

**THE SUMMIT-AT-SNOQUALMIE  
MASTER DEVELOPMENT PLAN PROPOSAL  
FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

**Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie and Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forests  
King and Kittitas Counties, Washington**

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Cooperating Agency:	USDI Fish and Wildlife Service
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**Abstract:** This Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) is prepared in response to a site-specific Master Development Plan (MDP) submitted by Ski Lifts, Inc. to provide winter and summer recreational use within the Special Use Permit (SUP) area for The Summit-at-Snoqualmie Ski Area. The purpose for the MDP proposal is to upgrade and expand the recreational infrastructure and associated facilities; update The Summit-at-Snoqualmie's MDP for the long-range (approximately ten years) management and development of The Summit-at-Snoqualmie; increase skier connectivity between Summit East and Summit Central; maintain long-term economic viability of the facilities at Summit East; take advantage of opportunities to restore conditions in the Upper South Fork Snoqualmie River and Coal Creek watersheds; and be consistent with the Forest Plan. To accomplish these purposes, this FEIS analyzes five alternatives. The alternatives consist of four Action Alternatives and a No Action Alternative (Alternative 1) that are analyzed in detail in this FEIS, including Ski Lifts, Inc.'s Proposed Action (Alternative 2) and the agency's Preferred Alternative (Modified Alternative 5). The following gives a brief summary of each of the alternatives.

(1) Under Alternative 1 (No Action), there would be no additional effects on the biological or human environment resulting from development of new facilities, other than those approved in previous decisions.

(2) Alternative 2 (Proposed Action) represents Ski Lifts Inc.'s MDP as submitted to the Forest Service in August 1998, with subsequent modifications. Under Alternative 2, The Summit-at-Snoqualmie would operate 31 lifts on approximately 816 acres of formal ski terrain. The Summit-at-Snoqualmie's CCC would increase from 10,020 (as in the No Action Alternative) to 13,630, for an increase of approximately 36%, or 3,610 skiers. The increased capacity would be achieved through the replacement of existing lifts, installation of new lifts, development of new ski terrain and construction of additional support facilities. All new development would be limited to the SUP area, which would be expanded from 1,834 acres to 1,886 acres.

(3) Alternative 3 addresses concerns to late-successional habitat, wildlife connectivity, Riparian Reserves, and impacts to Nordic/backcountry skiers. Overall, Alternative 3 presents reduced development and impacts to Section 16 compared to Alternative 2. Under Alternative 3, The Summit-at-Snoqualmie would operate 29 lifts on approximately 768 acres of formal ski terrain. The CCC would increase from 10,020 to 12,610 skiers, for an increase of approximately 26%, or 2,590 skiers. Additionally, The Summit-at-Snoqualmie would donate approximately 390 acres in the Mill Creek watershed to offset development impacts to Section 16.

(4) Alternative 4, as with Alternative 3, addresses concerns over impacts to late-successional habitat, wildlife connectivity, and Section 16. However, Alternative 4 does not allow development within Section 16. Under Alternative 4, The Summit-at-Snoqualmie would operate 29 lifts on approximately 771 acres of formal ski terrain. The CCC would increase from 10,020 to 12,880 skiers, for an increase of approximately 29%, or 2,860 skiers.

(5) Modified Alternative 5 (Preferred Alternative) is a modified version of Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) Alternative 5. Modified Alternative 5 is a mitigated version of Alternative 2 that seeks to reduce impacts to Section 16, Riparian Reserves, late-successional habitat, and wildlife connectivity. Under Modified Alternative 5, The Summit-at-Snoqualmie would operate 32 lifts on approximately 810 acres of formal ski terrain. The CCC would increase from 10,020 to 13,930 skiers for an increase of approximately 39%, or 3,910 skiers. Similar to Alternative 3, Modified Alternative 5 would include the 390-acre land donation.

Agency and public reviewers have provided the Forest Service with their comments on the DEIS. A Response to Comments from the DEIS is located in Volume 5 of the FEIS. All reviewers had been informed of their obligation to structure their participation in the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process so that it is meaningful and alerts the agency to the reviewer's position and contentions. Comments on the DEIS were considered and resulted in alternative and analysis modifications included in the FEIS. A copy of the FEIS is available online at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/mbs/projects/summit-at-snoqualmie>.