

WHITE PASS EXPANSION MASTER DEVELOPMENT PLAN PROPOSAL FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

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Abstract: This Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) documents the analysis of five alternatives, including the No Action Alternative, developed for the White Pass Expansion Master Development Plan (MDP), ski trails, and associated infrastructure. The overall purpose of the White Pass Expansion MDP is to respond to a request by the White Pass Company to develop and implement a new MDP that is consistent with the amended Forest Plan direction and that would allow expansion of alpine skiing facilities into Hogback Basin. The focus of the request from White Pass Company is detailed further in Section 1.1.2 of the FEIS.

Alternative 2 (the Proposed Action under review, refer to Volume 2 of the FEIS, Figure 2-2) would replace the existing White Pass MDP with a MDP proposal submitted to the Forest Service by the White Pass Company. Site-specific implementation of the proposal by the White Pass Company would expand the existing SUP Area into the Hogback Basin through the construction two new chairlifts and a mid-mountain lodge. The Proposed Action would expand the SUP boundary an additional 767 acres for a total of approximately 1,572 acres.

Under Modified Alternative 4, and Alternatives 6, and 9, the alignment and location of proposed new chairlifts and associated trails are adjusted to varying degrees; and inclusion/exclusion of other facilities and features are incorporated to minimize impacts to resource areas. Under the No Action Alternative (refer to Figure 2-1), White Pass would continue to operate the existing five lifts and crowding on existing ski trails would continue to detract from the skier experience.

Agency and public reviewers have provided the Forest Service with their comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). The Response to Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) are located in Volume 3 of the FEIS. All reviewers had been informed of their obligation to structure their participation in the National Environmental Policy Act 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 presented in the FEIS. A copy of the FEIS is available online at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/wenatchee/projects/white-pass/>.