BUTTERCUP SKI LIFT REPLACEMENT

Decision Notice
and Finding of No Significant Impact

USDA Forest Service
Hood River Ranger District
Mt. Hood National Forest
Hood River County, Oregon
T2S, R9E, Section 3, Willamette Meridian

DECISION AND REASONS FOR DECISION

The Buttercup Ski Lift Replacement Environmental Assessment (EA) contains an in-depth discussion of the setting, ecological processes, resource conditions, purpose and need for action, proposed action, project design criteria/mitigation measures, alternatives considered, environmental consequences and benefits of the alternatives as well as appendices which include best management practices for water quality protection and response to comments received.

The Buttercup Ski Lift Replacement project is located on the Hood River Ranger District within the Mt. Hood Meadows Ski Resort (MHM) Permit Area. In January 1997, the Forest Service issued the Record of Decision (ROD) for the Mt. Hood Meadows Ski Area Master Plan Final Environmental Impact Statement (Master Plan), including Forest Plan Amendment No. 10. The ROD and Master Plan define the desired future condition for an expanded permit area, which includes improving the balance of skiing terrain through new chair and surface lifts as well as improving the quality of the recreational experience through upgraded facilities (ROD p. 8). In September 2011, Mt. Hood Meadows Ski Resort (MHM) requested the Forest Service consider a proposal to upgrade and relocate the Buttercup Ski. This project was undertaken to expand beginner/novice terrain and to improve traffic flow at the Buttercup Ski Lift.

Purpose and Need for Action (EA, Section 1.2)

The Buttercup Ski Lift is a double fixed grip chairlift that was built in 1979. The current vertical rise of the Buttercup Ski Lift is 122 feet with the bottom located at 5,352 feet in elevation. The chairlift has 61 chairs that can accommodate two people at a time. The existing lift has a capacity for approximately 1,200 passengers per hour. The primary purpose of the lift is to provide beginner terrain for skiers and snowboarders. The majority of riders on the Buttercup Ski Lift are novice riders and for some it might even be their first time riding a chairlift.

An analysis of the MHM terrain has identified a need for additional beginner/novice terrain. MHM has recently upgraded the quality of the beginner experience by replacing rope tows with conveyors, but there is an overall shortage of beginner/novice terrain. Also, the existing top terminal is located in a high traffic area. The lift and associated unload area concentrate traffic

creating congestion which increases the risk of skier collisions. As such, the overall purpose of this project is to expand beginner/novice terrain and to improve traffic flow at the Buttercup Ski Lift.

In order to meet this overall purpose, the following needs have been identified:

- Expand the beginner/novice terrain by providing access to existing beginner terrain that is currently inaccessible via the existing lift; and,
- Provide skiers and snowboarders with a safer off-load location and improve the dispersion of skiers and snowboarders at the top of the lift by realigning the current Buttercup Ski Lift.

Management Direction (EA, Section 1.3)

The Environmental Assessment (EA) and this decision are tiered to the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) and ROD for the Mt. Hood National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (hereafter referred to as the Forest Plan) (USDA Forest Service 1990), as amended. The Forest Plan guides all natural resource management activities and establishes management standards and guidelines for the Forest. It describes resource management practices, levels of resource production and management, and the availability and suitability of lands for resource management. Additional management direction for the area is also provided in the following Forest Plan amendments:

- The Northwest Forest Plan (NWFP) – Record of Decision for Amendments to Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management Planning Documents Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl and Standards and Guidelines for Management of Habitat for Late-Successional and Old-Growth Forest Related Species Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl (USDA & USDI 1994);

- Mt. Hood Meadows Ski Area Master Plan – Record of Decision for Mt. Hood Meadows Ski Area Master Plan Final Environmental Impact Statement, including Forest Plan Amendment No. 10 (US Forest Service 1997);

- Survey and Manage – Record of Decision and Standards and Guidelines for Amendments to the Survey and Manage, Protection Buffer, and other Mitigation Measures Standards and Guidelines (US Forest Service et al. 2001); and,

- Invasive Plants – Pacific Northwest Invasive Plant Program Preventing and Managing Invasive Plants Record of Decision (US Forest Service 2005); and Site-Specific Invasive Plant Treatments for Mt. Hood National Forest and Columbia Gorge Scenic Area in Oregon (US Forest Service 2008).

The EA and this decision incorporates by reference the analysis and management direction contained in the Mt. Hood Meadows Ski Area Master Plan Final Environmental Impact Statement, Final Supplemental EIS, and Record of Decision (1997). In January 1997, the Forest Service issued the ROD for Mt. Hood Meadows Ski Area Master Plan Final Environmental Impact Statement (hereafter referred to as the Master Plan), including Forest Plan Amendment No. 10. The Master Plan was based on the analysis contained in the Mt. Hood Meadows Ski

Area Master Plan Final Environmental Impact Statement (December 1990) and the Final Supplemental EIS (June 1996). The Master Plan defines the desired future condition for an expanded permit area; provides general direction for future development at MHM; and establishes winter sports design capacity and summer use maximum capacities. The approval for future development does not authorize specific facilities or uses, define the exact location of facilities, nor stipulate a timeline for development. Rather, it conceptually approves the number and approximate locations of lifts, additional ski terrain, base area expansions, other winter facilities and uses, access and service roads, and summer uses. Implementation, including this project, requires additional site-specific environmental analysis pursuant to requirements in the NEPA. The EA and this decision are the site-specific NEPA required by the Master Plan.

Decision

Based upon my review of the analysis and alternatives, I have decided to implement the **Alternative 2, Proposed Action** as described in the EA, Section 2.2. Appendix 1 of this Decision Notice contains a map of the selected alternative. All project design criteria/mitigation measures (PDC) and Best Management Practices (BMP) that apply to this decision are included in Appendix 2 of this Decision Notice. The PDC are intended to avoid, minimize, rectify, reduce, eliminate and/or compensate for project impacts. The PDC are an integral and required component part of this project. I find that the BMPs selected for this project can be implemented and effective based on past experience, pertinent research described in Chapter 3 of the EA, and monitoring on the Mt. Hood National Forest. Also, I find that the information contained in Appendix A of the EA fully complies with the management direction contained in Appendix H of the Forest Plan.

Proposed Action (EA, Section 2.2)

The Proposed Action (Alternative 2) is to install a fixed grip ski lift with a loading conveyor, to change the alignment and extend the ski lift and to add new terminal sites for the Buttercup Ski Lift. The construction associated with changing the alignment, extending the lift, and adding a new terminal site will include the following.

- Remove the existing towers over-the-snow with an excavator.
- Remove the lower terminal footings and re-grade terminal sites. Access for removing and regrading the existing footings will be via existing roads.
- Use excess material to restore the cut at the top terminal site. Excess material could also be used at the bottom terminal site.
- Remove completely the bottom footing to minimize the long-term effects to groundwater.
- Fracture and leave in-place the remaining towers to allow for improved groundwater distribution. Some of the materials from the old footings will be used as filler in the new footings.
- Revegetate all disturbed areas by sowing seeds collected from native sedges and forbs

within the Mt. Hood Meadows Permit Area, and stabilize soils by covering disturbed areas with jute matting.

- Install new terminal structures with a crane. The towers will be placed via helicopter. The helicopter staging area will be at either the Main or Sunrise Parking Lots.

- Remove three hemlock trees near the top of the proposed lift. Two trees are approximately 28-inches diameter at breast height (dbh), and the third is 25-inches dbh.

Constructing the new top terminal site will require constructing a 310-foot gravel road. This road will remain on-site post-implementation in order to serve as an access road and maintain the lift equipment at the top terminal. The average grade of the road to the top terminal is approximately 14 percent. An existing road will be used to be used to access the bottom terminal. The average grade of this road is 4 percent. Some road maintenance will be required on these roads.

In addition to the construction activities associated with the lift replacement, the bottom terminal will include a water-tight vault in order to operate the loading conveyor. The vault is approximately 60-feet by 8-feet and 7.5-feet deep. The loading conveyor will be surrounded by drainage rock to keep the vault as dry as possible and to allow water to easily pass laterally around the structure downhill. Appropriate measures will be taken to ensure that petroleum-based products do not enter the groundwater (e.g., absorption booms). The vault will include a drainage pipe that will drain to a nearby sewage line. The sewage line is located near the ski lift, approximately 15-feet from the edge of the disturbed area. The conveyor will be constructed when no groundwater is present in the monitoring sites. Also, the conveyor will be covered with a tarp when it is not in use to limit water entering the vault.

A connected action for this project includes the construction of approximately 730 feet of a new power and communication line that will be buried from the bottom of the Vista Ski Lift to the top of the new proposed Buttercup terminal. This utility line will run under an existing road and the short road proposed in this project. Another utility line will be buried under an existing roadway from the MHM's mountain shop to the bottom of the new proposed Buttercup terminal. Trenching the utility lines will occur during the dry season. Vegetation and topsoil will be carefully removed and replaced after filling the trench back in.

In total, about 1.34 acres will be disturbed (see Appendix 1 for map of Proposed Action). MHM will implement the project in coordination with the Forest Service. The Forest Service will monitor the project and provide technical guidance as needed before, during, and after implementation of the project.

Rationale for Decision

I believe the actions described in the selected alternative will meet the overall purpose of the project to expand beginner/novice terrain and to improve traffic flow at the Buttercup Ski Lift. The Proposed Action (Alternative 2), including the loading conveyor, will increase the current capacity and provide safer uploading for beginner skiers. The Proposed Action also will allow for better dispersal of riders and improve rider safety at the upper terminal. Finally, the Proposed Action will provide access to 5.3 acres of additional beginner terrain. Overall, this alternative

minimizes environmental damage with the smallest overall (1.34 acres) and Riparian Reserve (0.3 acres) disturbance while maximizing the increased capacity on the ski lift (2059 passengers per hour). The improvements for beginner skiers are fully discussed in the Recreation Section of the EA (Section 3.1) and the impacts to Riparian Reserves are fully disclosed in the Water Quality Section of the EA (Section 3.4)

I have decided to implement this alternative as described because it fully accomplishes the purpose and need for action discussed above and in Section 1.2 of the EA as well as meeting the desired future conditions discussed in Section 1.4 of the EA. Based on the land allocations for this project, the desired future condition is to provide areas for high quality winter recreation opportunities, including downhill skiing, within a natural appearing forest environment. The entirety of the project area is within *A11-Winter Recreation Area* land use allocation, as described by the Forest Plan (pages 4-190 thru 4-191). The major characteristics for the land use allocation that this project will help to achieve include the following.

- High quality winter recreation activities, such as downhill skiing, will be expanded by upgrading and realigning the Buttercup Ski Lift and by providing access to additional beginner skier terrain.

- Winter recreation activities occur in a natural-appearing forest environment will be incorporated through the visual resources Project Design Criteria/Mitigation Measures (see Appendix 2).

- Ski lodges and chair lifts will be improved by upgrading the Buttercup Ski Lift, including the loading conveyor.

In addition, this project helps to achieve the desired future conditions for winter function and uses as described in the Master Plan (ROD page 8-9). The components addressed through this project include the following.

- Improve balance of skiing terrain through new chair and surface lifts and additional terrain; and,

- Improve the quality of the recreational experience through expanded/upgraded facilities and access road improvements.

Also, I feel the selected alternative considered all comments received during the scoping period and two notice and comment periods. The selected alternative balances the comments received from all stakeholders. Some of the comments that provoked the most discussion were related to Riparian Reserves and economic considerations.

- Riparian Reserves: During the first notice and comment period, the Forest Service received the following comment: “This design includes an approximate 2,400 cubic foot underground vault to be installed in a Riparian Reserve. It would be worthwhile to know if there are alternative loading systems that would meet the goals of this lift without the need of a vault.” Part of the loading conveyor in the Proposed Action is located within a Riparian Reserve. Alternative 3 was designed without the loading conveyor to remove

any direct impact to the Riparian Reserves in this area. The analysis found that the overall impact to Riparian Reserves was greater in Alternative 3 (0.5 acres) given the size of the lower terminal required with a detachable quad lift compared to a fixed grip lift. The Riparian Reserve that will be impacted by the Proposed Action has already been impacted by grading and vegetation removal through previous projects within the Permit Area. The impacts to Riparian Reserves from removing the existing lower terminal and from installing the new drainage and utility lines are minimal for both alternatives. As such, I believe that the comments regarding Riparian Reserves were fully addressed through our range of alternatives and that the Proposed Action provides the smallest impact to Riparian Reserves (0.3 acres).

- Economics: During the second notice and comment period, the Forest Service received several comments regarding the economic implications of the action alternatives. The comments included: "There was no consideration of the economic impacts of the alternatives;" and, "The initial outlay of capital for a high-speed detachable quad is significantly more than the combination of a moving carpet and fixed grip quad. Further, the ongoing cost of maintenance of a high-speed detachable quad is substantial compared to a fixed grip quad, particularly given the short length of the Buttercup Chairlift." Based on these comments, an economic comparison of all three alternatives has been added to the EA (see Section 2.6, Comparison of Alternatives). Alternative 2 would cost between $2.0 to $3.0 million to install and Alternative 3 would cost between $3.6 to $6.0 million to install based on personal communications with the Forest Service National Ropeway Services Team and Mt. Hood Meadows Ski Resort. As such, I believe that the comments regarding economics were fully addressed through the additional analysis. I believe that the Proposed Action is an economically viable alternative to implement and maintain as directed by the Master Plan.

In conclusion, I believe that the selected alternative reflects the integration of effective land management objectives at a very high standard and fully meets the purpose and need for this project.

Alternatives Considered and Reasons for Non Selection

No Action Alternative (EA, Section 2.1)

Under the No Action Alternative, the Buttercup Ski Lift would not be replaced or extended. Long lines and high demand on the Mt. Hood Express lift would continue. A shortage of beginner/novice terrain would remain within MHM Permit Area and beginner/novice terrain would continue to be inaccessible by the existing ski lift. Skier demand would continue to exceed the capacity of the existing Buttercup Ski Lift. Buttercup provides access to Vista Express and Easy Rider lifts as well as the Buttercup ski tertian. The unbalance of capacity would continue to create long waiting lines at the bottom, leading to a lower quality experience for visitors. A safer off-load location would not be created. The existing top terminal is located in a high traffic area; as a result, the lift and associated unload area concentrate traffic creating congestion and increasing the risk of skier collisions. All current operations associated with the Buttercup Ski Lift would remain unchanged under this alternative.

I did not select this alternative because beginner/novice terrain would not be expanded and traffic flow at the Buttercup Ski Lift would not be improved. This alternative does not meet the purpose and need for action. The inaccessible beginner terrain in the Permit Area would not be made available under this alternative. Also, a safer off-load location would not be provided at the top of the lift nor would the dispersion of skiers and snowboarders be improved under this alternative. I did not select this alternative because I feel these are key considerations since the majority of riders on the Buttercup Ski Lift are novice riders and for some it might even be their first time riding a chairlift.

Alternative 3 – Detachable Quad Lift (EA, Section 2.3)

Alternative 3 would install a detachable quad lift, change the alignment and extend the ski lift, and add new terminal sites for the Buttercup Ski Lift. The primary difference between Alternatives 2 and 3 is the type of lifts to be installed and the resulting changes in the required construction activities. The location of the ski lift, including the alignment and extension for Alternative 3, is the same as the Proposed Action. The locations of the terminals and footings would not change. This ski lift does not include any loading conveyor.

In addition, installing a detachable quad lift would include the following.

- The detachable quad lift would require deeper excavation at the bottom terminal in order to accommodate the larger footings needed for the larger detachable station. The bottom of the footing is approximately 13-feet below grade, 12-feet wide by 40-feet long by 2-feet thick. The foundation on top of the footing is 5-feet wide by 40-feet long by 12.5-feet tall. These footings would be the same size as the footings for Mt. Hood Express and Shooting Star Ski Lifts which also have height adjustable stations.

- The detachable quad lift would require a “pit” for skier clearance to load the terminal. The pit would include a drain pipe to prevent them from filling up with water. The pit would be similar to existing pits on Mt. Hood Express and Hood River Express Ski Lifts. The pit would be 25-feet by 25-feet by 4.5-feet deep with sloped sides; as a result, it would encompass approximately 4363 square feet.

Similar to the Proposed Action, constructing the new top terminal site would require constructing a 310-foot gravel road. A connected action for this project includes the construction of approximately 730 feet of a new power and communication line. These actions are the same as described for the Proposed Action. In total, about 1.50 acres would be disturbed. MHM would implement the project in coordination with the Forest Service. The Forest Service would monitor the project and provide technical guidance as needed before, during, and after implementation of the project as described in the section below.

I did not select this alternative because the economic analysis demonstrated that the cost of installation is higher than economically feasible for a short, beginner lift. The average costs associated with installation of ski lifts is variable, but the estimated costs associated with the construction of new lifts range from $1.5 million to $6.0 million (Fleming 2013). A fixed grip two or three seat lift costs approximately $1.5 million to install; a fixed grip four seat lift with loading conveyor costs approximately $3.0 million to install; and, a detachable four seat lift costs

$6.0 million to install. As such, the estimated installation costs for Alternative 2 (fixed grip quad with loading conveyor) would be $3.0 million and Alternative 3 (detachable quad) would be $6.0 million. The preliminary estimates received by Mt. Hood Meadows Ski Resort confirm that the installation costs of Alternative 3 ($3.6 million) are approximately double the costs of installing Alternative 2 (less than $2.0 million) (Warila 2013). Although maintenance and operation costs were not analyzed in detail as part of this environmental analysis due to the variability of these costs, Mt. Hood Meadows Ski Resort estimates that the detachable quad lift is more expensive to maintain due to the number of moving parts and speed of the operation for the lift (Warila 2013). As such, it is estimated that the maintenance costs are considerably less for the Proposed Action compared to Alternative 3. Also, I did not select this alternative because of the increased impacts to Riparian Reserves associated with installing the lower terminal. Although this alternative fully meets the purpose and need for action and the majority of environmental consequences are comparable for both alternatives, I have not selected it because Alternative 2 is slightly less impactful to Riparian Areas compared to this alternative and this alternative is not as economical for the permittee to install and maintain.

Alternatives Considered, but Eliminated from Detailed Study (EA, Section 2.7)

Federal agencies are required by NEPA to rigorously explore and objectively evaluate all reasonable alternatives and to briefly discuss the reasons for eliminating any alternatives that were not developed in detail (40 CFR 1502.14). Some of reasonable alternatives may be outside the scope of this environmental assessment, may not meet the purpose and need for action, may not be reasonably feasible or viable, may be duplicative of the alternatives considered in detail, or may be determined to cause unnecessary environmental harm. Public comments received in response to the Proposed Action as well as the preliminary effects analysis conducted by the interdisciplinary team did **not** suggest any alternative methods for achieving the purpose and need that were considered, but eliminated from detailed study

Public Involvement (EA, Section 1.7)

The Forest Service conducted public scoping to identify any concerns with the proposed activities. The Buttercup Lift Replacement project was published on the Mt. Hood National Forest website in November 2011. A scoping letter was distributed in December 2011 to approximately 70 individuals and organizations, including local, state, tribal and federal governmental agencies; environmental groups; and local non-profit organizations including watershed groups. Two comments were received through these efforts from Pacific Northwest Ski Areas Association and NW Ski Club Council.

A legal notice announcing the availability of a draft Decision Memo for the Buttercup Lift Replacement project for review and comment was published in *The Oregonian* (newspaper of record) on December 18, 2012. The 30-day comment period ended on January 18, 2013. This comment period was provided pursuant to the March 19, 2012, judicial ruling in Sequoia ForestKeeper v. Tidwell., order issued by the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of California in Case Civ. No. CV F 11-679 LJO DLB. Through this effort, the Forest Service received three comments from Mt. Hood Meadows Ski Resort, Friends of Mount Hood and Pacific Northwest Ski Areas Association. Copies of these letters are in the Buttercup Lift Replacement project file.

Based on the substantive comments received during this comment period, an additional action alternative (Alternative 3) was added and the project was then analyzed in an environmental assessment. As a result, the Forest Service offered a second notice and comment period for this project under 36 CFR 215. A legal notice announcing the availability of the Buttercup Ski Lift Replacement Preliminary Analysis for review and comment was published in *The Oregonian* (newspaper of record) on July 19, 2013. The 30-day comment period ended on August 19, 2013. Four individuals and organizations submitted written comments within the comment period. The comments were received from an individual, Mt. Hood Meadows Ski Resort, Pacific Northwest Ski Areas Association, and Friends of Mount Hood. Copies of these letters are in the Buttercup Ski Lift Replacement project file. Substantive comments received are summarized along with Forest Service responses in Appendix B.

Issues Generated Though Scoping (EA, Section 1.8)

Through public involvement efforts, one issue was brought forward that generated an additional alternative. Alternative 3 – Detachable Quad Lift was designed to address the impacts to Riparian Reserves. During the first notice and comment period, the Forest Service received the following comment: “This design includes an approximate 2,400 cubic foot underground vault to be installed in a Riparian Reserve. It would be worthwhile to know if there are alternative loading systems that would meet the goals of this lift without the need of a vault.” Part of the loading conveyor in the Proposed Action (Alternative 2) is located within a Riparian Reserve.

Hydrologic features in the MHM Permit Area consist of several small streams, permanent snowfields at higher elevations, and wet meadows in areas of lower elevation. The existing Permit Area is drained by the East Fork Hood River and three main tributaries of the East Fork: Mitchell Creek, Meadows Creek, and Clark Creek. Due to these hydrologic features, the Permit Area includes Riparian Reserves as a designated land use allocation under the Northwest Forest Plan. Riparian Reserve includes areas along rivers, streams, wetlands, ponds, lakes, and unstable or potentially unstable areas where the conservation of aquatic and riparian-dependent terrestrial resources receives primary emphasis.

A second action alternative (Alternative 3) was designed to address this issue by removing the vault needed for the loading conveyor system that was located within the Riparian Reserve. Measures for comparing alternatives include: (1) acres of Riparian Reserve disturbance; (2) increase in impervious surface; (3) risk to water temperature; (4) risk to increased sediment; and, (5) risk to increased chemical contaminants. Discussion of this issue and measures can be found in Section 3.4, Water Quality.

No other issues were identified during the internal or external public involvement efforts.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Based on the site-specific environmental analysis documented in the EA and the comments received from the public, I have determined that this is not a major Federal action that will significantly affect the quality of the human environment; therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement is not needed. This determination is based on the design of the selected alternative, context of the project, and the intensity factors (40 CFR 1508.27).

Context

Based on the documentation in the EA and project file, I find that the effects of the project are not significant as disclosed in Chapter 3 of the EA and will have a negligible effect within the Mt. Hood Meadows Ski Resort (MHM) Permit Area. The EA implements direction set forth in the Master Plan and Forest Plan, as amended. The selected alternative replaces the original Buttercup Ski Lift installed in 1979. The Master Plan anticipated upgrading and expanding the existing lifts and was fully analyzed in the Mt. Hood Meadows Ski Area Master Plan Final Environmental Impact Statement (1997).

MHM Permit Area includes 3,554 acres with 13 ski lifts that access 2,150 skiable acres. The selected alternative would impact 1.34 additional acres within the Permit Area. This represents 0.04% of the Permit Area acres. Approximately 322 acres of the skiable acres within the Permit Area are beginner terrain (15%) with the Buttercup Ski Lift providing access to 2.2 acres of those acres. The selected alternative would increase the skiable acres by 3.1 acres of beginner terrain. This represents an increase of 0.14% of skiable acres, 1% of beginner terrain, and 141% of beginner terrain accessible from Buttercup Ski Lift.

Intensity

1. Analysis of the beneficial and adverse impacts

Adverse and beneficial impacts have been assessed and were not found to be significant. My finding of no significant environmental effects is not biased by the beneficial effects of the action. I find that the anticipated effects are similar to those in ski lift replacement which have not proven to cause significant impacts. The analysis considered not only the direct and indirect effects of the projects, but also their contribution to cumulative effects. Past, present and foreseeable future actions have been included in the analysis. For this project, there are no known long-term adverse effects or cumulative effects to visual resources (EA, Section 3.2), soil productivity (EA, Section 3.3), aquatics (EA, Section 3.5), botany (EA, Section 3.8), noxious weeds (EA, Section 3.9), vegetation resources (EA, Section 3.10), or heritage resources (EA, Section 3.11).

My decision will result in beneficial impacts to ski area recreation as described in EA, Section 3.1. Growth in downhill skiing has occurred at MHM. Since the opening of MHM in 1967/68 skier visitation has grown from approximately 55,000 to 500,000. Use of the ski area is expected to continue to grow. The existing Buttercup Ski Lift, however, does not adequately provide capacity for its existing and anticipated use. Also, the current location of the top terminal for the Buttercup Ski Lift is congested. The congestion is caused by the upper portion of Buttercup and the lower portion of the Vista Ski Lifts converging. The new ski lift will increase the current capacity and provide safer uploading for beginner skiers. A new Buttercup Ski Lift will increase capacity from 1200 passengers per hour to 2059 passengers per hour. Also, the new ski lift will allow for better dispersal of riders and improve rider safety at the upper terminal. The overall skiing experience will improve for most skiers.

I understand that my decision will have short-term negative impacts on the hikers and dispersed recreationalists (EA, Section 3.1) as well as water quality (EA, Section 3.4) and wildlife (EA, Section 3.7). The construction of a new chairlift will increase human-caused sights and sounds above the current level for existing recreation users. The impact to users will be short-term; construction would take place during the summer months for one construction season. Hikers on the Timberline and Umbrella Falls trails will only be exposed to the increased sights and sounds for a short period of time while they travel through the MHM Permit Area. For water quality, the selected alternative will increase the impervious surface within the Headwaters East Fork Hood River; however, there will be no measureable change due to offset from removal or breaking up existing footings and large sub-watershed size. Also, the selected alternative will permanently disturb 0.3 acres of Riparian Reserves; however, this area has already been disturbed through grading and vegetation removal. For wildlife species, the selected alternative impacts wolverines, peregrine falcons, great gray owls, mule deer and elk, American marten, and neotropical migratory birds dominantly in the form of human presence and disturbance. Noise from helicopter and other heavy equipment with the added human presence for all these species may impact individuals, but is not likely to impact populations, nor contribute to a potential loss of viability of this species. Little to no habitat removal is occurring for these species. Snag and down log associates are impacted with the three hazard trees that would be felled for human safety. Trees would be left on site and would be recruited as down log habitat. All of these adverse impacts are short-term or are located on previously disturbed ground.

Based on these considerations of adverse and beneficial impacts associated with the selected alternative, I find that this project is not a significant federal action.

2. The degree to which the Proposed Action affects public health and safety:

I find there will be no significant effects to public health and safety. No public health and safety issues were raised during scoping or notice and comment periods (EA, Appendix B, Response to Comments). Also, the project contains PDC (Appendix 2) to protect public health and safety during project implementation, including the removal of danger trees.

3. The unique characteristics of the geographic area:

No prime farmlands, parklands, wild and scenic rivers, wilderness, potential wilderness, inventoried roadless areas, unroaded areas or ecologically critical areas overlap with the project area (EA, Section 3.12). Activities associated with the selected alternative would not directly affect heritage resources and would meet the Forest Plan standards for the visual quality objectives for the Timberline trail (EA, Section 3.11). The project area does not include any perennial streams or wetlands (EA, Section 3.4 and Section 3.5). The Forest Plan land use allocation in the planning area is A11-Winter Recreation Area. The Northwest Forest Plan land use allocations are Riparian Reserves and Administratively Withdrawn (EA, Section 1.4). No activities are proposed within the Administrative Withdrawn land use allocation. None of the major characteristics of these land use allocations will be negatively impacted by this project.

4. The degree to which the effects on the quality of the human environment are likely to be highly controversial:

The effects on the quality of the human environment are not likely to be highly controversial. There is no known scientific controversy over the impacts of the project. The types of activities proposed have taken place in similar areas and the resulting effects are well-known and understood.

5. The degree to which the possible effects on the human environment are highly uncertain or involve unique or unknown risks:

There were no highly uncertain, unique or unknown risks identified in the Buttercup Ski Lift Replacement EA. Activities approved in this decision are routine projects similar to those that have been implemented under the Mt. Hood National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan over the past 15 years. The effects analyses discussed in Chapter 3 of the EA are based on sound scientific research as well as previous experience implementing ski lift replacements within designated permit areas. None are unique or involve unknown risks.

6. The degree to which the action may establish a precedent for future actions with significant effects:

The action is not likely to establish a precedent for future actions with significant effects because this action is not unusual in and of itself, nor does it lead to any further actions that are unique. Similar projects have been conducted within other designated ski areas on the Forest.

7. Whether the action is related to others actions with individually insignificant, but cumulatively significant impacts:

The analysis considered not only the direct and indirect effects of the Proposed Actions (EA, Section 2.2) with PDC (EA, Section 2.4), but also its contribution to cumulative effects. Past, present and foreseeable future projects and recent wildfires have been included in the analysis (EA, Table 3-1). Each resource effects analysis contained in the EA discusses cumulative effects; none were found to be significant (EA, Section 3.1.3, Recreation; Section 3.2.3, Visual Resources; Section 3.3.3, Soil Productivity; Section 3.4.3, Water Quality; Section 3.5.3, Aquatics; Section 3.7.2, Wildlife; Section 3.8.3, Botany; Section 3.9.3, Noxious Weeds; Section 3.10.3, Vegetation Resources; and, Section 3.11.3, Cultural Resources).

8. The degree to which the action may affect scientific, cultural, or historical resources:

The action will have no significant adverse effect on districts, sites, highways, structures, or objects listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) and will not cause loss or destruction of significant scientific, cultural, or historical resources. There are no heritage resources within the proposed activity areas; the proposed project would not directly affect heritage resources. The proposed lift will be visible from the historic Timberline Trail (666EA0002). There are no established standards for the effects of visible improvements from the trail and their effects upon the National Register eligibility of

the trail. However, the scenic quality of the view from the trail is listed as one of its significant features. This implies that the "setting" of the trail be protected, in addition to the protection of the actual trail tread. The visual qualities for viewers on the trail could be indirectly affected by the visibility of the proposed improvements. The selected alternative meets the Forest Plan standards for the visual quality objectives for the Timberline trail (EA, Section 3.11).

9. The degree to which the action may adversely affect endangered or threatened species or habitat:

The action complies with the Endangered Species Act of 1973 for aquatic, wildlife and botanical species as well as the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation Management Act of 1996 for fisheries. No federally listed aquatic species are known to reside in the affected environment; nor is there designated critical habitat (EA, Section 3.5). As such, there would be no adverse affect to Essential Fish Habitat (EA, Section 3.5). Also, there is no northern spotted owl habitat in the Permit Area because the elevation of the project is outside of the species' habitat (EA, Section 3.7). No threatened, endangered or proposed botanical species are present in the project area (EA, Section 3.8). No consultation is required for this project.

10. Whether the action threatens a violation of environmental laws or requirements:

My decision will not violate Federal, State, and local laws or requirements for the protection of the environment. Applicable laws and regulations were considered in the EA (Section 3.12). The action is consistent with the Forest Plan as described in the consistency section for each resource in the EA, Chapter 3 as well as described below. The selected alternative is consistent with the National Forest Management Act regulations for vegetative management (EA, Section 3.10). The project complies with Executive Order 12898 regarding environmental justice (EA, Section 3.12). No disproportionately high adverse human or environmental effects on minorities and/or low-income populations were identified during the analysis or public scoping process.

Findings Required by Other Laws and Regulations

The project was prepared consistent with the requirements of the **National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)**, and other relevant Federal and State laws and regulations.

I find that the selected alternative is consistent with the **National Forest Management Act**, including the management direction found in the **Mt. Hood National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan**, as amended. It is consistent with standards and guidelines specific to the relevant land allocations and it is consistent with the applicable Forestwide standards and guidelines. Each resource section in Chapter 3 discusses consistency with the Forest Plan and Northwest Forest Plan. Additionally, I find that the selected alternative is consistent with the major amendments to the Forest Plan as described below.

- I find that the selected alternative is consistent with the **Record of Decision (ROD) and Standards and Guidelines for Amendments to the Survey and Manage, Protection Buffer, and other Mitigation Measures Standards and Guidelines** (EA, Section 3-5, Aquatics; Section 3-7, Wildlife and Section 3.8, Botany), including all survey protocols.

  Surveys for aquatic mollusks in the Survey and Manage category are not required as habitat is not present (EA, Section 3.5). One wildlife survey and manage species, Great gray owl *(Strix nebulosa)*, has habitat within the project area (EA, Section 3.7). Surveys for great gray owls are required when an activity has a likely substantial negative impact on the species habitat, its life cycle, microclimate, or life support requirements according to the Survey and Manage ROD. While some trees would be removed, the impact from this activity is insignificant when analyzed in the context of the owls' habitat requirements and the size of its home range. Surveys were not conducted because the impacts from the proposed project do not pose a substantial negative impact to the species. For botanical survey and manage species, surveys were conducted according to applicable survey and manage protocols for survey and manage (EA, Section 3.8). There are no known sites of botanical survey and manage species in the project area. As such, I find that the selected alternative is consistent with the 2001 Survey and Manage ROD, including all required survey protocols.

- I find that the selected alternative is consistent with the **Aquatic Conservation Strategy** (ACS). This project will maintain all nine ACS objectives (EA, Section 3.6) through the PDC (EA, Section 2.4).

  I have also considered the existing condition of Riparian Reserves, including the important physical and biological components of the fifth-field watersheds and the effects to riparian resources. Although the selected alternative will negatively impact Riparian Reserves, I find that the impacts have been minimized to the greatest extent practical as described in EA, Section 3.4. Sediment delivery potential is low for the new lift construction due to erosion control measures, plus PDC and Best Management Practices (BMP) designed to minimize erosion and sedimentation. These measures include excavation during the dry time of the year in the Riparian Reserves, using silt fence, stabilizing disturbed areas with erosion control materials, seeding after construction, and removing excavated material and placing it in stable locations away from surface water. Also, the detrimental effects to water quality will be reduced or eliminated through implementation of PDC and BMP. The only portion of this project that may have some risk of direct/indirect detrimental effects to water quality or quantity is the conveyor vault and the loss of some localized groundwater recharge. This will be minimized due to the small size of this feature compared to the total recharge area and implementation of PDC aimed at minimizing the amount of melt water that will be pumped to the water treatment facility. As such, I find that the selected alternative is consistent with Riparian Reserve standards and guidelines, and will contribute to maintaining or restoring the fifth-field watersheds over the long-term (EA, Section 3.4).

- By considering the prevention of invasive plant introduction, establishment and spread of invasive plants (EA, Section 3.9), the planning process is consistent with the **Pacific Northwest Invasive Plant Program Preventing and Managing Invasive Plants**

Record of Decision issued in 2005 and the **Site-Specific Invasive Plant Treatments for Mt. Hood National Forest and Columbia Gorge Scenic Area in Oregon Record of Decision issued in 2008.** Project Design Criteria/Mitigation Measures are included to prevent the spread and establishment of invasive plants (see Appendix 2).

Further, I find that the selected alternative is consistent with the Forest Plan and Regional direction on management indicator species and sensitive species.

- I have considered the impacts to **management indicator species (MIS)** as disclosed in the EA (EA Section 3-5, Aquatics and Section 3-7, Wildlife). There is no habitat for aquatic MIS within the project area. Wildlife MIS within the project area include the mule deer and elk and American marten. I find that the selected alternative is consistent with the standards and guidelines pertaining to MIS, and that based on the limited effects to any MIS, the selected alternative does not contribute towards a negative trend in viability on the Forest.

- I have considered the impacts **Regional Forester's Sensitive Species** list for aquatic, wildlife and botanical species as disclosed in the EA (EA Section 3-5, Aquatics; Section 3-7, Wildlife; and Section 3-8, Botany). All resource areas used the Region 6 Regional Forester's 2011 Sensitive Species list for this analysis. The selected alternative will have no significant adverse effects to sensitive species. The project will not jeopardize the continued existence of any listed species nor will it cause a trend to federal listing or loss of viability for these species.

  There are no aquatic sensitive species that reside in the project area because there are no perennial streams or wetlands as described above. The wolverine (*Gulo gulo luteus*) and Peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus anatum*) are the wildlife sensitive species present in the project area. Since wolverines are highly sensitive to human presence, the disturbance associated with the alternatives could temporarily displace foraging wolverines. Because the proposed projects are near areas of high human influence the alternatives would likely not reduce the available denning habitat. Similarly, Peregrine falcons are sensitive to human presence, so the disturbance associated using the helicopter could temporarily disturb nesting birds. No nesting habitat would be directly impacted by the selected alternative and there would continue to be sufficient foraging habitat adjacent to the Permit Area within the territory of a nesting pair. As such, this project **may impact individuals, but is not likely to impact populations, nor contribute to a potential loss of viability of this species** for both species. Lastly, there are no known sites for botanical sensitive species within the project area and no sites/habitat that require management. As such, the selected alternative will have **no impact** to any botanical sensitive species.

I have considered the analysis in EA, Section 3.4, Water Quality and find that the selected alternative is consistent with the **Clean Water Act**. There would be no direct or indirect effects to stream temperature from the proposed Buttercup Ski Lift Replacement project because the selected alternative does not include any tree removal within the primary or secondary shade zone along perennial streams. No tree removal within Riparian Reserves is proposed in this alternative.

The **Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA)**, as amended by the Sustainable Fisheries Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-267), established procedures designed to identify, conserve, and enhance essential fish habitat (EFH) for those species regulated under a Federal fisheries management plan. The selected alternative will not adversely affect any essential fish habitat (EA, Section 3.5) because there is no habitat present within the project area. As such, I find this project to be consistent with MSA.

The Forest operates under a Programmatic Agreement (PA) with the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP). The project area has been surveyed previously to current standards with no heritage resources located within the area of affect. Consequently, this project has limited potential to affect historic properties (Stipulation III.A.2.(19); Proposed undertakings in areas that have been surveyed twice under an inventory strategy meeting current standards where no historic properties are affected; and Stipulation III.A.2.(18); Installation of buried utilities or power pole/tower placement when placed in previously disturbed ground) and is exempt from case-by-case review in accordance with the 2004 Programmatic Agreement. As such, I find that the selected alternative is consistent with the **National Historic Preservation Act** and all consultation requirements have been met (EA, Section 3.11 and EA, Section 4.1).

APPEAL OPPORTUNITIES

This decision is subject to appeal pursuant to Forest Service regulations at 36 CFR 215. Any individual or organization that submitted comments or expressed interest during the comment period may appeal. Any appeal of this decision must be in writing and fully consistent with the content requirements described in 36 CFR 215.14. The Appeal Deciding Officer is the Mt. Hood National Forest, Forest Supervisor. An appeal should be addressed to the Forest Supervisor at any of the following addresses. For postal delivery, mail to: Forest Supervisor, Appeal Deciding Officer, Mt. Hood National Forest, 16400 Champion Way, Sandy OR 97055. The street location for those submitting hand-delivered appeals is the same as listed above. The office hours are 7:30-4:30 M-F (closed 11:30 to 12:30), excluding holidays. For fax, send to 503-668-1413. Email: appeals-pacificnorthwest-mthood@fs.fed.us. Electronic appeals must be submitted as part of the 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 email addresses other than the one listed above, or in formats other than those listed, or containing viruses, will be rejected. It is the responsibility of the appellant to confirm receipt of appeals submitted by electronic mail.

The appeal, including attachments, must be postmarked or received by the Appeal Deciding Officer within 45 days of the date that this decision is published in *The Oregonian*. For further information regarding appeal procedures, contact Michelle Lombardo at 503-668-1796.

IMPLEMENTATION DATE

Implementation of this decision may occur on, but not before, 5 business days from the close of the 45-day appeal filing period described above. If an appeal is filed, implementation may not occur for 15 business days following the date of appeal disposition (36 CFR 215.10).

CONTACT

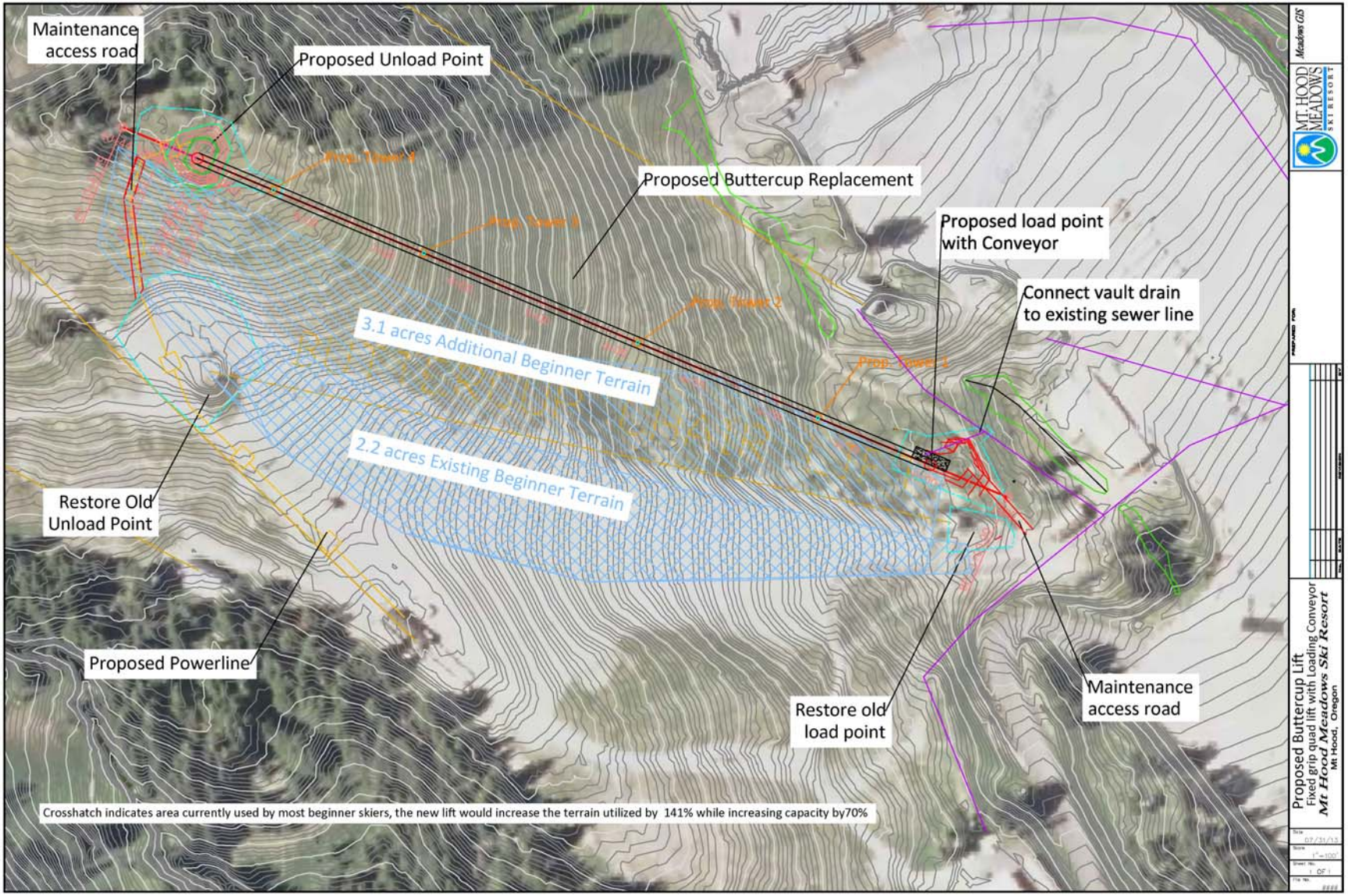
For additional information concerning this decision, contact Jennie O'Connor Card, Hood River Ranger District, 6780 Highway 35, Mount Hood/Parkdale, OR 97041; phone (541) 352-1255; Email: jennieoconnorcard@fs.fed.us.

/s/ Janeen Tervo *September 16, 2013*

JANEEN TERVO Date
Hood River District Ranger
Mt. Hood National Forest

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, or marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice and TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

APPENDIX 1: Selected Alternative Map



APPENDIX 2: Design Criteria/Mitigation Measures

The National Environmental Policy Act defines "mitigation" as avoiding, minimizing, rectifying, reducing, eliminating or compensating project impacts presented in the action alternatives. These project design features are used to minimize the environmental impacts of the action alternatives. The following are a required component of all action alternatives to address resource management concerns.

Soil Resources

S-1. Erosion cloth/wattles and seed used on the fill slope if its height exceeds three feet, otherwise seed and mulch should be sufficient.

S-2. Seed and mulch the bare ground around the terminal site. Erosion cloth/wattles and seed used to cover bare ground around the terminal if they occur within Riparian Reserves. Cut and fill slopes will be stabilized by prompt revegetation and grading to an approved slope gradient (about 2:1) or terracing where necessary to reduce the potential of long-term erosion and slope failures.

S-3. Erosion control plans to reduce erosion and soil compaction will be submitted to the Forest Service for approval for each phase of construction, restoration and maintenance. If construction takes two or more years, interim erosion control methods will be identified.

S-4. Land disturbance will be limited to areas to be developed. The acreage that will have to be reclaimed due to construction conveniences will be minimized.

S-5. Construction and grading will be scheduled to minimize soil exposure during periods of snowmelt and rainy periods.

S-6. To minimize tree stump removal, trees will be flush cut to the extent feasible. Stumps may be ground down to reduce height, but not dug out and removed.

Hydrology

H-1. Project construction and maintenance activities should be avoided in particularly sensitive areas, areas that are consistently saturated or have perennially shallow water table conditions (i.e. wetlands), and critical areas of groundwater recharge/discharge.

H-2. Major changes to groundwater movement will be avoided. Implementation of the terminal vault and lower terminal footing installation shall occur when the groundwater drill sites are dry (mid-August to mid-October).

H-3. Appropriate buffers will be established to protect wetland and riparian values for all wetland units and surrounding areas where ground disturbance may have potential impacts on wetland values.

H-4. In wet meadow areas traversed by ski lifts and trails, special maintenance plans to minimize disturbance will be prepared for Forest Service approval.

H-5. Establish and maintain construction area limits to the minimum area necessary for completion of the project and confine disturbance within this area.

H-6. Erosion cloth/wattles and seed should be used on fill slopes if their height exceeds three feet, otherwise seed and mulch should be sufficient.

H-7. Seed and mulch the bare ground upon construction completion. Erosion cloth/wattles and seed should be used to cover bare ground if within Riparian Reserves[1]. Cut and fill slopes will be stabilized by prompt revegetation and grading to a slope gradient or terracing approved by the Forest Service to reduce the potential of long-term erosion and slope failures (MHM ROD, Soils #2, page A-4).

H-8. Install sediment and stormwater controls prior to initiating ground disturbing activities to the extent practicable.

H-9. For construction areas immediately adjacent to a stream or other wet area, or where fill is near a wetted stream, use appropriate erosion/sediment control barriers between the project and the stream.

H-10. Maintain erosion and stormwater controls as necessary to ensure proper and effective function by: Preparing for unexpected failures of erosion control measures; and, Implementing corrective actions without delay if failures are discovered to prevent pollutant discharge to nearby water bodies.

H-11. Dispose of waste material in stable sites out of the flood prone area and leave in a stable configuration that limits surface erosion and off-site movement of soil. Waste material other than hardened surface material (asphalt, concrete, etc) may be used to restore natural or near-natural contours. Material disposal areas will be approved by the Forest Service prior to use.

H-12. Inspect construction sites to verify that erosion and stormwater controls are implemented and functioning as designed and are appropriately maintained. Construction sites will be inspected a minimum of twice a week and within 24 hours of significant storms (0.5 inches/24 hour, or where runoff is generated). In addition, inspections should occur after construction is complete until areas of bare soil are completely covered by natural vegetation growth.

H-13. Mt. Hood Meadows Ski Resort will acquire all appropriate Local, State and Federal Permits for this project including, but not limited to, National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit Storm Water Permit for Discharge from Construction Activity and a Clean Water Act (CWA) 404 permit from the Army Corps of Engineers when dredge or fill material will be discharged to waters of the U.S.

[1] Riparian Reserve refers to the Northwest Forest Plan Riparian Reserve designation.

Invasive Plants

N-1. Develop and implement a post-construction site vegetation plan using suitable species and establishment techniques to revegetate the site in compliance with local direction and requirements per FSM 2070 and FSM 2080 for vegetation ecology and prevention and control of invasive species.

N-2. All heavy equipment that has operated outside the Mt. Hood Meadows permit area must be cleaned with pressurized water prior to entering National Forest System Lands. Forest Service personnel should be notified to inspect off-road equipment prior to start of work to ensure it is free of all soil, seeds, vegetative matter, and other debris that could hold or contain seeds (WO- CT6.36). All subsequent move-ins of equipment to the project area should be treated in the same manner as the initial move-in. This requirement does not apply to service vehicles, water trucks, pickups, cars, and/or similar vehicles (R6/SPS-601.01 Work).

N-3. The Mt. Hood Meadows Annual Operating Plan (AOP) requires MHM to mitigate and monitor invasive plant species (AOP Vegetation Management Item #23). Mt. Hood Meadows should continue to monitor the presence of knapweed in the flower beds around the Mt. Hood Meadows Day Lodge (with the help of the Forest Service) and should pull or dig plants before they bloom July through September to ensure the species does not spread. Forest Service personnel are available to assist MHM personnel with the identification of knapweed and other invasive species of concern, as needed.

N-4. Rock and soil imported to the project area must come from a weed-free source that has been certified by a Forest Service botanist, range specialist, or residing county Weed and Pest Control Department official.

N-5. Use certified weed-free or weed-seed-free hay, straw, or wood fiber if mulch is required to prevent erosion. Where practical, stockpile weed-seed-free topsoil and replace it on disturbed areas (e.g. road embankments, powerline trenches, tower footings, etc.).

Vegetation Management

VM-1. Clearing and construction practices that minimize surface disturbance and vegetation removal will be utilized.

VM-2. The use of native species for landscaping and reclamation will be encouraged wherever possible in an effort to re-establish native vegetation over time.

VM-3. Use seed collected from native sedges and forbs within the Mt. Hood Meadows Permit Area for restoration of disturbed areas. Seed may be collected from July to September and sowed directly on-site, or consult with Forest Service personnel for an immediate supply of local native grass seed available from the Forest Service.

Wildlife

W-1. Any raptor nests observed in the area will be protected until evaluated by a Forest Service wildlife biologist. Disturbance of raptors or raptor nests will be prohibited except as specifically permitted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. Habitat protection zones will be established, pursuant to Forest Plan standards, for raptor nesting areas.

W-2. Snags and trees that will be cut for the lift expansion and woody material will be left on-site to benefit species dependent upon them as habitat. The cut snags and trees may be moved to another location, if necessary, for ski run maintenance, or safety reasons.

W-3. Disturbances to special or unique habitats including springs, seeps, wallow areas, natural mineral deposits used as licks, and talus will be avoided. If significant disturbances to any of these habitats will occur during development, a Forest Service wildlife biologist will be notified so that site-specific mitigation can be developed and implemented prior to disturbance.

Visual Resources

V-1. All utilities will be installed underground, except where technically infeasible.

V-2. Non-reflective materials will be used for exterior surfaces that blend with the environment. Facilities with reflective exterior surfaces (metal, glass, plastic, etc.) which do not blend with the summer environment should be temporarily removed, covered, painted, stained, chemically treated, etched, sandblasted, corrugated, or otherwise treated in a manner to meet solar reflectivity standards in Forest Service Manual 2380.

V-3. Glass on the terminals should be less than 15 percent visible light reflectivity.

V-4. Facilities will be constructed of materials which blend with the earthtone colors of the environment. Buildings, structures, facilities, and utilities will be constructed of natural materials and/or painted, stained, or modified to achieve the required visual blending. Exterior colors, shapes, and textures of all facilities, except when required for safety, will be subordinate to the surrounding landscape. All exterior colors and materials will be approved by the authorized Forest Service representative prior to construction.

V-5. The best available glazing technology will be used to subdue light transmission to the exterior of facilities. Shading devices will be used as appropriate to eliminate exterior light transmission.

V-6. Round off and fracture the old square concrete footings in the lift line to resemble natural boulders.

Implementation

I-1. If cultural resource sites or materials are encountered during project construction, all activity in the immediate area will cease and an archaeologist consulted. The

archaeologist will determine the significance of the materials and specify appropriate mitigation measures in consultation with the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs.

I-2. A phased development plan will be submitted for Forest Service approval prior to implementation. This plan will detail specifically how and when development of authorized facilities will occur.

In addition to these PDC, all of the applicable required mitigation and monitoring listed in Appendix A of the ROD for Mt. Hood Meadows Ski Area Master Plan/Access Road Final Environmental Impact Statement will apply. Some of the mitigation measures have been here for emphasis as related to this project.