

# **NEWS RELEASE**

## **USDA Forest Service -- Northern Region**



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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **DISCOVERY SKI AREA PLAN UPHELD**

Missoula, Mont. – A decision by Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest officials to allow the expansion of Discovery Ski area near Anaconda was upheld this week by acting regional forester Kathy McAllister.

In May, Janette Kaiser, Forest Supervisor of the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest, approved expanding the ski area by 377 acres. The decision included 130 acres of advanced and intermediate ski runs, 4/10-mile of new road, two acres of new parking, snow making equipment, and 12,000 feet of new chairlifts, adding about 1,600 vertical feet of skiing at the ski area. The proposal had been studied in an environmental impact statement.

The decision was appealed by American Wildlands, the Alliance for the Wild Rockies, and The Ecology Center. The appeal focused on effects on roadless lands, future residential development in the expanded area, and protection of the threatened lynx.

In denying the appeal, McAllister said that Kaiser's decision met all requirements of the law and Forest Service policy, and adequately addressed the appellants' concerns.

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