



File Code: 1950

Date: February 12, 2013

Dear Reader:

This letter is to inform you that the Record of Decision (ROD) for the *Mt. Bachelor Ski Area Improvements Project Final Environmental Impact Statement* (FEIS) was signed on February 5, 2013 by John Allen, Forest Supervisor, Deschutes National Forest. The Proposed Action was selected because it best meets the purpose and need for action, responds to key issues, and addresses public comments on the DEIS. This alternative was identified as the preferred alternative in the FEIS. The 45-day appeal period begins with the publication of the legal notice of the decision in *The Bulletin* (Bend, Oregon), the newspaper of record. Copies of the ROD and FEIS are available at the Bend/Ft. Rock Ranger District office, or the documents may be viewed at the Deschutes National Forest NEPA Project Website: http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=35863. This letter provides a brief summary of the project, information on the official 45-day appeal period, and instructions on how to obtain a copy of the FEIS.

Mt. Bachelor is located near Bend, Oregon, in Deschutes County, T18S, R9E, Sections 17 – 33. The ski resort operates under a special use permit (SUP) issued by the USDA Forest Service (Forest Service) and administered by the Deschutes National Forest (DNF). The DNF has prepared this FEIS in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Forest Service regulations regarding its implementation. As classified by the *Deschutes National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan* (1990), the project area is within the Intensive Recreation management allocation, and is entirely within the area covered by the SUP.

Project and Decision Summary

The Bend-Ft. Rock Ranger District, Deschutes National Forest (DNF) received a proposal from Mt. Bachelor, Inc., operators of Mt. Bachelor ski resort, requesting authorization to implement improvements included in their recently revised master development plan (MDP). The MDP documents analysis of current conditions at the resort and, based on that analysis, outlines anticipated development and management of the resort over the next 10 years. The proposed improvements are intended to enhance the winter and summer recreational opportunities available at the resort and on the DNF. They can be summarized as follows:

Eastside Pod:

- Developing the new Eastside Express lift and associated trails.
- Constructing a new, lower-elevation catchline delivering skiers to the Eastside Express lower terminal.
- Enhancing tree skiing opportunities between Eastside pod ski trails and between the existing and proposed catchlines.

Sunrise Area:

- Replacing the Rainbow lift in a shortened alignment.
- Removing Snowmobile Trail No. 40 from the National Forest Trail System and prohibiting the use of snowmobiles by the public within the Mt. Bachelor ski area boundary except as authorized under special use permit.
- Replacing the Sunrise Express lift.



- Developing the Sunrise Learning Center and Kids Adventure Zone.
- Improving Sunrise base area skier services, including a new lodge, parking lot, and access road.
- Constructing a new culinary water reservoir to provide adequate storage for the new lodge and associated facilities.
- Doubling the capacity of the existing Sunrise base area wastewater treatment system, particularly the drain field.
- Installing a vaulted restroom facility near the base of Skyliner Express.

West Village Area:

- Shortening the Red Chair.
- Constructing the Alpine Training Center.
- Adding coverage to the snowmaking system.
- Removing outdated West Village buildings and expanding the West Village Lodge.
- Moving the tubing hill across the parking lot to the “Old Maid” area.
- Developing a new employee/overflow parking lot.
- Constructing a biomass co-generation facility to provide electrical power and steam heat.

Nordic Center:

- Making minor improvements to the Nordic Center trail network.
- Refurbishing Bob’s Bungalow.

Summer Activities in the Pine Marten Area:

- Developing new hiking trails.
- Creating a lift-served, downhill mountain bike park.
- Setting up a canopy tour zipline course.
- Installing a rock climbing structure.

All the proposed improvements would be within Mt. Bachelor’s current SUP boundary. No expansion beyond that boundary is proposed. There are no connected actions associated with this project, and no Forest Plan amendments would be required in order to implement the Agency Preferred Alternative.

Administrative Review

This decision is subject to appeal pursuant to 36 CFR 215. The 45-day appeal period begins the day following the date the legal notice of this decision is published in *The Bulletin*, Bend, Oregon. Only individuals or organizations that submitted comments or otherwise expressed interest during the 45-day comment period may appeal. Notices of appeal must meet the requirements of 36 CFR 215.14. They can be submitted in several forms, but must be received by the Appeal Deciding Officer, Regional Forester, within 45 days from the date of publication of notice of the decision in *The Bulletin*, Bend, OR. Appeals may be:

- 1) Mailed to: Appeal Deciding Officer, Pacific Northwest Region, USDA Forest Service, Attn. 1570 Appeals, PO Box 3623, Portland, OR 97208-3623;
- 2) Emailed to: appeals-pacificnorthwest-regional-office@fs.fed.us. Please put APPEAL and the project name in the subject line. Electronic appeals must be submitted as part of an actual e-mail message, or as an attachment in Microsoft Word (.doc), rich text format (.rtf), or portable document format (.pdf) only. E-mails submitted to addresses other than the ones listed above or in formats

other than those listed above or containing viruses will be rejected. It is the responsibility of the appellant to confirm receipt of appeals submitted by electronic mail. For electronically mailed appeals, the sender should normally receive an automated electronic acknowledgement from the agency as confirmation of receipt. If the sender does not receive an automated acknowledgement of the receipt of the appeal, it is the sender's responsibility to ensure timely receipt by other means;

3) Delivered to: Pacific Northwest Regional Office, 333 S.W. First Avenue, Robert Duncan Plaza Building, Portland, Oregon 97204-3440 between 7:45 AM and 4:30 PM, Monday through Friday except legal holidays; or

4) Faxed to: Regional Forester, Attn: 1570 APPEALS at (503) 808-2339.

Anyone wishing to obtain copies of the ROD, FEIS, or additional information on the project should contact Amy Tinderholt, Project Leader at (541) 383-4708.

Sincerely,

/s/ John Allen
JOHN ALLEN
Forest Supervisor