



## Scoping Document

## Snowbasin Strawberry Quad Lift and Associated Infrastructure

USDA Forest Service  
Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National  
Forests  
Ogden Ranger District  
Weber and Morgan County,  
Utah

Comments Due: April 18, 2008

### The Purpose of this Scoping Document

This document is to inform you that the Ogden Ranger District is initiating an environmental review to assess the impact of constructing a chairlift and associated infrastructure at Snowbasin. Construction activities will lie in part on National Forest System land that is authorized to Snowbasin under special use permit. The project area is in S ½ of Sec. 4, SE ¼ of Se. 5, NE ¼ of the NE ¼ of Sec. 8, and NW ¼ of Sec. 9, T. 5 N, R. 1 E, Salt Lake BM, in Morgan and Weber counties, Utah. (See Map).

We invite you to let us know of any comments, concerns, or suggestions you might have regarding this proposed use on the Ogden Ranger District, Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest.

### What is Being Proposed?

The proposal is to authorize construction of the following (see attached map):

- A high-speed detachable quad chairlift in the Strawberry Bowl area of Snowbasin ski area, with a capacity of up to 2,400 persons per hour, a lift line slope length of 8,500 feet, and a vertical rise of 1,970 feet. About 7,950 feet of slope length would be on Snowbasin property and 550 feet on National Forest System lands.
- A 10-percent-slope, 30-foot-wide skiway from the upper terminal of this lift to the top of Mainstreet run. The skiway would also serve as a summer road to the upper lift terminal and would be covered by an expansion to the ski area's snowmaking system.
- Improvements to Dan's run, including enlargement of the cleared and leveled area at the top of the run, expansion of the snowmaking system to cover the run, and minor opening the ski run.
- The total area of disturbance on National Forest System land would be 3.9 acres.

### Why are we proposing this project?

Lift-served skiing in Strawberry Bowl began when the Strawberry Express gondola was installed prior to the 2002 Olympics. The only practical way for skiers to leave lower Strawberry Bowl is to ride the gondola back up and then traverse back out of the bowl from the top. The upper terminal is above the typical cloud line and subject to high winds that can impact the upper mountain. As a result, poor visibility and high winds make it necessary to shut the gondola down at times, stranding skiers in the lower Bowl. Under these conditions, the ski area dispatches snowcats to ferry skiers back to the base area.

The primary purpose in considering the proposed chairlift and associated infrastructure is to improve skier safety by providing an alternative lift-served egress route from Strawberry Bowl that is less susceptible to weather conditions. The upper terminal of the proposed lift would be below the cloud line in a more protected area. The skiway to the top of Mainstreet would provide skier access to Strawberry Bowl terrain, while the improvements to Dan's run would accommodate the additional

skiers leaving Strawberry Bowl from the upper portion of the bowl or from the upper terminal of the new lift. The proposed snowmaking would help insure a safe and reliable skiing surface on these key routes.

### **Preliminary Issues**

1. Effects on the environment (including water quality, wildlife, vegetation, soil, cultural resources, fisheries, air quality, and recreation).
2. Effects on special status species, including plants and wildlife.
3. Effects on Scenery as viewed from State Road 167 and the Ogden Valley.

### **What is the Decision to be made?**

The decision to be made is whether or not to authorize Snowbasin to complete these proposed developments on National Forest System lands and, if so, with what required mitigation measures to reduce or eliminate adverse effects on the environment.

### **Who will make the Decision?**

Acting Forest Supervisor Brian Ferebee is the official responsible for making this decision. The decision would be implemented in the summer of 2008.

### **We want to hear from you.**

We welcome your comments, whether you have additional issues you believe need to be addressed or specific concerns with the proposal.

Specific questions regarding the proposal should be directed to Rick Vallejos, at (801) 625-5112; FAX (801) 625-5914, or email [rvallejos@fs.fed.us](mailto:rvallejos@fs.fed.us). Additional information can be found on the web at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r4/wcnf/projects/proposed/>.

Submittals you make and identifiers therein will be available for public review and may be released in their entirety if requested pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act.

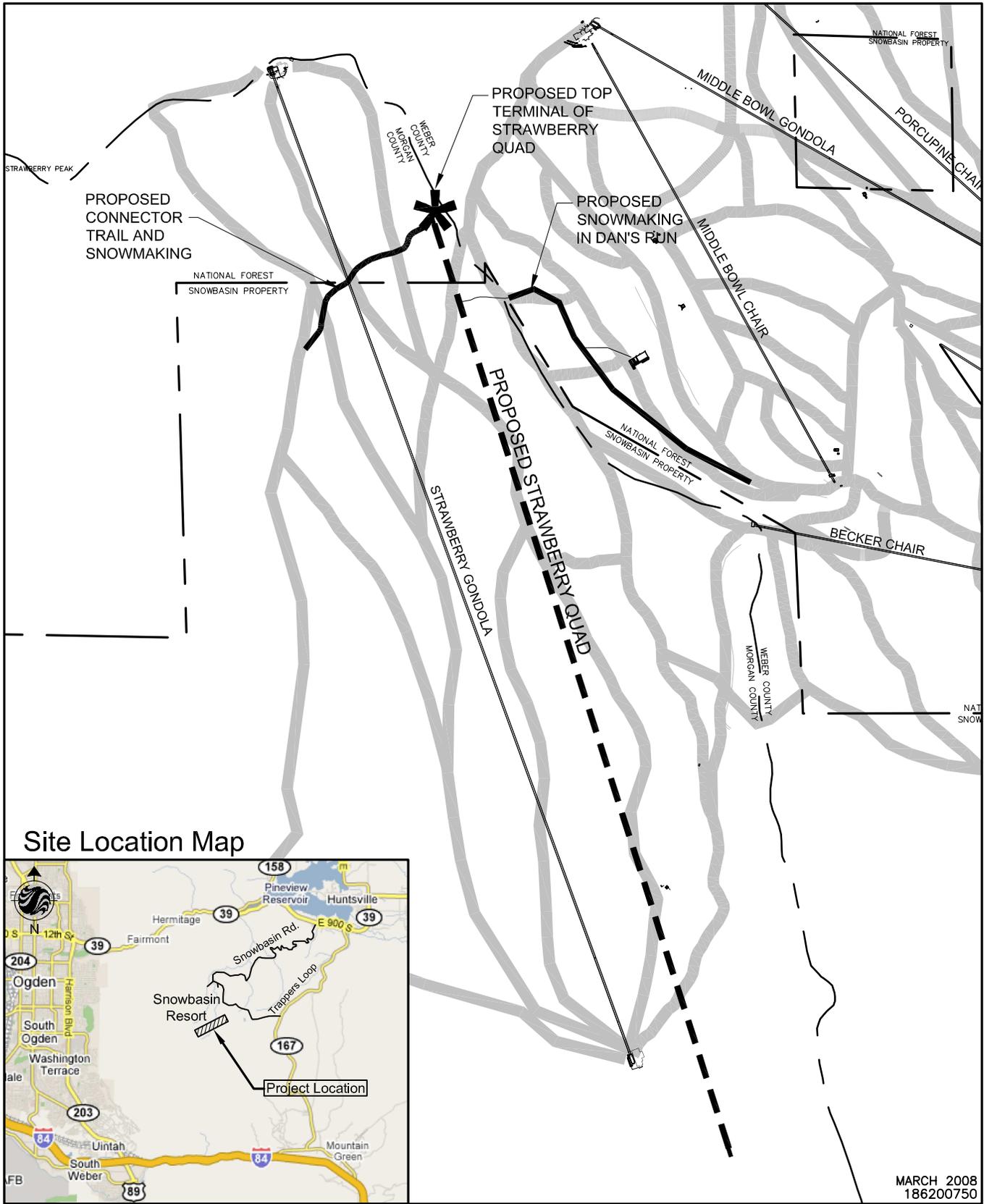
### **When do we need your Response?**

To be most useful, we would appreciate receiving your written comments by **April 18, 2008**.

Comments should be mailed to:

Chip Sibbersen, District Ranger, Ogden Ranger District, 507 25<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 103, Ogden, UT 84401 or emailed to: [comments-intermtn-wasatch-cache-ogden@fs.fed.us](mailto:comments-intermtn-wasatch-cache-ogden@fs.fed.us)

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Site Location Map



Client/Project  
SNOWBASIN RESORT



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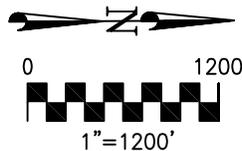


Figure No.

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Title

STRAWBERRY QUAD LIFT AND  
SNOWMAKING MODIFICATIONS