize with the natural environment of the site where they would be located by:

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<sup>5</sup> Public Law 112-46-Nov. 7, 2011 125 Stat. 539

<sup>6</sup> Ibid. Section 3

<sup>7</sup> FSM 2343.14, April 16, 2014

- (1) Being visually consistent with or subordinate to the ski area's existing facilities, vegetation and landscape and
- (2) Not requiring significant modifications to topography to facilitate construction or operations;
- f. Not compromise snow sports operations or functions; and
- g. Increase utilization of snow sports facilities and not require extensive new support facilities, such as parking lots, restaurants, and lifts.

Again, the above screening criteria should be applied for the proposed activities in this MDP Addendum during to NEPA process. At this point, more detailed design plans would be available compared to the details available during the master planning process.

FSM 2343.14(8) also provides guidance for elements to be included in the master planning process. The process should:

- a. Establish zones to guide placement and design of additional seasonal or year-round recreation facilities, basing the zones on the existing natural setting and level of development to support snow sports;
- b. Depict the general location of the facilities; and
- c. Establish an estimated timeframe for their construction.

This MDP Addendum follows and describes this process in more detail in Chapter 5.

### **3. EXISTING SKI RESORT FACILITIES**

The following section is an update to existing summer facilities and activities at Beaver Creek. These summer facilities and activities have been previously approved and implemented on NFS lands. This MDP Addendum does not update skier and winter facilities unless the facility is utilized for summer recreation. The inventory includes existing hiking, mountain biking, horseback riding and multi-use trails, as well as other summer recreation activities existing across Beaver Creek's SUP area. The Existing Summer Activities figure illustrates this information.

Non-skiing recreational opportunities have been offered at Beaver Creek since the 1980s. These opportunities are, and will continue to be, important to Beaver Creek and its guests, in providing an entrance to experiences on the National Forest in a comfortable setting. Additional summer recreation activities at Beaver Creek could create a better balance of activities for a wider range of guests in an ever-changing summer recreation marketplace. This will result in a well-balanced resort, which provides an adequate array of services and experiences to satisfy guest expectations for a world-class recreation experience that engages the public in the natural environment and encourages further exploration of the National Forest.

#### **H. ALTERNATIVE EXPERIENCE**

##### **3. Summer Programs**

The goal of Beaver Creek's summer program is to provide the guest with a wide variety of opportunities, activities, and experiences a whole family can enjoy in a mountain setting. These activities are primarily focused around the base of Centennial Express and Spruce Saddle and range from very passive (e.g., scenic lift rides) to very active (e.g., mountain biking and hiking).

Currently Beaver Creek operates the Centennial Express from the Village to Spruce Saddle. During the summer of 2014, the Centennial Express was replaced with a combination gondola and chairlift to better serve beginner skiers and provide better year-round access to Spruce Saddle. The summer recreation activities available at Spruce Saddle area include multi-purpose deck, disc golf course, horseshoes and volleyball. Spruce Saddle is also the start of many mountain biking and hiking trails, and the location of weddings and group events. Miniature golf and rebound trampolines are available at the base of the Centennial Express on private lands.

Other existing summer programs include guided hikes, horseback riding, and four-wheel tours. A private outfitter operate the horseback riding tours to Beano's Cabin, Beaver Lake and other destinations east of the SUP boundary.

##### **4. Summer Trails**

Currently, Beaver Creek's summer trail system includes the following:

1. Mountain Biking: The Corkscrew Trail, connecting the village and Spruce Saddle (approximately 2.8 miles)
2. Hiking: Aspen Glade, Overlook, Royal Elk and Beaver Lake (approximately 7.5 miles)

3. Multi Use: PHQ Hill Climb, Paulie's Plunge, Paulie's Little Sister, Allie's Way, Beaver Lake, Village to Village, Beano's Hill Climb, Primrose, Day Break Ridge, Piece of Cake, Arrowhead Mountain, BG Connect (approximately 27.3 miles)
4. Guided interpretive nature hikes in and around Beaver Creek are provided to the guests. For areas outside Beaver Creek's SUP boundary, guided activities require an outfitter/guide permit administered by the Eagle/Holy Cross Ranger District.





BEAVER CREEK RESORT  
MDP ADDENDUM

## EXISTING SUMMER ACTIVITIES

PREPARED BY:



March 2015



## **4. PREVIOUSLY-APPROVED, NOT YET IMPLEMENTED PROJECTS**

No supplemental information is necessary for Chapter 4.

## 5. UPGRADING PLAN

The seasonal and year-round facilities upgrade plan will allow Beaver Creek to offer guests an enhanced appreciation of the natural environment through natural resource-based recreation. Expanding facilities and use beyond skiing allows for a greater number, and wider demographic, of users to experience their public lands and to recreate on the WRNF while promoting an appreciation of the environment and the natural world through both adventure and discovery. The addition of summer and year-round facilities and activities will allow Beaver Creek to better meet its goals of providing a high quality recreational experience, which appeals to a wide range of guests, both within the core winter season, and also year-round. Beaver Creek is precluded from constructing certain activities on private land at the base of Beaver Creek Mountain due to a restrictive covenant made by Vail Resorts and the Beaver Creek Metropolitan District.<sup>8</sup>

### O. SEASONAL AND YEAR-ROUND ACTIVITIES AND FACILITIES ZONE CONCEPT

Zone designations were developed utilizing four characteristics (access, remoteness, naturalness and infrastructure) to define the setting and guest experience within different landscapes across the SUP area during the summer. The first step in the zone designation process was a careful consideration of the setting and the proximity to infrastructure to support snow sports. Features such as watersheds, topography, vegetation, level of existing disturbance, and existing infrastructure were considered in establishing zone boundaries across the entire SUP area. Step two in the zone process was applying a score for each characteristic on a scale of 1 to 3 with 1 being the most disturbed setting and 3 being the least disturbed. Although each zone represents the level of appropriate use for summer recreation within a zone, it is assumed all zones experience high use during the winter months. The zones do not indicate the level of use from skiing or other winter recreation, but the physical alteration of environment from winter recreation. For example, Zone 5 may be heavily skied; however, the environment has not been physically altered (i.e., no glading or tree removal has occurred). Conversely, Zone 1 might also experience high winter use and the environment has been physically altered and visible to summer guests (i.e., chairlifts, buildings and mountain roads within the zone). Refer to the Zone Designations figure for an illustrative depiction of this information.

An additional figure presents the elk calving closures within and around Beaver Creek's SUP boundary. The elk calving closures are primarily in zones 3, 4 and 5; however, zones 1 and 2 at the top of Strawberry Park Express are located within the elk calving closure. No organized activities are authorized in elk calving closure areas from May 6<sup>th</sup> to July 1<sup>st</sup>.

#### 1. Zone 1

##### Setting

The existing setting of Zone 1 is highly developed and disturbed. Within Zone 1, the built environment dominates the landscape. Within the context of the overall SUP area, the following summarizes the setting in Zone 1:

- Road access and roads are prevalent;

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<sup>8</sup> Declaration of Restrictive Covenant made by Vail Corporation and accepted by Beaver Creek Metropolitan District, July 2014

- Considerable human activity (people recreating and/or resort operations) occurs within and proximate to this setting—there is little to no feeling of remoteness;
- Terrain modifications (ground disturbance and vegetation removal) dominate the area; and
- Infrastructure, including chairlifts and buildings, are present.

### Desired Experiences

Within Zone 1, guests are expected to encounter a high concentration of other guests. The level of development will reflect the current setting and function of these areas as hubs of activity and portals to other activities across the ski area. The guest visiting Zone 1 will utilize it as a portal to other zones.

### Compatible Activities and Facilities

Services and activities either existing or proposed within Zone 1 could include food and beverage operations, shelter and emergency services, restroom facilities, landscaped plazas, discovery/interpretative centers, climbing walls, mountain coasters, tubing and other activities.

## **2. Zone 2**

### Setting

The existing setting of Zone 2 is less disturbed when compared with Zone 1, and provides more naturalness due to a lesser degree of disturbance from the surrounding ski area. Constructed features should blend with the natural surroundings, but may be more visually dominant. The following summarizes the setting in Zone 2:

- Road access and roads are present;
- Human activity (people recreating) occurs within and proximate to this setting—there is little feeling of remoteness;
- Terrain modifications (ground disturbance and vegetation removal) are evident in the area, but past disturbance or physical alternations blends with the landscape; and
- Infrastructure, including chairlifts and buildings, are present.

### Desired Experiences

Zone 2 will offer a wider variety of experiences in a more controlled and concentrated setting, as compared to Zones 3, 4 and 5. The experience within Zone 2 would continue to feel relatively developed with activities and facilities that surround them at the core of Zone 2.

### Compatible Activities and Facilities

Zone 2 utilizes existing and proposed chairlift infrastructure and guest service facilities. Services and activities could include food and beverage operations, shelter and emergency services, restroom facilities, group functions, satellite ticketing and operations for activities such as zip and canopy tours. Passive activities could include educational/interpretive opportunities, sightseeing and light hiking or simply visiting with friends and family. Zone 2 will provide enhanced sightseeing opportunities compared to Zone 1. Active offerings include access to zip lines and canopy tours, hiking trails, mountain biking trails and other similar natural resource-based activities.



The goal of Zone 2 is to provide satellite facilities in a less developed setting than Zone 1. These satellite facilities will provide an outpost for natural resource-based activities and be the second portal to the National Forest. These locations occur at the top and bottom of existing chairlifts with facilities and the visual experience being similar to what a guests experience at these locations in the winter season.

### **3. Zone 3**

#### **Setting**

The existing setting of Zone 3 contains disturbance from ski trail and chairlift development, but guests can find a greater degree of remoteness and naturalness depending on the location. Generally speaking, Zone 3 includes areas where existing chairlifts are present; however, this was not the determining factor for the designation. Within the context of the overall SUP area, the following summarizes the setting in Zone 3:

- Road access and roads are present, but limited to certain areas;
- Human activity (people recreating) can be seen at a distance or is out of site from within this setting—a stronger feeling of remoteness is present as compared to Zones 1 and 2;
- The area is moderately disturbed or physically altered by ski area activity, including vegetation removal from ski trail development and some ground disturbance; and
- Infrastructure, including chairlifts and buildings, are present.

#### **Desired Experience**

The desired experience will be achieved through the activities and facilities. Guests will enjoy nature hiking and biking trails through forested and open settings. Visitors in Zone 3 may encounter small groups of other users including hikers, mountain bikers and the overhead passing of guests on chairlifts, zip lines or canopy tours. Although users will experience more solitude than in Zone 2, the sights and sounds of people will be greater than Zones 4 and 5.

These experiences will promote the National Forest as a recreationally, biologically and geographically diverse landscape.

#### **Compatible Activities and Facilities**

Activities could include developed and maintained mountain biking trails, scenic chairlift rides, hiking trails, multi-use trails, overlook/viewing structures, zip lines, canopy tours, off highway vehicle tours, and other similar natural resource-based activities. Select activities such as canopy tours and zip lines may be utilized on a year-round basis. Activities within Zone 3 will not require substantial modifications to the natural topography to facilitate construction of activities. Zone 3 will utilize existing chairlifts to expose guests to unique areas of the SUP area and to provide sightseeing opportunities. Existing ski area development (ski trails and chairlifts) exist to varying degrees within Zone 3, and potential seasonal and year-round facilities and activities will be consistent with the level of existing development for the ski area operation.

#### **4. Zone 4**

##### **Setting**

The setting of Zone 4 is more remote and provides a great degree of naturalness. Ski area development is limited and larger tree islands are prevalent when ski trails are present. Within the context of the overall SUP area, the following summarizes the setting in Zone 4:

- Limited road access occurs;
- Human activity (people recreating and/or resort operations) is distant or out of site facilitating a high degree remoteness;
- The area is predominately natural or has limited disturbance or physical alternations; and
- Infrastructure, including a chairlift and small buildings, are present.

##### **Desired Experiences**

In Zone 4, guests will connect with the more natural setting in a relatively unaltered environment. The setting in Zone 4 will provide a greater sense of remoteness, with opportunities for guests to experience solitude on National Forest lands. Guests within this zone would not expect to encounter many other guests.

##### **Compatible Activities and Facilities**

Activities will promote the surroundings and inform guests of similar environments throughout the National Forest. Activities include slower moving actions to match the setting and character, which provide an even greater degree of environmental education and exposure to unique environments. These activities include hiking, biking and horse trails with increased signage and interpretation. Activities within Zone 4 will require minimal site modification to maintain the current level of naturalness. In this Zone, the low density of guests is expected to maintain the feeling of remoteness during the summer.

#### **5. Zone 5**

##### **Setting**

The setting of Zone 5 is currently physically unaltered by ski area activities. Very few people recreate in these areas of the SUP boundary during the summer. No ski area roads or infrastructure is present in Zone 5. Within the context of the overall SUP area, the following summarizes the setting in Zone 5:

- No ski area roads are present;
- Human activity (people recreating and/or resort operations) is predominantly out of sight, so one would feel completely remote;
- Area is minimally disturbed or altered by ski area activity; and
- Ski area infrastructure is only visible at a distance.

##### **Desired Experiences**

Zone 5 represents the most remote sectors within the SUP. The desired experience is remote and more natural. Guests within this zone would not expect to encounter many other guests.

### Compatible Activities and Facilities

The areas with the Zone 5 designation should be left as is with no developed seasonal or year-round activities or facilities. Some level of dispersed recreation unrelated to Beaver Creek takes place in Zone 5.

## **P. SEASONAL AND YEAR-ROUND ACTIVITIES AND FACILITIES**

Year-round and seasonal project preliminarily planned are described below within each zone and satisfy the master planning process requirement identified in FSM 2343.14(8)(b). The location and scope of these projects could change as project details are refined during planning and environmental review.

### **1. Zone 1**

Projects that are proposed and/or are proposed to originate/terminate in Zone 1 include:

- Scenic chairlift ride utilizing Centennial Express
- An adult challenge course/ropes course approximately 200 feet northwest of Spruce Saddle, below the Spruce Saddle service road and above Cinch
- A removable kids challenge course/ropes course south of Spruce Saddle in the lawn area
- A mountain coaster north of Spruce Saddle within Zone 1 – planned to be constructed in the tree island to the east of the Double Diamond ski trail
- Bridge course/canopy walk approximately 250 feet to the north east of Spruce Saddle
- A canopy tour extending from Spruce Saddle (Zone 1) down the ridge between Rose Bowl and Gold Dust, then into Rose Bowl and down to the bottom of the Rose Bowl Express (Zone 3)
- A canopy tour initiating west of the top of the Rose Bowl Express in Zone 3 and terminating at Spruce Saddle (Zone 1) – a continuation of the canopy tour from Spruce Saddle the bottom of Rose Bowl Express
- Hardened trails and biking and hiking trails around the Spruce Saddle area
- Landscaping in the Spruce Saddle area
- Discovery/interpretive center in the Spruce Saddle area

### **2. Zone 2**

Projects that are proposed and/or are proposed to originate/terminate in Zone 2 include:

- Scenic chairlift ride utilizing Centennial Express
- Scenic chairlift ride and access for canopy tour utilizing Rose Bowl Express Lift
- A canopy tour extending from Spruce Saddle (Zone 1) down the ridge between Rose Bowl and Gold Dust, then into Rose Bowl and down to the bottom of the Rose Bowl Express (Zone 3)
- A canopy tour starting west of the top of the Rose Bowl Express and terminating at Spruce Saddle starts in zone three extends through Zone 2, and terminating in Zone 1

- Hiking and biking trails

### **3. Zone 3**

- Scenic chairlift ride utilizing Centennial Express
- Scenic chairlift ride and access for canopy tour utilizing Rose Bowl Express Lift
- One canopy tour extending from Spruce Saddle (Zone 1) to bottom of Rose Bowl (Zone 3)
- One zip line initiating in Zone 3 and terminating at Spruce Saddle (Zone 1)
- Hiking and biking trails

### **4. Zone 4**

- No organized summer activities are proposed in Zone 4

### **5. Zone 5**

- No organized summer activities are proposed in Zone 5

## **Q. CONSTRUCTION TIMEFRAME**

Beaver Creek expects to implement Phase 1 projects within one to five years subsequent to review and potential approval in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act. This satisfies the master planning process requirement identified in FSM 2343.14(8)(c).



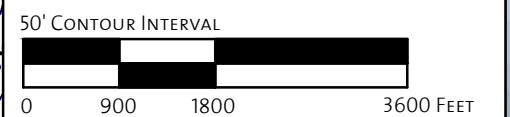


BEAVER CREEK RESORT  
MDP ADDENDUM

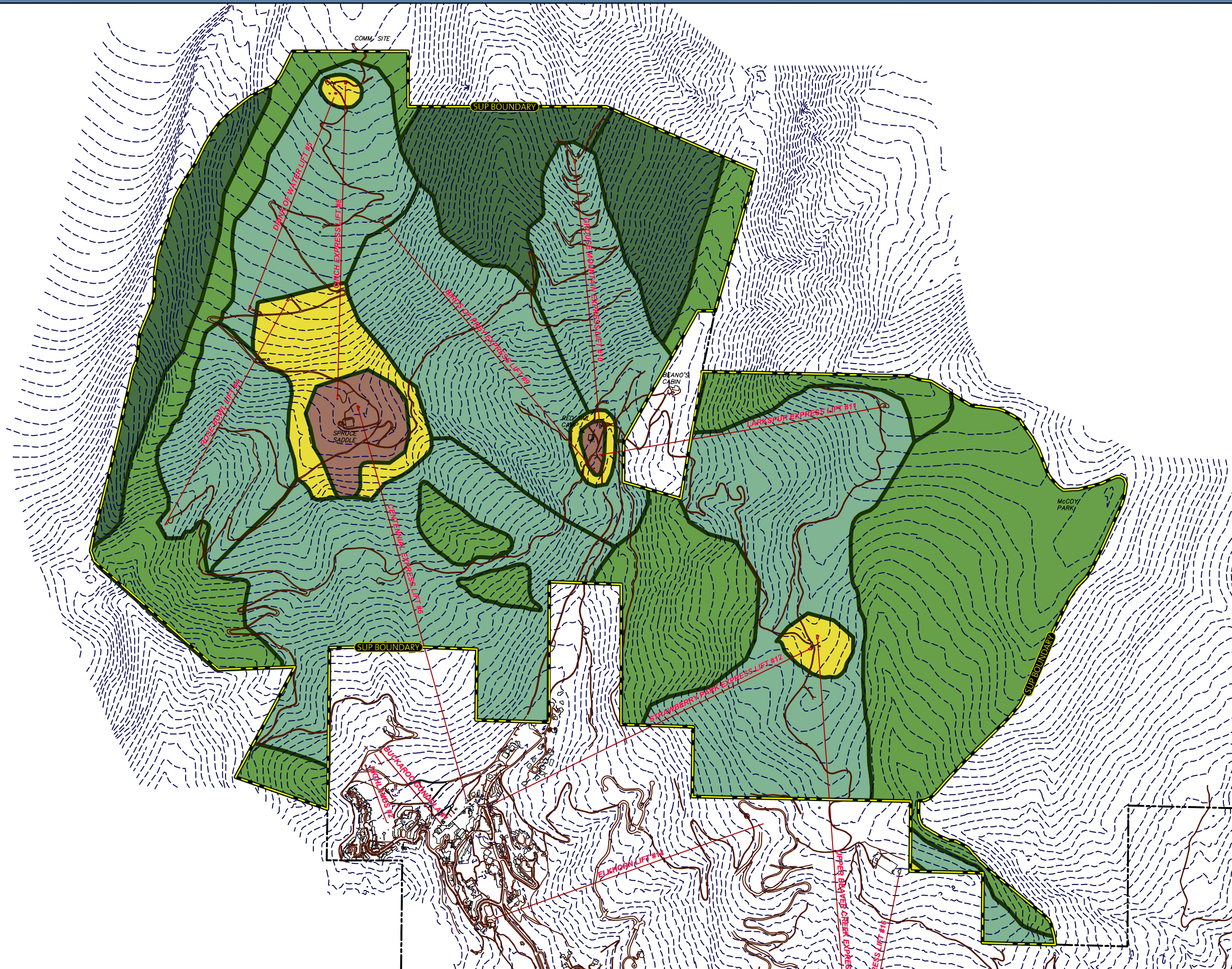
ZONE DESIGNATIONS

LEGEND

- ZONE 1
- ZONE 2
- ZONE 3
- ZONE 4
- ZONE 5



PREPARED BY:







BEAVER CREEK RESORT  
MDP ADDENDUM

Elk Calving Closure

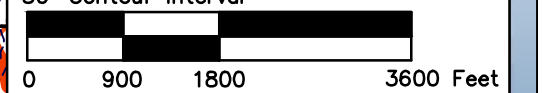
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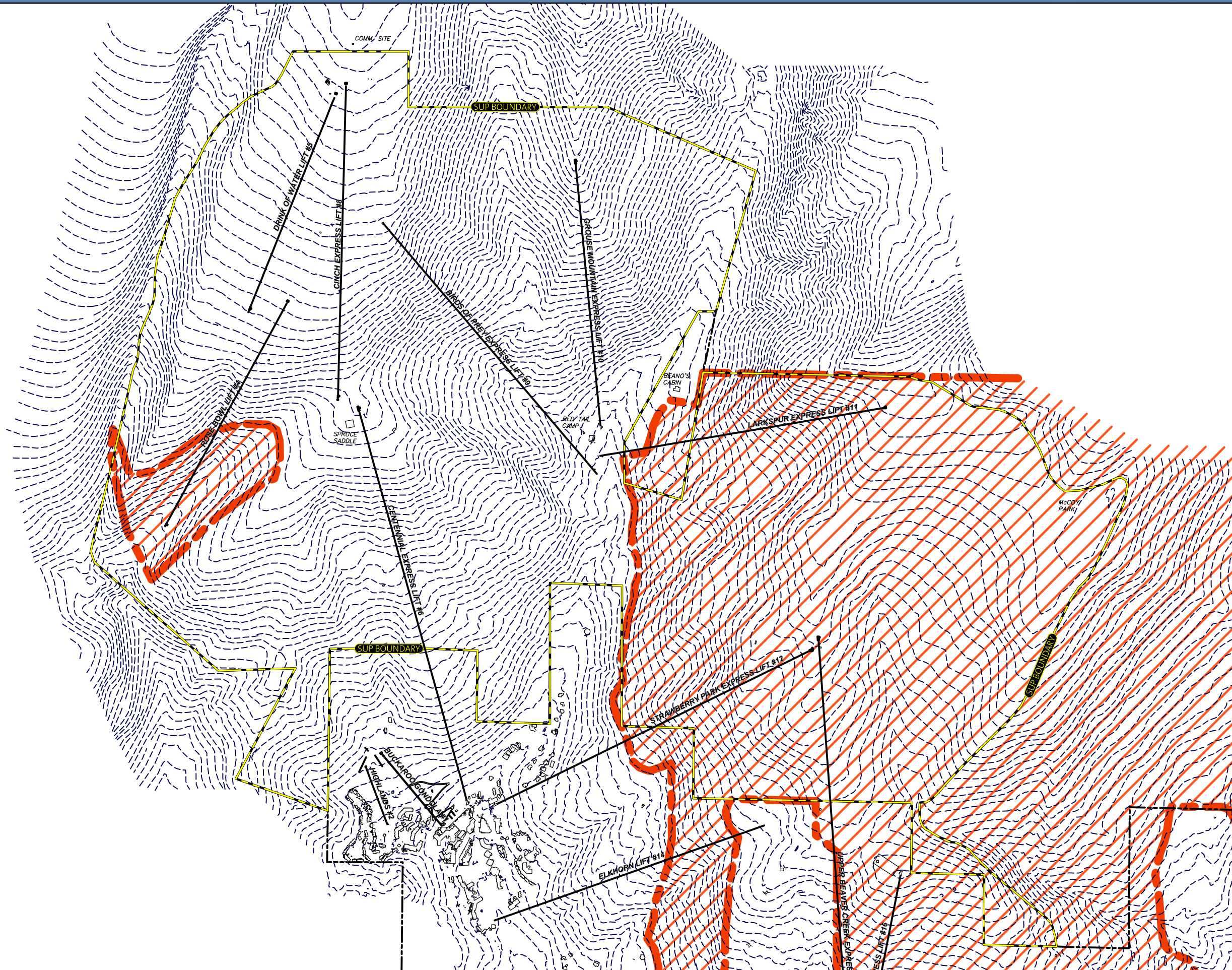
Elk Closure Boundary



50' Contour Interval



Prepared By:



**APPENDIX A: RESORT SPECIFICATIONS TABLES**

**Table 1: Zone Characteristics**

Zone Characteristics		Scores
<i>Access</i>		
	Road Access within Area	1
	Limited Road Access/Trails	2
	No Road Access	3
<i>Remoteness</i>		
	Proximate to Human Activity	1
	Distant Sight of Human Activity within SUP	2
	Out of Sight of Human Activity within SUP	3
<i>Naturalness</i>		
	Heavily Disturbed by Ski Area Activity	1
	Moderately Disturbed by Ski Area Activity	2
	Undisturbed by Ski Area Activity	3
<i>Infrastructure</i>		
	Adjacent to 2 or More Ski Area Infrastructure	1
	Ski Area Infrastructure in Area	2
	Out of Site of Ski Area Infrastructure	3
	<i>Minimum Score Possible</i>	4
	<i>Maximum Score Possible</i>	12
Zones	Score Range	
1	4	
2	5 to 6	
3	7 to 9	
4	10 to 11	
5	12	



**Table 2: Beaver Creek Area Boundaries and Appropriate Zones**

Area Boundaries	Score	Appropriate Zone
<i>Spruce Saddle</i>		
Access	1	
Remoteness	1	
Naturalness	1	
Infrastructure	1	
<b>Total Score</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>Zone 1</b>
<i>Stickline 1 and 2</i>		
Access	3	
Remoteness	2	
Naturalness	3	
Infrastructure	2	
<b>Total Score</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>Zone 4</b>
<i>Spruce Saddle Outer</i>		
Access	1	
Remoteness	2	
Naturalness	1	
Infrastructure	1	
<b>Total Score</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>Zone 2</b>
<i>Rose Bowl</i>		
Access	2	
Remoteness	2	
Naturalness	2	
Infrastructure	2	
<b>Total Score</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>Zone 3</b>
<i>Stone Creek</i>		
Access	3	
Remoteness	2	
Naturalness	3	
Infrastructure	2	
<b>Total Score</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>Zone 4</b>
<i>Stone Creek Chutes</i>		
Access	3	
Remoteness	3	
Naturalness	3	
Infrastructure	3	
<b>Total Score</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>Zone 5</b>
<i>Southeast Beaver Creek Mountain</i>		
Access	3	
Remoteness	2	
Naturalness	3	
Infrastructure	3	
<b>Total Score</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>Zone 4</b>
<i>Patrol Headquarters</i>		
Access	1	
Remoteness	2	
Naturalness	1	
Infrastructure	1	
<b>Total Score</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>Zone 2</b>

Area Boundaries	Score	Appropriate Zone
<i>Talon's</i>		
Access	1	
Remoteness	1	
Naturalness	1	
Infrastructure	1	
<b>Total Score</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>Zone 1</b>
<i>Grouse Mountain</i>		
Access	2	
Remoteness	3	
Naturalness	2	
Infrastructure	2	
<b>Total Score</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>Zone 3</b>
<i>Lower Baldy</i>		
Access	3	
Remoteness	3	
Naturalness	3	
Infrastructure	3	
<b>Total Score</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>Zone 5</b>
<i>Royal Elk Glade</i>		
Access	3	
Remoteness	3	
Naturalness	3	
Infrastructure	3	
<b>Total Score</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>Zone 5</b>
<i>Creek Side</i>		
Access	3	
Remoteness	2	
Naturalness	3	
Infrastructure	3	
<b>Total Score</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>Zone 4</b>
<i>South Larkspur/Slick Slide</i>		
Access	3	
Remoteness	2	
Naturalness	3	
Infrastructure	3	
<b>Total Score</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>Zone 4</b>
<i>Larkspur Bowl/Strawberry Park</i>		
	Top of 12&18	
Access	2	
Remoteness	2	
Naturalness	2	
Infrastructure	2	
<b>Total Score</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>Zone 3</b>
<i>Top of Strawberry Park Express</i>		
Access	1	
Remoteness	1	
Naturalness	2	
Infrastructure	1	
<b>Total Score</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>Zone 2</b>

<i>Birds of Prey</i>		
Access	2	
Remoteness	2	
Naturalness	2	
Infrastructure	2	
<b>Total Score</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>Zone 3</b>
<i>Talon's Outer</i>		
Access	1	
Remoteness	1	
Naturalness	2	
Infrastructure	2	
<b>Total Score</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>Zone 2</b>
<i>Upper Centennial</i>		
Access	1	
Remoteness	2	
Naturalness	2	
Infrastructure	2	
<b>Total Score</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>Zone 3</b>
<i>Beaver Lake Creek</i>		
Access	3	
Remoteness	3	
Naturalness	2	
Infrastructure	3	
<b>Total Score</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>Zone 4</b>

<i>McCoy Park</i>		
Access	2	
Remoteness	3	
Naturalness	3	
Infrastructure	2	
<b>Total Score</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>Zone 4</b>
<i>Mamie's</i>		
Access	1	
Remoteness	2	
Naturalness	2	
Infrastructure	1	
<b>Total Score</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>Zone 2</b>
<i>Aspen Glade</i>		
Access	3	
Remoteness	2	
Naturalness	3	
Infrastructure	2	
<b>Total Score</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>Zone 4</b>
<i>Primarose</i>		
Access	3	
Remoteness	2	
Naturalness	2	
Infrastructure	2	
<b>Total Score</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>Zone 3</b>